STUDIES IN ARTS & CULTURE

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN ARTS & CULTURE (STAC) NEWSLETTER

forward thinking. forward moving.



In 2015, the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts will be relocating 500 students, faculty and staff to brand new facilities in the downtown core of St. Catharines. A \$30.2-million project designed by Diamond + Schmitt Architects of Toronto, a repurposed 19th-century textile mill and component buildings will provide 95,000 square feet of instructional, research and production space for our degree programs in Dramatic Arts, Music, Visual Arts and our Centre for Studies in Arts

New facilities mean exceptional opportunities for future students: art, design and digital studios: a learning and computer commons: music practice and rehearsal rooms; lecture and seminar rooms: and a versatile stand-alone 235-seat theatre with production and workshop support including a costume department and carpentry shop. In combination with the new City of St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre, where students will have access to the film theatre and recital hall, our goal is to build on the reputation of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

After Brock

The Niagara Artists Centre is a key player in

the regional cultural scene. Its cultural programming is world class, hip and a lot of fun. Graduates of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts lead the team at NAC. We asked Natasha Pedros, Steve Remus, Kasia Smuga and Annie Wilson to tell us about being a student at Brock and what it means to build a life in arts and culture in Niagara.

Why did you come to Brock?

NP: ... I felt a real connection to the professors and the work going on there ... I liked the grassroots feel and I was pretty sure that the program would offer me a well-rounded experience.

(Natasha Pedros was a student of the Dramatic Arts Department and a founding member of the Suitcase in Point Theatre Company.)

What was the best thing or experience about being a student at Brock?

KS: Brock offered an assortment of encouraging teachers and small, intimate classes. Everyone knows each other in a small department. You know the other students in your class, you grow up together for four years and you learn to trust each other's criticisms. That's a privilege that larger schools can't contend with.

(Kasia Smuga is a graduate of the Visual Arts Department.)

What are you doing now?

AW: Working a lot. I'm the general manager of Suitcase in Point Theatre Company, responsible for infrastructure and communities at NAC, and co-founder/interim project manager of In the Soil: Niagara's Homegrown Arts Festival. (Annie Wilson was a student in the Theatre History and Drama in Education programs in the Department of Dramatic Arts, and also minored in History. In 2013, she was presented with the Making a Difference Award at the City of St. Catharines Arts Awards.)

What's the best thing about working in arts and culture in Niagara?

SR: Niagara's arts and culture are self-determining. By that I mean the artists who are here, who are committed to working and responding to the community, are shaping what Niagara's arts and culture look like ... Consider it a land of opportunity for artists — an exciting frontier. (Director Stephen Remus was a student of both History and Visual Arts at Brock University. In 2008, he was presented the Excellence in the Arts Award: Established Artist at the annual St. Catharines Trillium Arts Awards.)

brocku.ca/artsandculture



Rodman Hall is the art gallery of Brock University and maintains a permanent collection of more than 850 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings. STAC students in the Curatorial Concentration complete their course work at Rodman. The centre celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010. In 2012, Rodman Hall hired Stuart Reid as the new director/curator. An internationally recognized art curator and writer, Reid comes to Rodman Hall after 21/2 years as the executive director of the Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina. Under Reid's direction, Rodman Hall will continue to be a leader in the field and an important contemporary art centre.

brocku.ca/rodmanhall

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The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts at Brock University offers students a broad education combining

research, practice and creative development.

Inquiries

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Grad profile Rebecca Madamba



Rebecca Madamba completed her studies with STAC and graduated with a Concentration in Curatorial Studies in 2012. She received the STAC Award for Academic Achievement and Community Engagement.

After high school, I wanted to become an actress. When I needed to make a final decision, I had a "freak-out" moment and I changed my mind about pursuing acting. As a backup plan, I applied to Brock University's Studies in Arts and Culture program. I loved the arts, but couldn't narrow my focus to one aspect. This program offered me flexibility and a variety of courses focused on the fine and performing arts, a quality that I couldn't find in other programs. During my first year, I enjoyed all my courses and realized this was the program for me. It changed the direction of my studies, and gave me a sense of what I wanted to pursue after I graduated.

I hope to be a contemporary art gallery curator. I'm really interested in art history; that's why the Concentration in Curatorial Studies seemed like a good fit. Last summer, I interned at the Grimsby Public Art Gallery, where I got a taste of what it's like to work in that kind of creative environment.

What appeals to me about working in Niagara specifically is that we are in the process of major changes with the development of the Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. There are so many possibilities for the arts and culture scene in Niagara now; I'm excited to have graduated, so I can be a part of it.

~ Rebecca Madamba, Class of 2012

Career options for students in STAC

Students in the STAC program aspire to be writers, reviewers, educators, curators, managers, entrepreneurs or administrators in cultural institutions such as museums, arts centres, galleries or cultural associations. They may work in the public sector on arts policy or programming for cultural agencies or for municipal, provincial or federal governments. They may run or contribute to theatre companies, arts festivals, exhibitions or presentation centres. They can be involved in arts businesses such as commercial galleries, magazines or consultancies. The STAC program is also an excellent foundation for further study in master of arts programs in digital arts, art history, curatorial studies and studies in comparative literatures and arts.

Degrees and concentrations

- Three-year Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Four-year Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
- Minor in Studies in Arts and Culture

Concentration in Cultural Management

This program brings together learning opportunities from two leading Faculties at Brock University the Faculty of Humanities through the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts and the Goodman School of Business. This is the ideal program for students who seek to graduate with employable skills as cultural managers in music, the visual arts and dramatic arts. Students may pursue service learning or practicum experiences with professionals and organizations in the Niagara region.

Concentration in Curatorial Studies

Students may earn a Concentration in Curatorial Studies by successfully completing courses in Visual Culture, History of Art and Curatorial Studies as outlined in the web calendar. Final course work for Curatorial Studies will take place at Rodman Hall, a nationally renowned gallery for contemporary art.

Your first year in STAC

As a first-year student in the Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture (STAC), you will be introduced to the many disciplines within the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts; the Department of Communications, Popular Culture and Film; the Centre for Digital Humanities/Interactive Arts and Science: Canadian Studies: and, the Goodman School of Business, You will also be taking electives and context courses from other departments during your first year at Brock. Your academic adviser, Alisa Cunnington (acunnington@brocku.ca), is able to help you with the options that best suit your schedule and your interests.

In your first year you will also have the opportunity to meet other students and get to know your professors in STAC. There are many events and activities occurring outside of class times, and students are strongly encouraged to attend artist talks, exhibitions, theatre productions and to participate in field trips. Students are also invited to "Like" our page on Facebook: facebook.com/cSTACBrockU

BROCK OPEN HOUSE

Visit: discover brocku ca

FALL PREVIEW DAY Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013

SPRING OPEN HOUSE Sunday, March 2, 2014

Marilyn I. Walke School of Fine & Performing Arts

Brock University Faculty of Humanities



in St. Catharines

S.C.E.N.E. Music Festival

Thousands of music fans packed bars, clubs and the Market Square from afternoon until nightfall for this one-day festival in downtown St. Catharines. At the 17th annual event in 2012, more than 160 bands from several genres played 17 stages at 13 venues. Visit scenemusicfestival.com

Essential Collective Theatre (ECT)

Following a successful season in 2011, ECT continues its mandate to create original works and produce contemporary Canadian plays at the Sullivan Mahoney Theatre. It's a vibrant company with excellent opportunities for student internships. Visit ectheatre.ca

Niagara Artists Centre (NAC)

NAC is a member-driven collective formed by and dedicated to serving the artists and community of Niagara. Founded in 1969 as a collective of working artists, NAC is one of the oldest artist-run organizations in Canada. STAC students attend world-class cultural programming that runs the gamut from poetry slam to installation art to the infamous STRUTT, the largest wearable art show in Canada. Visit nac.org

Come join the arts community in St. Catharines. All incoming students of STAC receive a one-year membership to the NAC.

In the Soil

Niagara's Homegrown Arts Festival

In 2012, STAC students and faculty participated in the fourth-annual In the Soil event. This multidisciplinary arts festival showcases the outstanding original creative talent of the Niagara community by bringing together filmmakers, musicians, media artists, visual artists and performers of all kinds. Visit inthesoil.on.ca

Instructor Renée Baillargeon with students from STAC 2P93 - Critical Practice in the Fine and Performing Arts



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Sharilyn J. Ingram

brocku.ca/artsandculture



Sharilyn J. Ingram arrived at Brock following a career as a senior manager in the Canadian cultural sector. Her courses in arts management and cultural policy combine theory with real-life experience, drawing on her work at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Museums of Canada and numerous cultural agencies and boards. Students also meet guest speakers from the Shaw Festival, National Ballet of Canada, Niagara Symphony, Carousel Players, National Gallery of Canada, Ontario Arts Council, and many other cultural organizations. As one student observed, "These courses have opened my eyes to the reality of the Canadian cultural sector — and I want to be part of it!"

The Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture has also given her an interdisciplinary platform to share her widely varied interests with students. Currently, she is teaching Creating Social Value from Material Culture, which examines how we invest objects with meaning, and The Interstices of Art and Nature, exploring the connections between our understanding of both art and nature. Students have described both courses as "challenging but so stimulating... I am looking at the world in different ways now."

Deeply committed to Canadian culture, she wants to inspire students to appreciate and contribute to our cultural future.

Student spotlight: Minnie Harris

STAC is an interdisciplinary arts-focused program of study. It covers everything from theatre to film to music to interactive arts and sciences. I came to STAC from a visual arts and theatre background. Going into university, I didn't want to choose either Visual Arts or Theatre. With STAC at Brock, I had the opportunity to have both and to not worry about specializing in one.

One highlight for me has been planning my own mock exhibit at the MOMA; I came up with my own thesis surrounding the show, chose pieces that fit into the curatorial vision and planned an awesome show. The cool thing about it is that my instructor is a curator from Niagara-on-the-Lake — she not only taught us theories about being a curator, but also practical aspects of the profession.

STAC is a program where you get to make your own cake, you get to eat your cake, and then you get to tell everyone how great your cake was.

Minnie Marie Harris is a multi-talented fourth-year STAC student. While researching post-secondary programs around the world, she discovered Studies in Arts and Culture at Brock University. Following her passion for the arts, she travelled all the way from her home in Germany to study at Brock, and she has been an enthusiastic contributor to the university community.



Student awards and bursaries

For information on available awards and bursaries for STAC students, visit brocku.ca/safa

Director's contact information

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For more information or to set up a tour, contact program director Duncan MacDonald: T: 905 688 5550 x5253 E: dmacdonald@brocku.ca













STAC courses 2013 –14

The selection of courses will vary from year to year, depending upon the unique focus of our faculty and their research. Here is a selection of what our students can study.

STAC 1P95

Introduction to Digital Images, Methods and Concepts

STAC 2P93

Critical Practice in Fine and Performing Arts **STAC 2P94**

Embodied Text: Art Beyond the Artifact **STAC 3P01**

Media Transformations in the Creative Arts

Dramatic Creation for Contemporary Cultural

STAC 3P93

Producing a Performance Event

STAC 3P96

Interstices of Art and Nature

STAC 3P99

Interpretive and Critical Writing in the Arts **STAC 4F40**

Arts Management

STAC 4P68

Arts, Heritage and Culture: Public Policy and Governance

STAC 4P72

High and Low Art: Intersections, Exchanges and

STAC 4P90

Forbidden Knowledge, Dangerous Art

New Spring E-course STAC 1P99:

The Culture of Noise

This blended e-course will focus on the role of Noise in music, social space and art. Students will create field-recordings, develop basic skills in editing sound, post their findings on a collective blog and explore discursive issues within the domain of sound studies. A mix of online and face-to-face coursework will take place in the Spring semester of 2014.

DART MUSI VISA

Taking a major in STAC? Add a minor

Students completing a major in STAC can easily add a minor in Dramatic Arts, Music or Visual Arts to their program. See the Brock Undergraduate Calendar for details.

Taking a different major? Add a minor in STAC

The addition of a minor in Studies in Arts and Culture (STAC) to any major program provides a unique opportunity for those students who have a genuine interest in learning more about the fine and performing arts. The four-course minor introduces one or two art forms and the historical or theoretical readings they are given through diverse lenses. Whether you have a passion for the arts or a curiosity about the culture that defines us, STAC will have courses that complement your program and area of interest.

Walker Cultural **Leader Series**



The Walker Cultural Leader Series is another way in which students in the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts come

face-to-face with leading arts professionals and educators.



David Walden will visit STAC in October 2013. A long-time senior manager in the Canadian cultural sector, Walden recently retired as Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO. A member of the executive management committee of the Canada Council for the Arts from 1999 through 2013, Walden currently works as a consultant in international organizations and governance. He was recently named an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

Public lectures:

Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Sankey Chambers, Brock University.

Oct. 24, 7 p.m., Rodman Hall Art Centre, 109 St. Paul Cres., St. Catharines.

Visit brocku.ca/walker-cultural-leader-series