

What's going on at the SA

September 2011

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Meet your Student Association board of directors!

Ali Shahid, Director of Finance & Operations

Ali came to George Brown College by way of the University of Toronto and the Ontario College of Art and Design. "I have a wide range of experiences which I would like to bring to the table to help improve the student experience at our college," he said.

Ali also worked as a bookkeeper for two years.

"I believe in the highest of transparency in the

financial process and I firmly believe that we can do things that benefit everyone by hearing the voice of students and acting on their feedback," he said.



Aman Arora, Construction & Engineering Technologies Representative

Aman is a wireless networking student. He describes himself as young, smart and volatile.

"Skills and knowledge alone are not enough to meet the organization's goals but hard work, innovation and responsiveness will give better results," he said.

Aman plans on working to add more and more industrial

visits and co-op programmes, help international students understand and try to increase lab hours. "For me, it's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog," he said.



Brandon Wallace, Director of Student Life & Campus Relations

While Brandon is Mr. Popularity, he's also a born leader.

"My straight – forward approach to issues in my everyday life translates well into leadership qualities, as there is never any backing down or shying away from pertinent, pressing issues," he said.

This year, Brandon was a member of the Events team.

Using that experience, Brandon wants to raise and improve school spirit, make a difference in the rebranding of the Student Association, help create an SA board that has maximum student representation on all levels, and help SA events reach their full potential.



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Christine Graystone, Campus Director Casa Loma

Christine brings 18 years of entrepreneurial experience with her. What does that mean?

"I am a great idea person. That means I love great ideas and, occasionally, I even have one or two," she said.

A keen observer, Christine noted the following areas of college life need improvement: improving pedestrian safety on campus, the library, improving access to

instructors and work spaces, food options, and improving the ways the Student Association and its representatives reach out to students.

"We can take great ideas and turn them into action through negotiation and mastering a thorough comprehension of the issue from all its perspectives," she said.



Cindy Brownlee, Director of Education and Equity

Cindy is back for her third term on the board of directors. The vice president of Ryerson for two terms, Cindy helped increase student health insurance coverage by \$300,000 without increasing prices to students.

She is also to thank for wireless Internet at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts and discount movie tickets sold at Student Association offices.

This year, Cindy intends to create an equity of services across all campuses and increase access to college and university for underrepresented groups. "I stand for students. My time at the SA has been dedicated to serving students," she said.



Corinne Bos, Hospitality and Tourism Representative

Corinne is a culinary management student who travelled for a few years before coming to George Brown. She is looking to strengthen communication between the Student Association and hospitality students, who have their own campus and may feel isolated.

"Feel that many events and information don't get

passed on to the hospitality and culinary students and would like to help change that and insure that our centre gets informed better," she said.

Corinne also wants to set up a designated location in the hospitality building to post flyers and advertisements to inform students of upcoming events and opportunities.



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Daniel N. G. MacDonald, Director of Public Relations

Daniel was the vice president of St. James and academic issues for the 2010-2011 school year.

"I wasn't sure I would run for a second term; however, after careful consideration and encouragement by students, it was hard to say no. One year is not enough to accomplish everything; in this second year – we're

gonna kick some butt!" he said.

Daniel intends to focus on a full implementation of the Student Representative Councils with a college buy-in, creating a student marketplace on the Student Association's website where students can buy and sell used textbooks, and helping with the SA's branding.



Itzila "Liz" Sanchez, Community Services Representative

Liz is an early childhood education student at George Brown College's Ryerson campus.

Liz considers herself a great leader.

"When decisions have to be made, I am the one to speak up," she said.

Using her leadership qualities, Liz intends to advocate

for George Brown College students at Ryerson to have better access to Ryerson facilities, increase student awareness of bursaries and grants offered by the Student Association, the college and external organizations, and have more ECE activities for George Brown students at Ryerson.



Khalida Mahtash, Health Sciences Representative

Khalida is a health information management student. She served on the Student Representative Councils last school year.

"Since SRC was my main motivator to join the RUN GBC campaign, my main goal is going to be to ensure that each health science programme and section has an SRC

member to represent their issues within the Student Association," she said.

Khalida also wants to host health science networking events for students.

"I am a strong advocate for interdisciplinary communication between health science programmes," she said.



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Leon Cox, Director of Internal Affairs

Before being elected to the board of directors, Leon worked in the Campaigns department of the Student Association and helped raise student awareness of critical issues. He was also a regular contributor to the Dialog, the student newspaper.

While in office, Leon plans on increase the SA's presence on campus to improve student awareness, par-

ticipation and use of SA services, improving internal efficiency and communication and strengthening the relationship between the SA and the George Brown College administration.

"As a GBC student and SA staff, I have noticed opportunities for improvement in the efficiency and efficacy with which the SA represents the student body," he said.



Robbie Depriest, Liberal Arts and Preparatory Studies Representative

Robbie is a first generation student and studies social service work and life skills coaching. Before coming to George Brown College, Robbie volunteered over 3,000 hours across Canada in rural and urban areas and in First Nations reservations. He successfully facilitated experiential education by fostering personal and professional development to more than 300 young Canadians

across Canada. "An honour and a privilege I will truly cherish forever," he said of the experience.

While living and volunteering in Quebec with low income families, Robbie taught himself to speak French. Robbie plans to advocate, mediate, or arbitrate on behalf of students and to fight for certificate students being able to access TTC student Metropasses.



Ryan McFadden, Business Representative

Ryan is a mature student entering his second year of human resources. He brings with him nine years of business experience.

"I want the business faculty to have strong representation," he said.

Ryan considers himself approachable, friendly and outgoing and has an objective point of view and an under-

standing that each individual voice is important.

"I want to be involved in the campaign of students first by allowing the opportunity for ALL program students to have an equal voice," he said.

He brings with him a commitment to the of student concerns and suggestions with an unbiased approach.



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Shasa Boshoff, Campus Director St. James

Elected as campus director of St. James for the third time, Shasa is also the commissioner of the national students with disabilities constituency with the Canadian Federation of Students. When not helping to ensure students with disabilities are able to make the most of their college experience, Shasa also helps foster school spirit by promoting SA activities to the student body and

increase student involvement.

“There is a lot of work that still needs to be done to improve students’ knowledge about the SA and to ensure the students at St. James receive the best from their student union,” she said.

“I will continue my involvement in student groups and ensure that my presence at St. James continues.”



Constituency Centre Representatives

George Brown College is unique in that it offers constituency centres to its underrepresented students. It is one of the few colleges in Ontario to offer a space to LGBTQ and women-identified and trans students, and the only college in Ontario to offer space to aboriginal, ASL and international students. Each centre also has a representative who sits on the board of directors.

Pending ratification, Damien Turner will return as the ASL centre representative, Anier Bao will return as the international centre representative, and Danielle Saldanha will become the Centre for Women and Trans People (CWTP) representative. Danielle was the business representative on the 2010-2011 board of directors. The LGBTQ and aboriginal students’ centre representative are still open. If you are interested in running for these positions, contact Claudia Caine at ccaine@georgebrown.ca.

What's going on in September

Important student dates:

September 5: Labour Day. The Student Association and George Brown College are closed.

September 6: Fall semester begins.

September 12: Last day to add a course or transfer programmes or sections in a programme.

September 19: Last day to apply for a course exemption.

September 19: Last day to drop a course or withdraw from a programme with a partial refund.