MONUMENTAL BALTIMORE
AMI 2011

THE TABLECLOTH REPORT
Bringing in the Vesalius funds with a winning team

The BMCAA Gala Night!

THE FINAL MOVE
BMC settles into its new space at UTM campus

BMCAA SHOWCASE

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 1T3

AMI AWARD WINNERS
Proving our mettle in Baltimore

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS
Find out the latest in alumni news
Dear Alumni,

It’s that time of year…time for the latest news from the BMCAA!

This Newsletter features coverage of the 66th annual AMI meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, serves to introduce the new BMC students, and reports on a variety of other tasty topics we hope you’ll be interested in.

It will also mark the halfway point of our presidential term. The highlights thus far have been: meeting new friends and catching up with old friends at the Fall Gala, taking part in a few weekly Beer Clubs (organized by Fundraising Coordinator Lorraine Trecroce), working with our dedicated committee to brainstorm ideas, and weekly Co-president tickle fights with Simon. The 5th annual BMCAA Uncon was held in November—it is always a source of knowledge and inspiration. We’d like to thank InViVo and Artery Studios for their generous food and beverage sponsorship for the event.

Unfortunately, neither Simon nor I were able to attend this year’s AMI meeting, but former Co-President Sonya Amin stepped up to the plate and organized the alumni functions. We’d like to thank her for her continued dedication to the BMCAA! The 2012 AMI meeting will be held right here in Toronto, and Simon and I are looking forward to organizing some wonderful events and really getting the alumni involved!

We hope you all have a great 2012, and that you keep in touch!

Best,
Leslie and Simon
BMCAA Co-presidents
MENOMENTAL BALTIMORE

A recap of one alumna’s experiences at the 66th annual meeting of the Association of Medical Illustrators

By Sonya Amin (OT3)

‘Monumental’ certainly describes this year’s conference. From the gorgeous and unique venue to the high quality of the presentations, it really was a meeting to remember and set the bar very high for meetings to come.

Built in 1866 as a Masonic Grand Lodge, the Tremont Grande Historical Venue provided a rich, textured and elegant backdrop for this year’s conference.

In her welcome address, AMI President Linda Wilson-Pauwels (8T6) reflected our profession and its future growth as the AMI continues to execute its 5-year Strategic Plan to expand its scope and size. The presidential torch was passed to Jane Hurd who will lead the AMI during this time of change. Impassioned discussions on future of the AMI took place during the conference, specifically around attracting new members and rebranding of the AMI. (Want to have your say? Check out the “AMI Strategic Planning Group” on the AMI Online member’s community (OMC) or join the next quarterly AMI Town Hall conference call, details of which will be announced through the AMI Weekly News email in January.)

A highlight of the meeting for me was definitely the high caliber of presentations which included this year’s Brödel Lecture by Drew Berry, the 2010 recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship. Drew gave us an inspiring overview of his recent projects which include partnerships with E.O. Wilson on the Life of Earth project and with singer Bjork to create animations for Hollow, a track on her new interactive album, Biophilia. Other gems included art director Juan Velasco who took us on the wild journey from pencil sketch to publication-ready images at National Geographic Magazine, and a presentation of Jodie Jenkinson (9T8) and Gael McGill’s preliminary research findings examining the relative effectiveness of 3D visualization techniques for learning molecular biology concepts.

This year’s workshops were held throughout the conference at JHU and at the nearby Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). The Techniques Showcase held at the Armstrong Building at JHU featured everything from the latest digital tips to a showcase of the membership’s “craftier” side as part of Biomedical Communicrafters.

Not surprisingly, the Vesalius Trust auction was as raucous as ever! This year’s auction took its inspiration from one of its very first live auction events. According to AMI lore, many years ago, in Norfolk, Virginia, Alan Cole, Carol Donner and Jack Desley got to doodling on their tablecloth during an AMI banquet. The hotel staff was not amused and Peggy Henry stepped up to buy the tablecloth and then offered it to Don Biggerstaff for the upcoming live auction where it

Johns Hopkins Department of Art as Applied to Medicine Centennial Celebration

In 1911 at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), Max Brödel became head of the world’s first ‘Department of Art as Applied to Medicine’, and modern medical illustration was born’. This year’s centennial celebrations kicked off with a full day of presentations by esteemed JHU alumni. It was inspiring to see so much talent on stage at JHU’s Turner Auditorium.

Breakfast, coffees and lunch were all served surrounded by a fascinating exhibit of medical art showcasing 100 years of work by JHU alumni (including work by Max Brödel himself) as well as by students currently enrolled in the program. The celebrations continued into the evening starting with an elegant cocktail reception in the courtyard of the Turner Auditorium.

On tap was a commemorative “Brödel beer”, specially brewed for the occasion by award-winning local craft beer brewers, The Brewers Art. Guests then moved inside where we were treated to a trip back in time to “Brödel’s Maryland” through stories, archival photos and musical selections performed by the Concert Artists of Baltimore.

After a hearty dinner (and even heartier socializing!), guests were given a parting gift of our own bottle of Brödel brew and a handsome commemorative stein to enjoy our brew in style.

Cheers to 100 years of BMC at JHU!

Photo by Sonya Amin
fetched a pretty penny! Modeling this year’s auction on that cherished memory, six captains were volunteered to lead six teams in creating their own impromptu tablecloth designs within a one hour time limit with all art materials provided and revealed only at the start of the hour. Sponsors could donate to their favorite teams and at the end of the evening, all the resulting masterpieces were auctioned off to lucky winners. Heading up one of the six teams was Dave Mazierski (8T2) who came up with a genius idea based on Vesalius’ anatomical woodcuts with figures posed against landscapes. Team Mazierski rendered images of the North American program directors against their school’s city skylines. This year’s tablecloth auction raised a whopping $18,500 for the Vesalius Trust!

Baltimore provided many opportunities for us to socialize. The BMCAA’s Beer Club Wednesdays continued in Baltimore at The Brewers Art organized by Lorraine Trecocce (1T0) via local alumnus Ian Suk (9T3). Alumni Night drew 60 alumni and students to Alewife, a local brew pub and, from there, we met up with the other schools to continue the party into the wee hours. Near-by Oriole Park for baseball fans, the Inner Harbour and National Aquarium for marine enthusiasts, and the Baltimore Museum of Art, Walters Art Museum and Edgar Allan Poe House for culture vultures, provided more ways to take in the sites while beating the record-shattering heat (Thursday’s high reached over 40 degrees!)

The Salon was inspiring, as always, and Toronto alumni took home many honours. See page the following page for details.

And finally, to a chorus of cheers, 2012 Meeting Chair Stephen Mader (8T8) and Program Chair Marc Dryer (0T1) gave meeting-goers a sneak peek of next year’s conference which will be held July 25-28 right here in Toronto! Toronto’s theme is “Illuminate” – poetically describing our profession’s vital role in illustrating and explaining topics in science and medicine. As an added layer of interest and attraction, the Toronto program will, alongside the traditional mix of keynotes and sessions, have a specialized, daily offering of themed talks on the topics of (1) Public Health/Patient Education, (2) Scientific Visualization, and (3) Medical Gaming. The planning committee is hard at work and it promises to be a conference to remember!

Have ideas, suggestions or just want to follow the planning process? Join the discussion on-line on the AMI Online Member Community (Group name: Toronto 2012).

References
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2011 AMI WINNERS!
YOU MAKE US PROUD!

Professional Categories:

Instructional Color
Will Shepard Award of Excellence
Ian Suk (9T3), “Transorbital Approach to Access Anterior Cranial Fossa Pathology”

Instructional Tone
Award of Merit
Dino Pulera (9T6), “Teratophoneus curriei, a new short-skulled tyrannosaurid from Utah”

Animation: Advertising, Marketing, Promotional
Award of Excellence
InViVo Communications Inc., “MPI - Brentuximab Vedotin (SGN-35) MOA”

Award of Merit
AXS Biomedical Animation Studio Inc., “HeartWare Ventricular Assist System”

Animation: Instructional
Award of Merit
AXS Biomedical Animation Studio Inc., “Five Feet of Fabulous”

Interactive Media: Instructional
Award of Excellence

Interactive Media: Health Promotion, General Interest
Award of Excellence
InViVo Communications Inc., “Fluid Management Interactive Program”

Interactive Media: Haptic, Virtual Reality
Award of Merit
InViVo Communications Inc., “Novartis Global GIST Explorer Game”

Illustrated Medical Book - College, High School, Elementary Science

Member’s Choice Award
Award of Merit
AXS Biomedical Animation Studio Inc., “Five Feet of Fabulous”

Student Categories:

Instructional Line
Award of Merit
Andrea D. Gauthier (1T2), “Ectopic Tubal Pregnancy”

Instructional Color
Award of Excellence
Andrea D. Gauthier (1T2), “V(D)J Recombination”

Award of Merit
Joyce Hui (1T1), “Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease”
Lyndsay Stephenson (1T2), “Structure and Innervation of the Cochlea and Organ of Corti”

Editorial
Award of Merit
Krista Shapton (1T0), “RNA Scaffolding”

Interactive Media
Award of Excellence
Kristina Neuman (1T0), “Exploring Arthropod Evolution: An interactive program to teach grade six students about the evolutionary characteristics of the four main groups of arthropods”
Enid Hajderi (1T1), “3D Interactive Total Thyroidectomy”

Award of Merit
Carly R. Vanderlee (1T1), “The Case of Jennifer Kennady”

Orville Parkes Student Best of Show
Andrea D. Gauthier (1T2), “V(D)J Recombination”
THE 2011 AMI - TABLECLOTH REPORT

By Tabetha Lulham (1T0)

Every year, the AMI holds a friendly, inter-school competition to raise money for the Vesalius Trust, which goes towards education and research in the field of medical illustration. But this year, they decided to shake things up a bit.

Traditionally, each school comes bearing a piece (usually a sculpture or model) on a theme, and the works are “raced” by raising money within each school during the annual auction. This year, the organizers instead decided to opt for a more “active” event by providing blank tablecloths which we were instructed to decorate in whatever manner we wished, but only with art supplies revealed to us on the evening of the auction. These would then be auctioned off at the end of the night.

Dave Mazierski bravely took on the role of creative lead and roped a few of us together to help him decorate. Our job at the beginning of the night was to run around and find participants, and we dutifully returned with a small army of artists (and not all from Toronto!)
Dave had prepared. We were to create Vesalian caricatures of the six program directors, complete with backgrounds of the cities the programs are located in. He had sketches. He had photographs. We were ready. Our tools were revealed to us: chalk and coloured pens (a strange choice). We got to work.

After a frenzied hour and a half of drawing, colouring, getting covered in chalk and scrambling around the floor, we had created a masterpiece.

Our hard work was borne out when we managed to raise the highest bid for our tablecloth in the auction. I say this with authority... because I’m the one who made the winning bid. Pitted against a fierce opponent like Sonya Amin, I really had no choice but to stand my ground! The tablecloth will soon be travelling to its new home at BMC, however, where I hope it can be memorialized for next year’s AMI.

Thank you to all the artists who came together to create such a great piece of art and especially to all the alumni and students who contributed generously to the Vesalius Trust. Your donations and support are appreciated!

Photographs and Anatomia info provided by Kathryn Chorney (9T8) and Dave Mazierski (8T2)
In early summer 2011, Dr. Violeta Ivanova approached me to work with her on the creation of a new visualization group at MIT, ARTEMiS. ARTEMiS currently stands for Art for Engineering, Mathematics and Science (and is also the nick-name we gave to our beloved i-Mac workstation).

We’re making visualizations, animations, and interactive modules for undergraduate education, from MIT’s Office of Educational Innovation and Technology. So far, we’ve focused on geology animations and art, creating the ARTEMiS resource page, and fostered collaborations with the departments of Mathematics, Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Teaching and Learning Lab at MIT. In the future, we plan to make these educational visualizations available worldwide through the MIT Open Courseware Initiative.

This is a 3D construction view of a current project—an interactive pdf which the user can rotate, slice, and alter transparencies of a river model.
It’s been obvious to me (especially after writing the previous paragraph), that science communication relies too heavily on verbal communication (and technical jargon that can alienate audiences). Visual information- beautiful, accurate and well-designed, has so much to offer all scientific disciplines.

I’m incredibly excited to be working on visualizations for fields outside of our biomedical niche. I hope that as the ARTEMiS visualization group (and others like it) grow, complex STEM concepts that describe the world will become common knowledge. People will see how gravity lenses light from faraway galaxies as it travels through space, they will see how continents move over time from plate tectonics, they will see (and play with?) the variables in Newtonian physics equations that describe cars moving and objects colliding. They will make stronger connections between the abstract concepts in a textbook, and the real-world, visible phenomena they see everyday.

I think I’m preaching to the choir now, but we would love to hear more from you. Please contact us at artemis-www@mit.edu if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to start a discussion about science visualization!

This is a storyboard we used for a glacier animation created early this fall.
THE BMCAA GALA NIGHT

By Michael Marcynuk (0T9)

On a clear September night, we put medical visualizations aside until morning and ventured out into the Toronto nightlife. The usual College street crowd ventured forth to enjoy the fleeting warm temperatures of the season, sip a fine drink on an open patio and listen to the Latino rhythms of a local guitar trio. There was a distinctly European vibe on the street, a sort-of Spanish-Porto-Italian fusion of music, soft lighting and fine clothes. It was the perfect time to celebrate with friends and acquaintances - meet new ones - at the 2011 BMC Alumni Gala.

The venue was Bar Italia – an upscale suburban oasis that rose prominently from its local roots as an espresso joint and pool hall. Hurrying past the patio and up the stairs, we slipped into a beautifully renovated loft and into the BMC event of the year.

There, above it all, colourful clumps of BMC alumni packed like three-dimensional molecules and vibrated in the buzz of conversations, laughter and the clink of raised glasses. Every so often, a neutrino flash of white and black, as a server delivered a tray filled with delicious Italian fare: a sun-dried, formaggio treat on hearty olive-soaked bread. Good food was the attractive force that made the beer and wine taste better, enriched conversations and authenticated the festivities. Off to the side, there was a rich assortment of items to be won: plush sushis, gift cards and artwork by Steve Gilbert. Conversations turned to tales of luck, lost riches and lottery strategies. Strips of tickets were sold, torn and cast. Winners to be later determined.

Like an “Opening Night”, the BMC event was star-studded with teachers. New and former students were treated to a resplendent Professor Margaret MacKay, fleeting glimpses of Professor Shelley Wall, and other BMC notables. Professor Dave Mazierski, presenter extraordinaire, showed the new home of the BMC program: Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex Building at the University of Toronto Mississauga. It is a towering, shiny addition to a long line of historical and temporary buildings that have housed this ever-growing program. Dave’s slideshow was a nostalgic romp with old friends, professors, alumni, dated haircuts, technology and the occasional unsafe construction practice.

But the new building was most certainly the true star of the evening - a mirrored monolith that arose from the Mississauga mud. It is a stunning and wonderfully functional learning space for new biomedical artists. Future BMC students will surely look forward to study there.

As the evening wound down and the frivolity subsided, it was time to depart, gather up hard won auction items, memories, and say goodbye to old and new acquaintances. It was time to strut confidently with renewed vigor... out into the beautiful autumn night, through the musical streets and back into our magical, medical-visual worlds.

Thanks to all of those who organized and attended this event.
The bridge that crosses from the new building to the old.

November 1st, 2011, marked the official opening of the new Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex Building at the University of Toronto Mississauga campus. It is home to the 52 medical students of the Mississauga Academy of Medicine, but more importantly (for us, anyway!), it is the modern new home of Biomedical Communications. Many of you know that we actually moved into our offices in July (before and after the AMI meeting) in order to prepare for the start of the new academic year.

Construction was slated to begin in late 2008, but was held up due to the economic downturn of that year, compounded by difficulties in negotiations between the University, Faculty of Medicine, and the Ministry of Health. Real progress began in 2009, and we were able to watch the building spring out of the ground from our 3rd floor vantage point in the adjacent CCT building. After two tours of the construction site last Christmas and early this spring, we were more than eager to occupy our new offices when the building was deemed inhabitable in June (technically, the building is still a construction site, as the contractors scramble to finish with some of the pickier, fiddly details).

Those of you who remember the layout of our accommodations in the Medical Sciences Building may feel a little déjà vu in our new space: a long hallway with faculty offices and conference room on one side (facing the outside), and computer labs & library on the other… but that's where the similarities end. The hallway is broad and tall, with one wall covered with a self-healing surface for pinning up current art, while the opposite wall is hung with framed art from our archives. The faculty offices have windows that OPEN!… and the two computer labs are equipped with the latest in AV projection and sound equipment. Our library and archives occupy two adjacent suites with comfortable chairs for reading, while the computer labs feature Herman Miller Aeron chairs. It is the first time in our storied, peripatetic history that we have had a say in the design and fixtures in a new space designed especially for us and our program’s needs, and it feels great!

The building is as stunning from the outside as it is from the inside, clad in stainless steel and renewable tropical hardwood. Each floor features a green roof which captures rainwater for recycling, and a walk-out patio. Our floor (the third) has a bridge that goes directly to the Davis Building (formerly the South Building), while the fourth floor (home to Forensic Science) has a small anatomy lab with prospected specimens that our students also have access to (we share our floor with Anthropology, while the Academy of Medicine occupies the first two floors).

Our beautiful new home, and our burgeoning relationship with our parent unit, the Department of Biology at UTM, heralds a new and exciting chapter in the continuing saga that is the BMC Story. If you find yourself in the area, please get in touch and drop by for a guided tour… we’d love to see you, and we know you will be impressed and proud of how far we have come!
1. The front entrance to the new location of BMC  
2. The BMC Library  
3. Marc Dryer teaching a class in the Advance Lab  
4. Michael Corrin instructing students in the Main Lab  
5. Linda Wilson-Pauwels and Administrator Maeve Doyle meeting in Linda's new office space  
6. Dave Mazierski sitting pretty in his new office space  
7. The new building basking in the glow of an early morning  

Photo credits: Dave Mazierski
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS OF 1T3

Take a closer look at the class of 2013 and see what set them on the path of being part of BMC!

MELANIE BURGER

Throughout my life I have lived in places all over Canada. Born in rural Quebec, my family moved to Kelowna, BC when I was 9 and I’ve been making my way back east ever since. I studied Health Sciences (Hons.) at the University of Calgary, and each summer I worked in a physical chemistry research lab. These experiences motivated me to complete a MSc in Chemistry at McGill under the supervision of Dr. Jim Gleason. While in Montreal, I learned about and applied to the MScBMC program after a chance meeting with Roula Drossi, a past graduate student. I now live in Mississauga, ON. The MScBMC program is ideal in that it not only allows me to pursue art as more than a hobby while at the same time being strongly rooted in science, but also opens the door to a future as a science communicator. In speaking of the current discrepancy between scientific consensus and government action, Science editor Bruce Alberts stated that to solve it “scientists must make both science education and community outreach a much more central part of the scientific culture”. This statement echoes my own conclusions. After completing this degree, I hope to create visual materials that close the gap between primary researchers and the public.

AGNES CHAN

I have been drawing ever since I could remember; in my younger years, when asked what I wanted to be in the future, my invariable and resolute answer was, Artist. In grade school, I found myself drawn to the systematic and logical nature of science, taking a special interest in biology. When applying for postsecondary programs, I felt compelled to choose between visual arts and the sciences; I opted for the Life Science program at McMaster University as the more “practical” choice. It was not until my final undergraduate year, when I was again faced with a major predicament of what to do next, that I seriously considered incorporating art into a science-based career in the form of scientific illustration. With an Honours Bachelor of Science degree, I applied for the Biomedical Communication program and was grateful to be accepted. It would seem that after years of indecision, I have ultimately come full circle and gone back to the very first career interest I came up with as a 5-year old – artist – but with a scientific spin reflecting the methodical, evidence-based mentality I have since developed. I look forward to spending the next two years of my life exploring the various avenues of visual scientific communication alongside a passionate and talented group of colleagues and faculty in the MScBMC program.

MELISSA CORY

Born and raised in Vancouver BC, I completed an undergraduate degree in Human Kinetics at the University of British Columbia. Through Kinesiology, I was able to develop my lifelong interest in Human Biology and Health Science, eventually focusing on the nervous system and the fascinating ways in which movement is controlled and coordinated in the human body.

Although my elective foray into first year studio art during the final part of my undergraduate degree was simply meant to rekindle an old passion for visual art, it ended up putting me on a new career path. I was fortunate enough to find out about the field of Biomedical Communications around this time and I spent two invaluable years in the continuing education program at Emily Carr University honing my visual art skills and working on my application.

I have always been captivated by the details of the natural world, and I am amazed by how much enjoyment there is in sharing this information with other people. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Biomedical Communications program at UofT, and I look forward to a career that will continually challenge me to find the most effective ways to connect with others.
JERSHUA ELLIS

Entering BMC has been a dream of mine since discovering the program while browsing UofT’s Graduate School website in early undergrad. I come to BMC with a diverse academic background. I completed an HBA at the University of Toronto with a major in Canadian Studies and minors in both Biology and Visual Studies.

I am passionate about Art and Illustration. I have studied Anatomical and Illustrative drawing with a BMC grad at Fleming College and in 2010 I was accepted into a Master Class in Life Drawing instructed by a Drawing Society of Canada recognized “Honourary Drawing Master”.

I believe my Social Science background and work experience as a coordinator and bicycle mechanic at a non-profit organization fuels my desire to explore the social aspects of Biomedical Communications through Patient Education. My work involved helping marginalized groups become mobile and independent through their use of bicycles as transportation. With my Biomedical Communications education, I hope to help patients gain independence by understanding how to better manage their health problems. I am very honoured to be here and look forward to the academic and creative challenges ahead of me at BMC.

LAURA GREENLEA

Laura Greenlee grew up near Peterborough, Ontario and attended Trent University, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2009. Growing up, she was interested in studying a health care profession, but also enjoyed expressing herself artistically.

Throughout her scientific studies and work at rehabilitation and chiropractic clinics, she saw that many students and patients had difficulty understanding scientific concepts as presented, due to differences in learning styles as well as language barriers. She saw the important need of creative educational media to educate students and patients about scientific concepts. So began the search to find a way in which she could make better educational material. She is very excited to be studying in University of Toronto’s Biomedical Communications program, and looks forward to honing her skills and producing helpful biomedical communication media.

STUART JANTZEN

I completed my Bachelor of Science at the University of Victoria in 2008 with no real idea of what to do next. I’d been interested in 3D computer graphics and animation since high school, but never considered it as a viable career. Concentrating on biology in my undergraduate degree, I let my CG hobby lapse. I started work as a bioinformatician in a genetics lab, and while I enjoyed the use of technology in research, I didn’t feel that was what I wanted to do long term. Upon seeing a few examples of breathtaking animations of cellular and molecular events, I subconsciously set that kind of work into a “very cool but not possible for me” category. However, one day I suddenly realized that I could do it if I worked hard at it. So I began to learn computer animation in my free time.

The next question became how to pursue some sort of “scientific animation” schooling, so I set to work (ultimately unsuccessfully) cobbling together a custom interdisciplinary Master’s program incorporating the departments of biology, computer science, education, and fine arts. During the frustrating administrative process, a google search happened to turn up UofT’s BMC program. It seemed too good to be true that a program like this already existed, but after brushing up on some traditional skills and applying, I was accepted! I’m very much looking forward to the continued journey ahead.
KATRINA MURPHY
I am a native Oregonian who loves nature, science, art and chocolate. I come from a family of scientifically minded and creative individuals. I have always wanted to help people by addressing human and environmental health. What better way to do these than by designing things in order to help people? At least, that is why I graduated with a BSc in Bioengineering from Oregon State University. Three years post-graduation, I worked as a biomedical engineer assistant researching and developing cutting-edge wound care and, in 2009, I learned that medical illustration was a profession while illustrating technologies for the Oregon Medical Laser Center.

In 2010, I was given the opportunity to attend the Association of Medical Illustrators conference as a trial member in my neighborhood Portland, Oregon. At this conference, I felt at home among like-minded science and art enthusiasts. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to talk with Nick Woolridge, the Biomedical Communication (BMC) director from the University of Toronto. His passion for the well-respected, science-based MScBMC program struck a chord with me and I was sold. My Aunt Julie once said, “Strive to be the best version of you that you can be.” I saw this pursuit as a way to enhance my contributions to humanity, so I gathered my references and what artwork I had, sent off my portfolio along with the application and crossed my fingers.

As luck would have it, I was accepted and I am now happily studying the details of the human body with widely talented individuals who see the world for both its incredible composition and its aesthetic idiosyncrasies. I look forward to developing into my best version as a professional biomedical communicator who uses many mediums, including 3D software, to convey technical information in inspiring ways.

ANGELICA ORTIZ
My interest in the Master of Science in Biomedical Communications program sparked in my undergraduate years where I was exposed to scientific illustrations, both in the classroom and in research. It is during this time that I learned about the crucial role that illustrators have in science.

After finishing my undergraduate degree in Medical Sciences at the University of Western Ontario, I had already done some research about the BMC program at the University of Toronto. However, while I had the scientific background for the program, I felt unprepared in the art component of the course. Therefore, while taking a year off school after graduating, I practiced my artistic skills while working as a research assistant and science tutor.

Teaching others about science was a very rewarding experience. I really enjoyed simplifying scientific concepts for High School and University Students. I now realize the MScBMC was the best choice for me. As a Biomedical Illustrator, I have the opportunity to feed my scientific curiosity for they way the various processes work, while using my artistic skills to illustrate these processes to educate others.

JOY QU
When I discovered the Biomedical Communications program during the last semester of my fourth year at the University of Toronto, I really felt like I had found the missing puzzle piece in my life. This has allowed me to connect my passion for art with my passion for science. I have always loved arts and crafts (and baking too!) but because of what I had been told about the current job market, I did not consider a career in these areas. Instead, I pursued life sciences, for my undergraduate degree. In my first year I was particularly interested in the field of immunology, which ended up being my program of study. This research intensive program taught me a lot of valuable lessons and interesting knowledge but also made me realize that a life of research is not what I wanted. I realized what I loved doing were things like animating scientific presentations and sketching diagrams of complex molecular pathways in my notes. Just as I was reaching a crisis over my future in science, I discovered BMC. I was instantly drawn to the fact that this program allowed me to combine my love for art and science. The more I learned about this program, the more I wanted to be a part of it.

Putting my portfolio together was an incredible experience; they were the busiest yet most enjoyable months of my entire undergrad. I am very proud and thrilled to be a part of this creative, challenging, and exciting program.
OLIVIA YONSOO SHIM

As long as I can remember I have liked to draw, create art, and have been captivated by the nature. In my childhood, I wanted to follow in the footsteps of Jean Henri Fabre (a French entomologist, called “poet of science”) and Cornelia Hesse-Honegger (a researcher/scientific illustrator, who creates watercolour studies on insects mutated by nuclear radiation). By the time I graduated from high school, I had developed a perfectly balanced passion for biology and visual art. I also knew that the University of Toronto was offering the BMC program, which prompted my choice in where and what to study for my undergraduate degree.

I graduated from the University of Toronto with a double major in Human Biology and Zoology, and a minor in Visual Studies. After my first attempt of getting into BMC, I took a year off to improve my penmanship at the George Brown College.

BMC is a unique and specialized program, and it is a privilege to be a part of it. I enjoy learning from the knowledgeable faculty, and to be surrounded by friendly and talented colleagues and alumni (not to mention the very impressive facilities). The program has been a great experience for me so far, and I am expecting great things ahead.

LAURA SMITH

“Biology and art, huh? Aren’t those at different ends of the spectrum?” It never ceased to amaze me how many people reacted the exact same way upon discovering I was pursuing dual degrees in fields that, at first, seem discordant during my undergrad. I loved my Shakespeare seminars as much as my figure drawing and photography classes, in addition to my biology courses and labs! As my sister puts it, I was burning the candle at both ends and in the middle during my undergraduate years.

I graduated from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT with a BSc in Biology, a BA in Studio Art, and a minor in English. My biology professor (Thanks Dr. B!) was the first to suggest medical illustration as a promising avenue for my interests. I got to a point in my life where I knew I wanted to pursue graduate studies and was excited to discover the MScBMC program at the University of Toronto. I am a dual citizen with family around the Toronto area, and when I visited the Mississauga campus, I felt inspired.

With such supportive faculty and incredibly talented colleagues, the experience has been truly amazing. The material has been fascinating, especially getting the opportunity in the anatomy labs to learn hands on. As challenging as the atmosphere is, being a part of BMC is extremely rewarding. I’m looking forward to strengthening my skills and exploring more of this uniquely-blended field.

MICHAEL SOONG

After discovering the BMC program, I sought to learn more about the program and the field of biomedical communications. At the time, I was in my third year of undergraduate studies in Physiology at McGill University and thinking toward the future. Conversations with BMC graduates only further piqued my interest. As well, a local search of McGill University and the Montreal hospital network led me to Molson Medical Informatics, a team of illustrators and content experts that produces educational materials for patients and students. Following a meeting with the directors, I was very fortunate to find summer employment as an illustrator. This led to part-time work during the school year. Following graduation in 2010, I continued to work at the MMI over the following year while preparing a portfolio for my BMC application.

I have learned a great deal in this time and enjoyed every minute of it! I am looking forward to continue to learn and develop new skills. It’s exciting to be back in the city I grew up in and to be surrounded by like-minded individuals!
INESA STANISHEVSKAYA

As the child of a physicist and a librarian, my life began revolving around science and books from the get-go. Before I could even read I was captivated by the pictures in scientific books my parents would bring me, and it was only recently that I realized that it had been those scientific illustrations that initially solidified my love for science. From then on, my academic interests always lay within the scientific realm (while my interest in art played a smaller, yet equally important role as a hobby), and I eventually went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Although I loved the biomedical field, as I progressed through my undergrad I always felt that something was missing. Not being able to pinpoint the source of this feeling, however, led me to apply to and then accept an offer from the University of Michigan’s PhD program in Biomedical Engineering -- though, as soon as I began my graduate program, I immediately knew that it was not the right choice for me. Around the same time, I accidentally stumbled onto information about the BMC program. The moment I read about it, I knew that this was exactly where I wanted to be.

Being accepted to BMC has been an unreal experience. I look forward to everything that I will learn, and I can only hope that someday I will be able to inspire and educate others as I have been.

SARA VUKSON

I was born in London, Ontario, and shortly thereafter my family relocated to California! (Life highlight: chasing lizards and monarchs at age 4!) In the subsequent years, my family moved to different places in the States and Canada. I found it interesting to see what remained the same and what changed in all these places.

I’ve always been fascinated by the “wonder” that seems to drive science to understand the “whys” and “hows” of our physical world. Art as well, often attempts to express the mysteries of life that can seem so abstract. It appears that both disciplines seek to unmask a truth, and it is unfortunate they are often viewed as opposites despite this.

By the time I got to university I made the sad realization I would need to choose one subject to pursue – and thus followed the path of science! I did my undergrad at the University of Guelph in Molecular Biology and Genetics and minored in Statistics. But though I did love science I never stopped missing art. I was very much intrigued when a housemate brought home a pamphlet for this program.

The year after graduation I drew at the Body World’s exhibit every chance I could get, and did a significant amount of life drawing with the APW in Toronto. I also began working at Scales Nature Park up in Orillia, which largely involved wrangling snakes, lizards, turtles for the public, and creating graphics in the name of conservation! I didn’t make it into the BMC program on my first try, and so continued on with an 8 month 3D animation program at Fanshawe to improve my portfolio. On the second application I made it in! So far I am loving it!

ERIN WARKENTIN

I grew up in Dundas, Ontario in a medically oriented family. My hematologist father and my (retired nurse) mother created a tangible allure to the field of medicine in our household. My father would share stories about new and interesting patient cases with such enthusiasm and clarity that I considered myself an “expert” in his specialty at the age of 8. This naive notion has since been dispelled, but surprisingly, the stories are still with me (and not only because he repeats them constantly!). He was able to reduce complicated medical issues to be understandable to a child. Growing up with this teaching style I sought to develop these characteristics myself. I enjoyed explaining concepts to others, but I began to incorporate a new element: the use of pictures. Despite the purpose that art served in my life, I never thought twice about the fact that I loved drawing when it came to considering a career path. Going into the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program at McMaster University, I believed that the only career that existed was becoming a doctor (big cliché!). However, university is a time for self discovery, and when I learned of the Biomedical Communications Program at UofT, and the potential career of medical illustration, I couldn’t think of a more suitable path for myself. I look forward to doing what I love: teaching others through my illustrations.
ANDREA ZARIWNY
I was born in Yellowknife but my time there was brief. When I was 4 years old my family and I moved to Edmonton so my father could further his education and better our future. Edmonton was a great place to be during my adolescent years and this is where I completed my undergraduate degree in Industrial Design with a minor in Business. The design program allowed for a diverse set of courses, including design and construction in a studio, social and business sciences, as well as digital and fine arts. During the last year of my degree I began to apply my studies outside of the university. I opened and operated an art, design, and music shop which catered to local enthusiasts under the age of 18. It was a place for creators of all sorts to sell their merchandise as well as a venue to listen to live music. After two years, several events prompted me to move to Vancouver where I pursued various employment endeavors. I was an apprentice to an artist and gallery manager, I worked at a scale modeling shop as a model-maker and carpenter, and most recently I was manager of operations at a product and furniture design studio. These experiences have been invaluable to me by teaching me how small businesses operate and how to build strong client relationships.

As my father did before me, I am returning to university to better my future and shift my career. As long as I can remember I have been fascinated by illustrations of human anatomy and until a year ago I had no idea how one could make this their profession. After spending a year catching up on my biological sciences I applied to BMC and was fortunate enough to be accepted into the program with many other talented students. I look forward to learning a new skill set and am thrilled to be a part of such a unique program. I am going to use my past experiences and apply them to the field of biomedical communication to the best of my ability.

All together, the new BMC class of 1T3 (minus Angelica Ortiz).

Photos courtesy of Dave Mazierski
THE NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI
Everyone’s favourite news & gossip column

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Tabetha Lulham (IT0) and Jeffrey Rose became engaged this summer in Rome. They are excited to be planning their marriage in June of 2012.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cindy Lau (IT2) and Kevin Leung were happily married hand in hand, under the sun and on the sand, at a Mexican beach this summer in June. They celebrated to music by the Beatles, Pixar and Rebecca Black (since it was the perfect Friday for partying partying, yah!). They met 5 years ago while studying for Complex Analysis, and helped each other make it through undergrad alive. Cindy is finishing her 2nd year in BMC, while Kevin is a Biomedical Engineer at a medical device company.

Lorraine Trecroce (IT0) and Charles Connor tied the knot on September 24th, 2011 in front of 50 of their closest family at their favourite Toronto restaurant, Colborne Lane.

At 9am on September 17 2011 Caitlin LaFlamme (0T9) happily married the farmer of her dreams, Ken Tilt. The two exchanged early morning vows outdoors in front of family and friends in picturesque Ingersoll Ontario at the Elmhurst Inn. Fellow BMC’er Robyn Zalev-Schwartz (0T9) made a beautiful bridesmaid and was undoubtedly an expert at flower arrangements and place settings. Both typical and expected, the bride stayed up crafting until the early morning hours prior to the event and was caught knitting while photography was taking place. Caitlin and Ken spent the following week relaxing in Montebello, Quebec at the Fairmont Chateau Montebello. Taylor sadly missed the special event due to a “No boisterous golden retriever” policy but is happy to have an official mom and dad at last.
KATHRYN CHORNEY (9T8)

Kathryn Chorney received notification that her “Bracket Fungus (Ganoderma) on Stump” received a Second Prize Award from the Puget Sound Mycological Society’s 48th Annual Wild Mushroom Show, held during this past October in Seattle, WA. She painted the image in watercolour and ink on paper, during the summer of 2011. Image size is approximately 15”x11”. She had found the subject on her sister and brother-in-law’s property in Wellington County. The composition was completed by referring to a collection of other bracket fungi as well as self-collected references of wild plants and tree textures.

Kathryn’s other exciting news is as follows:
1. Her Third Year Illustration class from the Bachelor of Applied Arts Illustration program at Sheridan College, collaborated with the Ontario Science Center and the Stem Cell Network (Ottawa) to create graphic design, illustrations, and animations for the exhibit “Super Cells: The Wonder of Stem Cells”. This exhibit commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of Stem Cells by Canadian researchers Till and McCulloch. The exhibit ran in the OSC’s Ideas Gallery from May to October 2011.

2. Sheridan Institute’s Faculty of Animation, Arts, and Design is the focus of Applied Arts Magazine’s September issue, as the first in their Visual Education series. The issue profiles all 31 programs in Sheridan’s FAAD, including the Bachelor of Applied Arts Illustration; look closely on page 22, in amongst the skeletons in the drawing studio, for the shyly smiling face of your fellow alumna, scientific illustration professor Kathryn Chorney.

CAITLIN O’CONNELL (0T9)

Caitlin has been working at the Anatomy Lab at McMaster University, where part of her job involves photography. There are about 3,000 specimens in the lab that will need to be photographed, edited and labelled for online student use. These are just two examples of the photos taken so far.
KERRI WELLER (8T6)

Kerri’s oil painting, November Kale, was chosen as a Finalist in the Still Life Category of the prestigious International 2010/2011 ARC Salon, Art Renewal Centre. [www.artrenewal.org](http://www.artrenewal.org)

In Kerri’s other news:
Kerri was recently interviewed by Rita Celli on CBC’s Ontario Today about botanical art. Also, sailing is her sports passion and she has been invited as the parent delegate to participate in the National Sailing TASK force - Setting Safety guidelines for sailing regattas. To see more of Kerri’s art visit her website at [www.kerriweller.com](http://www.kerriweller.com)

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LESLIE PREDY (0T8)

Leslie recently worked as an User Experience Designer for an iPad app project, 123D Sculpt by Autodesk for iPad. The image on the left is the app’s splash screen, the one on the right is a face sculpture Leslie made with the app itself.
Sequence Title: Using tube retractors in intracranial keyhole surgery.

Description: Tube retractors are often used for endoscopic spinal surgery, but can also be used in intracranial neurosurgery. However, keeping the tubes from plunging too deeply into the brain is a little tricky. These four images - from a series of seven - describe the basics of using tube retractors in neurosurgery.

The first image shows a guidance probe and modified peel-away catheter being used to determine the trajectory and depth of the surgical field. The catheter is left in-situ, the probe is removed and the first tube retractor is inserted down the catheter, as seen in the second image where the catheter is actually being removed. Subsequent tubes are carefully inserted over top of each other. To keep the in-situ tube from plunging into the brain while the subsequent tube is slid over top of it, a foley catheter is inserted down the barrel, inflated and even traction is applied, as seen in the third image. The fourth image shows the final tube, which is about 13mm in diameter, being inserted.

CELIA GODKIN (former BMC faculty)

Celia Godkin’s latest coin design for the Royal Canadian Mint was released in July. It’s the fourth coin in the Maple Leaf Crystal Raindrop Series. You can see all of Celia’s coin designs and much more on her website: www.celiagodkin.com.

GLEN OOMEN (0T2)

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THE JOB OPP LIST HAS CHANGED!

Last year, BMC discontinued the job pop list in favour of a much more equitable solution: they now post job opps to the BMC Alumni LinkedIn group:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?m ostRecent=&gid=3698322

This is a free service that is easier for BMC to administer, as well as a service that will reach far more grads. The LinkedIn site also provides a forum for discussions of industry trends, BMC and grad news, etc.

ALUMNI M.I.A.

Can you help us find the following AAM/BMC alumni? Send us an email at bmcaa@utoronto.ca if you know where the following alumni are hiding...

André Beerens 7T2
Randy Averback 7T9
Rick Billinghamurst 7T3
Anne Marie Black 7T2
Valerie Harrison 6T9
Elizabeth Imrie 5T3
Carly Jeffery 8T5
Laurie Johnston 7T5
Frederick Kelly 4T9
Emilienne Lambert 7T6
Shumin Lee 8T9
Rhonda Legrove 8T3
Per Lundquist 7T1
Jean MacGregor 7T2
Pat Parsons 7T0
Shirley Pavlik (Reddick) 7T4
Annette Porter 6T5
Glen Reid 6T9
Carolyn Richardson 7T9
Bev Ross 8T1
Grant Ross 5T8
Rasa Skudra 7T3
Lynn Smiledge (Waldo) 7T8
Jackie Steinmann 5T1
Judith Walker 6T9
Chris Yorke 9T5
Nadav Kupiec
Robin Hamilton
Beverley Nash
Christine Perchal
Gary Cousins
Carin Cain
Carolyn Olauson
Paul Pede
Sarah Beaton
Elenor Andrew

DON’T FORGET TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

1) Email us at bmcaa@utoronto.ca with your event ideas, suggestions, news updates or just to say hi.
2) Visit our website at www.bmc.med.utoronto.ca/bmc/alumni.html. Read old newsletters and check out what’s going on at the department.
3) Share tips, tutorials and techniques on BMC Wiki www.bmc.med.utoronto.ca/bmcwiki