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Happy New Year and Welcome to the inaugural issue of the ACPMAPS newsletter!

The first term kept us all busy getting the office up and running. Lan Yu and I were on our own during August, doing everything from buying pencils to setting up electronic mailing lists. Edward Fenner assumed the position of student advisor in September, and then Matthew Peattie, the associate director, joined the team in October. With our staff then in place, we began to plan and offer regular events.

Personally, my first term in ACPMAPS has been rewarding and educational. I have particularly enjoyed getting to meet new and returning mature and part-time students, many of whom juggle substantial family, work and school commitments. I am constantly struck by the workloads that they carry as well as by the energy that they bring to their academic studies. Over the course of the term, students dropped by the ACPMAPS office for a variety of reasons: to seek advice, to vent, to network with other students, and sometimes just to say hello. We have also had prospective students coming in to ask about applying to York. The variety of each day has kept us all busy.

During the winter term, ACPMAPS will continue to reach out to the York community by visiting Faculties and meeting with various student service areas. Our goal is to increase everyone's awareness of the presence and importance of mature and part-time students. The York community has been very welcoming to ACPMAPS and I want to thank everyone who helped us with our fall term efforts. My new role as the director of ACPMAPS has allowed me to expand my circle of York colleagues and friends. I have also been able to meet students from a variety of Faculties. York is a large institution, but there are many ways through which to make personal connections.

I look forward to seeing you in the new term and new year—drop by and say hello!

Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt
AVP-Academic Learning Initiatives
Director, ACPMAPS

Who We Are

The Atkinson Centre for Mature and Part-time Students (ACMAPS) was established to provide a pan-university physical and philosophical home for mature and part-time students at York University. The centre first opened in August 2007 and has had a busy first term. The mandate of the centre includes raising awareness of issues that affect mature and part-time students across the university, leading and facilitating initiatives responding to the needs of these students, and advocating on their

behalf. The establishment of ACPMAPS confirms York University's ongoing commitment to welcome and to serve the needs of mature and part-time students across all the Faculties.

Open to anyone who feels that they will benefit from its services, ACPMAPS is a resource for mature and part-time students from recruitment through to graduation. Centre staff are available to assist students in their transition to university

studies and to help them navigate their York experience. The Centre itself provides a place where mature and part-time students, undergraduate and graduate, can meet to share their interests and experiences.

We look forward to welcoming many part-time and mature students, faculty and staff to the Atkinson Centre. Please feel free to drop by ACPMAPS to say hello, and keep an eye on our website for upcoming events and activities.



The Fall Term at ACMAPS



“Are you a mature or part-time student?”

We are here to help you navigate your York experience.”

The Centre first opened its doors in Central Square in August 2007 and celebrated its launch on November 5th. During the fall term we have been busy setting up shop and piloting student activities and research projects related to the needs of mature and part-time students at York.

In August, ACMAPS participated in the first ever pan-university Mature Student Orientation for new students at York. This event brought together over two hundred new students and included presentations by SCLD (Student Community and Leadership Development) and the Learning Skills Program. In September, the Scott Library, with a request from ACMAPS and YUMSO (the York University Mature Students' Organization) presented An Introduction to Library Research for Mature Students. This workshop allowed new mature students, many of whom had been away from a formal educational context for some time, to reorient themselves with library research and technology among a supportive group of peers.

In October, ACMAPS hosted four student open houses. The ACMAPS staff enjoyed showing off the office at 111 Central Square and got to meet many members of the mature student community. At the open houses, and throughout the term,

ACMAPS has been asking mature students about their experiences at York. Many students have filled out the ACMAPS survey to let us know about the activities and services they would like to see. The open houses took place in the afternoon as well as early evening so that they would be accessible to both full-time day and evening students.

Each week in November, the Centre hosted lunch-hour discussion groups for mature students. The ACMAPS staff was delighted to see many familiar faces from orientation at these events and is looking forward to continuing this community event next term.

As exam time approached, Cathy Boyd-Withers of the Learning Skills Program, presented two exam preparation workshops for mature students. The workshops presented a range of study and note taking skills, and afforded mature students a chance to learn in a community of students who share similar experiences and concerns.

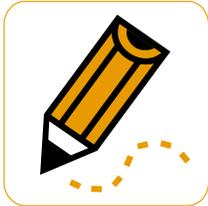
The fall term also brought new faces and new roles to the mature student community at

York. ACMAPS director, *Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt* assumed the role of Associate Vice President Academic Learning Initiatives and Director of ACMAPS at the beginning of August. Professor Fisher-Stitt is an Associate Professor in the Department of Dance and has served as an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Associate Director *Matthew Peattie* joined ACMAPS on October 1st. Matthew came to York from Harvard where he was a Resident Dean and lecturer in the Department of Music. Matthew has been busy getting to know York's resources and meeting mature students and staff all over campus. During the fall term, *Edward Fenner* has been working as ACMAPS Student Advisor. As a mature student himself, Edward brings personal experience and expertise to his role. At ACMAPS, Edward has been available to meet individually with students, and has been helping with various projects in the centre. Administrative Coordinator Lan Yu kept the centre running smoothly and lent her expertise to building the ACMAPS website.

ACMAPS Launch, November 5th

ACMAPS celebrated its launch on November 5, 2007. Distinguished guests included York President *Mamdouh Shoukri* and *Dr. Charles Pascal*, the Executive Director of the Atkinson Charitable foundation. For more on the launch (and photos!) see our article in the November 26th edition of Y-file. www.yorku.ca/yfile

Quiet Study Spaces on Campus



“ACMAPS provides a pan-university physical and philosophical home for mature and part-time students.”

The York campus is bustling and finding a quiet place to study is not always easy. Many students who filled out the ACMAPS surveys this term wrote that finding a quiet place to study was an important concern. We know that finding places where you are comfortable to study and write is important to your success at York. With that in mind, we sent ACMAPS student advisor, Edward Fenner, on a quest to find quiet study places on campus.

“When I first started at York in 2004, I tried the library, but it was too noisy for me. There are some quiet pockets on the upper levels. This year, the Scott Library designated a new Silent Study Hall on the second floor behind reception, which is quite good – this is a laptop-free zone reserved for SILENT reading and writing. Otherwise, the rule is go as far away from the centre of action as you can. The colleges have some spots that are good. Calumet is usually pretty

quiet and has some desks upstairs that are usually empty. McLaughlin and Winters have some pockets, too. Vanier has the YUMSO office at 101E which is available, but also The Renaissance at 001 Vanier is often available for mature student study. In fact, master Stanley Tweyman encourages mature students to use it as a reasonably quiet study area. The upper levels of Accolade East offer some space. There is a common room in the northeast corner (ACE 219) that’s pretty good most times. Also the Complex 1 Computer Lab is quite good. They have comfy chairs as well. It is in the lower level at the junction of all Complex 1 Colleges (Founders, Vanier, Winters, & McLaughlin). Centrally, Ross has some classrooms that are often not in use. The big secret is to check the room schedules. If the room has unbooked time, you can use it. Once occupied, you are usually

left alone. If possible, try to have a study buddy with you instead of studying alone. One other tip - Osgoode is almost always quiet - especially the library. Some mature students go there to study even if they are not law students.” EF

Recognizing the need for quiet study spaces for mature students during exam period, the ACMAPS conference room at 111 Central Square was open to mature students for quiet study for 1½ hours prior to each afternoon and evening exam during the weeks of December 3rd and 10th.

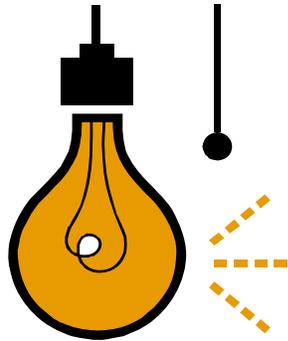
Access to Services for Part-time Evening Students

Many York offices remain open at least one evening a week to provide access for part-time students who may only be on campus in the evenings. As part of our efforts to connect part-time students with the available resources, ACMAPS maintains a list of the offices and services available in the evenings and weekends. Whether you need your YU card, or want to talk with a student advisor at ACMAPS, we want to ensure that you can access the services you need in the early evening before class.

The ACMAPS office is open until 7pm Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 9 am until noon on alternate Saturdays. See the ACMAPS website for an up to date listing of services. If you are a part-time student who has difficulties accessing academic and student support services, get in touch with us and we can help facilitate access to the services you need.

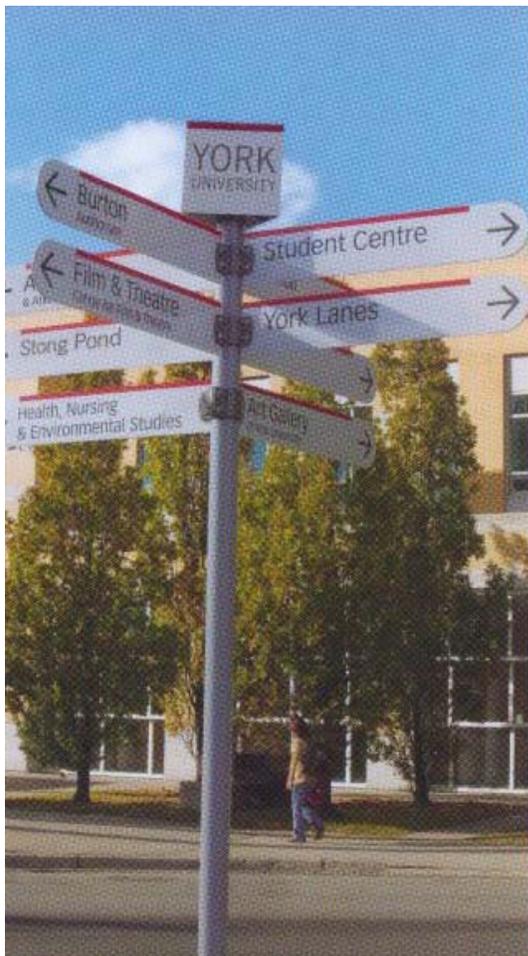


Brown Bag Lunches at ACMAPS



Each week in November, ACMAPS hosted a lunch hour discussion group for mature students. The brown bag lunches provided a forum for mature students to connect and discuss their student experience. The brown bag lunches were informal discussions led by students and hosted each week by an ACMAPS staff member. Norma Sue, Edward and Matthew enjoyed meeting many mature students and lively conversations included everything from shared stories and experiences to tips on navigating campus resources.

ACMAPS plans to continue these lunches each week in the New Year as informal brown bag events – watch our website for dates and times. Coffee and tea will be provided!



ACMAPS Listserv

ACMAPS has a listserv that will be used for a monthly newsletter, event listings and announcements relevant to mature and part-time students. If you would like to be added to the ACMAPS listserv, please e-mail Matthew Peattie at mpeattie@yorku.ca. If you are a *Facebook* user, please look up our profile on the York University Canada network and feel free to add us to your friends to receive regular status and event updates (our profile name is Atkinson Centre).

ACMAPS on the Web

The ACMAPS website is up and running! For all the latest about the Atkinson Centre for Mature and Part-time Students, check www.yorku.ca/acmaps. The website includes up-to-the-minute event listings for mature students, staff bios, FAQs for mature students, and links to important academic and student services at York.

Mature Students in the News

Bertie Friedlander, a 78-year old mature student was profiled in the *Toronto Star* on November 26th. Bertie is a veteran mature student who is now working on his second master's degree, this time in environmental studies. To read the article yourself, go to <http://www.thestar.com/article/279514>. Bertie would like to note a correction. He got into the MES program just fine (and got a GA-ship because of good grades). It was his first master's in anthropology where he got in as one of only twelve students. Way to go, Bertie!

Our own Edward Fenner was profiled in YFile November 22 for his work volunteering with *Existere - Journal of Arts and Literature*. Read the story at <http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=9500>

YUMSO Update

YUMSO, the York University Mature Students' Organization, is a student group dedicated to building the mature student community at York and identifying issues faced by this community. YUMSO has a listserv with over 600 members, a website, a *Facebook* site, and sends out regular e-newsletters and bulletins.

YUMSO's office is located at 101E Vanier College and offers a place for mature students to put up their feet, make some tea, eat lunch, chat, or do some homework. The office posts hours on their website www.yorku.ca/yumso that are updated to reflect volunteer schedules. Feel like helping out? Volunteering is easy and takes little time or effort. Or, get involved with the executive and help make a difference to York's vibrant adult learning community.

The Mature Student Speakers Series (co-sponsored by ACMAPS) will continue in January. The month will also see coffee klatches, another pub night, and there will also be a general meeting. Now that ACMAPS is aboard and helping advance mature student causes with considerable time and resources, YUMSO's role will evolve and you can help decide how we grow and change.

This is a great time to be a mature student at York. Regardless of your college or program, you have a home with both YUMSO and ACMAPS. Though the YUMSO office is at 101E Vanier College, we have a representative at Glendon. Leigh Sanger is our VP Glendon and is actively participating in adult learning issues at that campus and working to get a small YUMSO office there for mature students.

Being an active mature student is key to your academic success. Take ownership of your academic career and if you need a little help or advice along the way, we are here to help. Take time for some fun stuff, too. There are writing and art competitions, acting auditions, pub nights, coffee klatches, free lectures and events, free art galleries, and lots of volunteer opportunities and other exciting things all over campus. This is your time, too!

Edward Fenner
Founder & President
YUMSO

Office Hours

Mon	8:30 - 4:30 pm
Tue	8:30 - 4:30 pm
Wed	8:30 - 7:00 pm
Thur	8:30 - 7:00 pm
Fri	8:30 - 4:30 pm
Sat	Jan 5, 19, & Feb 2 9:00 - 12:00 pm
Sun	Closed

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