Sharing A Student’s Story by Elaine Marion

Artist Yvonne Trussler, who will graduate this June with an Honours B.A. in Art, speaks of her time at McMaster with a happy mix of wonder and surprise. It has been five years since Yvonne returned to Hamilton from Huntsville. She had moved to Huntsville long ago and there she completed high school and began hairdressing, a job that left her thoroughly bored.

Her pursuit of a university degree began in Huntsville. There she took every course offered in Visual Arts. She studied first at Laurentian University. When Laurentian’s off-campus site closed, she went to Nipissing, which replaced it.

Yvonne’s move back to Hamilton had about it a feeling of coming full circle; when she learned that her university credits gave her advance standing towards a McMaster degree, she really felt welcomed home.

When Yvonne could not exactly explain, to the people in her life, where all the hard work would lead, she would simply say, “I don’t know, but I need to do this for me.” There were difficulties—especially money—but her belief in herself increased as she worked to surmount them. Little rewards kept coming to her as she studied. She found out how much she enjoys time spent with young people, who she finds immensely interesting; and she reveled in the “healthy environment” of the university. Living in a large city allowed her to be a docent at the Hamilton Art Gallery. She also felt lucky to have a job on campus, which she truly loved, at Titles Bookstore.

Editor’s Note: Recently MAPS purchased Yvonne Trussler’s artwork which was among the pieces on show at our mini exhibit. For Yvonne the piece symbolizes her personal evolution to date. For MAPS it will be a constant reminder of the uniqueness, talent, and courage of all part-time students.

Also, a heartfelt thank you to Darin Stahl for his participation in the mini exhibit. His pieces are from a private collection and must be returned.

-Tina Puchalski

Above: Yvonne Trussler next to her work.

(Continued on page 2)
Even before Yvonne started her journey toward a degree she was an artist, and one of the rewards of her time at Mac has been the sale of her artwork. MAPS bought a nine-piece to mark the 25th anniversary of the Association this year. Yvonne explains that the mixed media assemblage reflects her own life’s transitions up to the present. She has since sold two more pieces at the mini exhibition given to all graduating students of visual arts.

Yvonne’s memories of MAPS are warm ones. She says the help was particularly important during a year without a computer of her own. “It meant I could print my essays and use the photocopier. When I got stuck on something Tina was there to help me with what I needed, and Jackie was great for moral support. They were both thrilled when I got into teacher’s college.

Yvonne is now on the next part of her quest. Accepted at both York and Brock, she chose Brock University to pursue an educational degree. With her degree from McMaster also comes the answer to the question of where all the hard work leads. She says she wants to inspire young people to use the visual arts to facilitate learning as she has done.

Don’t Add To The Cost Of Your Education - Please Note.

In recent years, two fee issues have consistently cropped up, here at the office, after registration period. The first issue concerns the Late Registration Fee, now named the Late Payment Agreement Fee. Students are always confused as to why they have been charged this $50. The problem seems to stem from the fact that in the Undergraduate Calendar, under Sessional Dates, it states, for example this year, “Last day for registration and adding or dropping courses—Monday, September 19th”, but it does not state that if you register after September 1st, you will be charged $50. So please note, register online and complete your payment agreement before September 1st to avoid the $50 charge. You should also submit your payment by September 1st to avoid any further default or interest fees. You can then drop and/or add a course for free until (this year) September 19th. You can check important financial deadlines by going to the Financial Services website at www.mcmaster.ca/bms/finance/. Click on Student Financial Information, then Undergraduate, and then, finally, on Important Dates.

The second fee issue concerns students who add to their course unit load after the last day to register or drop and add in September. Financially speaking (it is different academically) a student is a part-time student if they take 17 units or less. If a student adds a course and goes over 17 units they become, financially speaking, a full-time student, and so they will be charged full-time supplementary fees. These fees include: McMaster Student Union fees, Athletics and Recreational fees, Student Health Service fees, and Ontario Public Interest Research Group fees, and may add up to over $500. That is more than the cost of one 3 unit course, for most students.

Now here’s the kicker—even if a student drops the course and goes back down to 17 units or less they will not get the supplementary fee money back. Some students have been in the position where they thought they had the money to add one more course to their load, in Term 2, and did not realize that the one course might end up costing them more than they could afford. This can be a big shock and we want you to avoid receiving it!

The University is in the process of adding a feature to SOLAR that may help prevent students from making this mistake. However, in the meantime, “forewarned is forearmed” as they say, so don’t do this.

-Tina Puchalski
The Latest from the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)

Summer is almost here and with it brings another fabulous learning season at CCE. While the majority of our spring/summer courses started in early May, we are also offering a number of summer courses starting in June, July and even August! Check it out at www.mcmastercce.com.

Recently we surveyed our students in an effort to identify how to best communicate our course scheduling. As a result of that wonderful feedback, we’re in the midst of revamping our annual calendar, flyers and other promotional materials. Be on the lookout for Fall/Winter 05/06 course scheduling - coming soon to a mailbox and a computer screen near you!

There is always a lot happening at CCE, but here are just a couple of exciting highlights from the last few months:

New Director of CCE

Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly is the new Director of the Centre for Continuing Education. Tracey’s previous experience at McMaster includes six years as Assistant Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences and a year in management in the Office of the Registrar. She held various middle and senior management positions for the City of Hamilton and has worked as an organizational and health consultant. Tracey’s education background includes Hons. BA (Psychology) and Master of Applied Science degrees. She brings to her new position extensive experience in human resource management, training and education, financial management, marketing and project management. She will provide leadership for CCE to expand its mandate for life-long learning through certificates, diplomas, and non-credit programs for professional development and general interest.

New University Transition Program

In collaboration with The Centre for Skills Development & Training, CCE is offering a "transition" program for high school graduates who are considering university level post-secondary education but who are uncertain about their future career directions.

Offered at The Bay Area Learning Centre in Burlington, the University Transition Program combines academic courses with university, career and life readiness modules. Students earn university credits, while still exploring their education and defining their personal direction and focus. Academic subjects include, Psychology, Business, Sociology, Communications and English.

In addition to further developing the knowledge and skills necessary for university level studies, successful program graduates will receive: A McMaster University Diploma; guaranteed admission to Level 1 in McMaster University’s Faculty of Humanities or Social Sciences (minimum 'B' standing required) and advance credit of up to 24 units* (a full time undergraduate in the above Faculties would normally complete 30 units in an academic year). Registration Deadline is June 15. For more information, contact Anne Dwyer, Program Manager at dwyeram@mcmaster.ca or 905.525.9140 x23327.

Centre for Continuing Education

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MSU Wins Trophy

After a hard day of directing public relations, Michelle Ball, Director of Public Relations for the MSU, accepts the MAPS Bowl-Off Trophy for the MSU victory last November. This rather exquisite piece was finely hand-crafted by Tina Puchalski, with quality materials imported from Jackie Osterman's waste basket. Never let it be said that we don't know how to deliver on a promise! Congratulations MSU!

MAPS Annual BBQ - Free Food

Monday, June 20th & Tuesday, June 21th

From 5pm to 7pm on the grass, across the street from the Art Gallery.

All students, faculty, & staff welcome!

Rain Dates Wednesday June 22nd & Thursday June 23rd.

Getting Ready for University

Saturday, August 20th

Gilmour Hall 111

9:00am to 2:30pm

For any MAPS student who is still finding their way around the university.

Please register online or call the MAPS office.