

BMCAA newsletter



vol. 26 number 2 / Winter 2012 issue

bmc.med.utoronto.ca/bmc/alumni

Interview:

Paul Kelly (1T1)

Splice:

Exclusive on the
Upcoming Exhibit

AMI Toronto:

Testimonials,
Salon Winners,
Vesalian Scholars,
and more

Class of 1T4:

A New Generation
of BMC Students

Uncon 2012:

Continuing Education,
General Meeting,
and Elections

KERRI WELER

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2012 BMCAA Executive Committee Members

Co-Presidents: **Leslie Predy** 0T8 / **Simon Ip** 0T9

Secretary: **Tabetha Lulham** 1T0

Newsletter Editor: **Takami Fossat** 0T9

Fundraising Coordinator: **Lorraine Trecroce** 1T0

Web Development: **Michael Corrin** 0T6

BMC Student Representatives: **Olivia Yoonsoo Shim** 1T3 / **Inessa Stanishevskaya** 1T3

Corrections

Corrections to the Ontario Science Centre article featured in the Spring 2012 issue:

1. Ana Klasnja's name was spelled incorrectly. She was also incorrectly represented as being from the University of Toronto's curatorial studies program. She is senior multimedia producer and curator of the Idea Gallery at the OSC and worked with a team of 4 students in the Museum Studies program, Faculty of Information, and UofT to curate the Spark! exhibit.
2. All animation clips in the BMC video are from graduates of the program.
3. The official title of the DNAZip! game has an exclamation point at the end.

On the Cover

Parrot Tulips (Tulipa x hybrida)

by **Kerri Weller** (8T7) in 2012

oil on board, 13" x 18"

“ We want you to be the drivers. ”



Presidents' Message

What a whirlwind summer!

We were lucky enough to meet and get back in touch with so many alumni at the **67th Annual AMI Conference here in Toronto**. BMC faculty and alumni really came together to put on what (I think) was one of the best Annual AMI Meetings to date. We've got some great coverage of the meeting in this newsletter. Our alumni also had a strong showing at this year's AMI salon, read on to see who the winners were.

This issue also serves to introduce you to the **BMC class of 1T4**, a diverse and talented group of students who I am sure we will hear and see a lot more of.

Looking forward, this year's

Uncon and Annual General Meeting will take place on November 10th, 2012. Please check the back of the newsletter for more information. We really encourage people to think of the Uncon as a participant-driven, informal meeting of the minds. We want you to be the drivers. Come share your thoughts and ideas about our field--you don't need to prepare an elaborate presentation (unless you'd like to). Get in touch if you'd like to speak or if you'd like any information on the BMCAA Executive positions for the election.

Email: bmcaa@utoronto.ca

Twitter: #bmcuncon2012

The Annual General Meeting marks the election of new BMCAA Executive Committee

members. Simon and I will be handing over the BMCAA reigns to some fresh new faces...it could be you! We'd like to give special thanks to **Lorraine Trecroce** (Fundraising) and **Tabetha Lulham-Rose** (Secretary) who are also ending their terms on the committee.

Lastly, we encourage you to join the **BMC LinkedIn Group and Facebook page** (listed at the back of this newsletter). We'll be posting information, and **Maeve Doyle** (BMC Program Officer) also provides frequent updates.

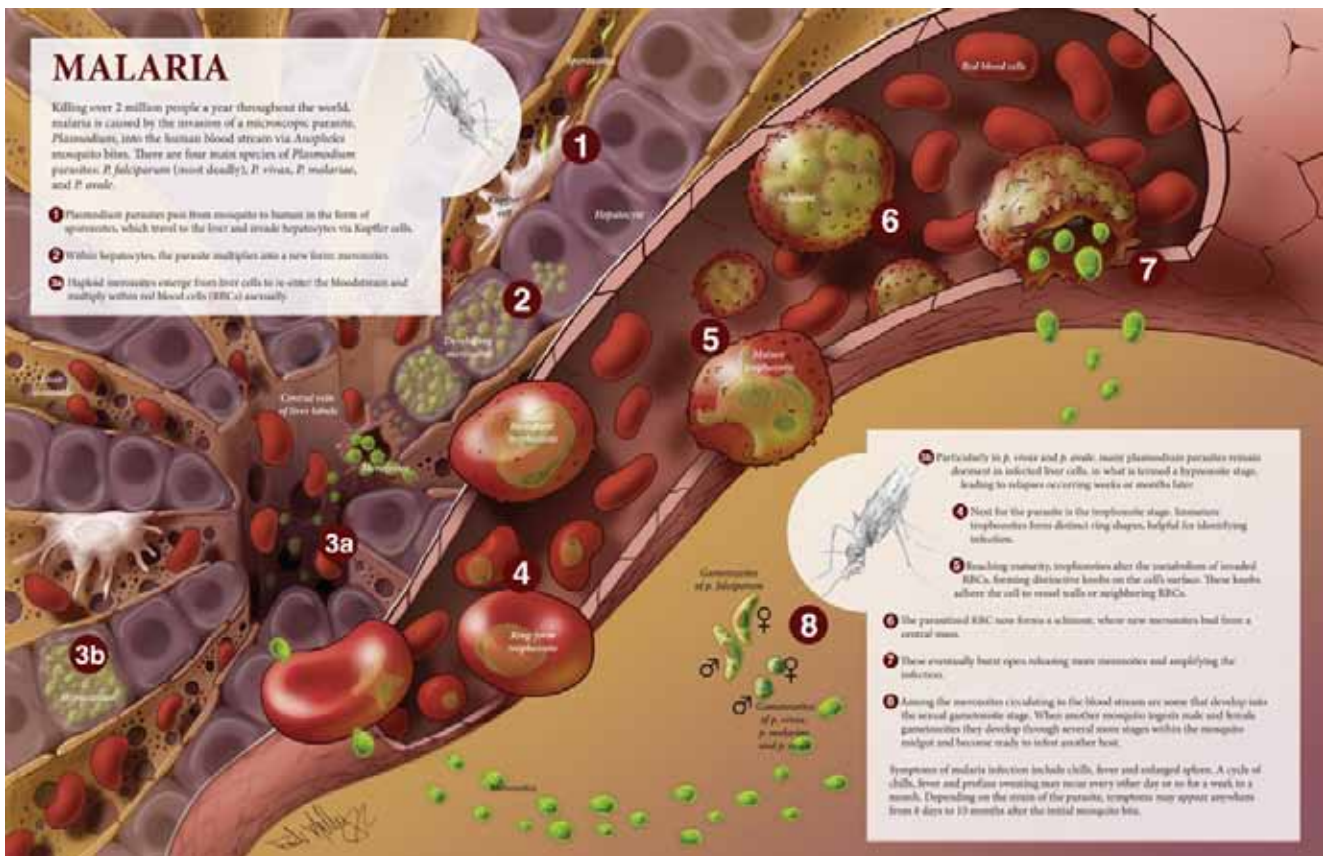
Best Regards,

- **Leslie and Simon**

BMCAA Co-presidents

Interview

Alumnus Paul Kelly Talks About Winning at BioImages 2012



Paul's winning piece, 'Malaria'.

2011 BMC graduate Paul Kelly recently won the BioImages 2012 Award of Excellence in Graphic Media for his medical illustration, 'Malaria'. BioImages, held in conjunction with the BioCommunications Association's annual meeting, is an annual competition that showcases the finest still graphics and motion media in the life sciences and medicine. This story makes me wonder. Submitting work to the AMI salon is obvious, but are there other competitions where medical illustrators can submit their work and gain recognition? Are there resources untapped for our profession to spread the word of our existence and of what we do? Here is the scoop according to Paul.

- Interview by **Takami Fossat** (OT9)

Q: Congratulations on winning the Award of Excellence for your work. Could you briefly describe your winning piece?

A: Thank you, I was very happy and grateful to have won. It is always exciting to be recognized for your work. The Malaria illustration was one of the better pieces I did during my time in the Biomedical Communications program at the University of Toronto. Malaria is caused by a blood parasite of the genus plasmodium, of which there are over 200 species, falciparum being the worst. The parasite's lifecycle is interesting in that half of the cycle takes place in the cells that line the gut of the female mosquito, and the other half takes place within the bloodstream and liver cells of humans. While the disease process has been illustrated many times, I wanted to depict the lifecycle of this parasite in a different way than is customary.

Due to the cyclic nature of this relationship between the parasite and its two hosts, circular compositions are the norm in Malaria illustrations, and I wanted to break away from this. I designed my piece so that the focus is on the human experience with the organism, and I designed a linear representation of the narrative because I wanted the viewer to think of the parasite's development taking place within an individual as opposed to a population, and in this respect, from the viewpoint of a single person who is infected, the experience is often a linear progression from initial symptoms to more severe and sometimes to demise. The most prominent components of this illustration focused on the interaction between the parasite and the hepatocytes of the human liver, and the development of the parasite within infected blood cells.

Q: How did you find out about BioImages and what gave you the idea of submitting your work to the salon?

A: I became aware of this competition when I registered to become a member of the BioCommunications Association. I have heard from many colleagues that they do not feel it is necessary or important to be involved with professional organizations but I respectfully disagree. I think it is a welcome sense of community and camaraderie for professionals who spend the majority of their working hours in social isolation. Anyone who is involved with the type of scientific and medical visualizations that we produce is well acquainted with the axiom that thorough research is essential to an accurate and effective visual communication. How can we not see the parallel relationship to our careers? I believe that if you want to advance in your field, you need to be aware of the work and tools of your contemporaries, and the developments in a wide array of related fields. Being an active member of professional organizations catalyzes your efforts in researching the activity of individuals, groups, and markets that have a direct impact on the future of your career.

Winning this award gave me a wonderful sense of satisfaction, achievement, and recognition. I think it is too early to see any direct benefit to my

Here is a list of annual competitions that can be considered for submission by medical illustrators. A fair amount of these competitions do not require group membership nor do they require an entrance fee. Check them out!

3DCAMP Houston 2012
<http://www.3dcamphouston.com/>

BioCommunications Association's BioImages Salon
<http://www.bca.org/>

Imagine Science Film Festival
<http://www.imaginesciencefilms.org/>

National Science Foundation's International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge
http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/

VisWeek Art Show for Scientific and Information Visualization
<http://visweek.org/>

professional capacities, but in time I hope to see my list of awards grow in tandem with my list of published works.

Q: What has winning this prestigious award done for you?

A: Winning this award gave me a wonderful sense of satisfaction, achievement, and recognition. I think it is too early to see any direct benefit to my professional capacities, but in time I hope to see my list of awards grow in tandem with my list of published works.

Q: Do you plan on submitting to more competitions in the future?

A: Absolutely, and I will certainly increase the range of my search into other related organizations and social networks. I personally have taken a great interest into the possibilities of what online social networks such as Twitter and LinkedIn can do for our profession. I love the work that my colleagues are producing, and I want to see the opportunities for employment increase so that the intimidating post-graduation job hunt is not such a stressful experience. Ironically, I think that the work we do

is in high demand, yet somehow the opportunities for BMC's graduates do not reflect this. I want to see this change.

Q: In your opinion, should medical illustrators be submitting their work to competitions?

A: Yes, I feel very strongly that we should. While personally I do not think that having a long list of awards necessarily guarantees an artist's success, I do think that it projects a sense of professionalism and authority. For us to gain the respect of the medical and scientific communities, our work needs to be consistently accurate and pedagogic. To gain the respect of artists, illustrators, animators and designers, our work needs to demonstrate a firm grasp of art fundamentals and refined technical prowess. Getting involved with competitions is one way to advance your skills in all of these areas. My own objective is mainly to challenge myself, and submitting work to competitions is one way of motivating oneself to push a piece as far as one is capable of in the time allowed. Knowing that I want to stand the best possible chance of winning, I think I would also approach a project a little differently, for example I would look up the work of past winners and see what types of styles and levels of refinement are customary for that particular competition.

Q: As students we are encouraged to submit to the AMI salon and we understand that winning awards at the salon is very prestigious. But science and medicine comes in many disciplines, and there seems to exist a range of competitions that reflect this. Do you think our profession should be submitting to more competitions and to those that reflect a broader range of scientific and medical disciplines?

A: Yes, I definitely think so. This is a great example of how the actions of a few can affect the many. The more illustrations, animations, interactive modules and websites that start to pop up in competitions that focus on scientific visualizations, the more we will shed light on our discipline and bring attention to the fact that we are professionals trained for a highly specialized and valuable niche. Collectively we need to raise the standard of quality of what is considered typical work of a BMC alumnus, and I am proud and honored to be a part of that tradition, albeit in a very humble beginning.

- Paul Kelly (1T1)

Dr. John Semple

Surgeon with an Art Background

Dr. John Semple is featured yet again in The Globe and Mail for his take on art being an important educational background for physicians and medical researchers.

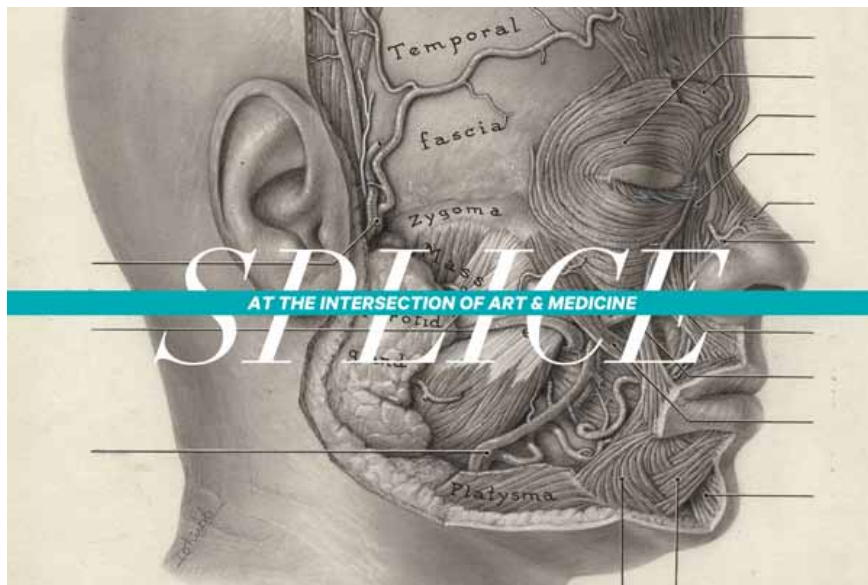
Read the full story at : <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/growth/when-your-surgeon-has-an-art-school-diploma-on-the-wall/article4247486/>

- Takami Fossat (0T9)



Splice

Selections from BMC's Historical Art Collection on Exhibit



The opening reception for **“Splice: At the intersection of Art & Medicine”** takes place Wednesday, October 24 from 5 to 9 pm at UTM’s Blackwood Gallery. The art exhibit runs from October 24-December 1, 2012.

Splice emerged from a SSHRC-funded research project on which Nicholas Woolridge, Director of the Biomedical Communications (BMC) Program, and Nina Czegledy, independent curator and Knowledge Media Design Institute Fellow collaborated. Concordia University’s Professor Kim Sawchuk was the Principal Investigator.

The purpose of the project was to study the original illustrations from Grant’s Atlas and create a digital archive of the artwork. *Splice* showcases a number of the original pieces from Grant’s, as well as other early Canadian medical illustrations. The exhibition also includes work

from contemporary artists, and came about through Czegledy’s long-standing interest in the representation of the body in art and science.

Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (formerly Lippincott Saunders Publishing Co.) donated the original carbon dust and pen-and-ink illustrations from Grant’s Atlas to the Division of Anatomy at the University of Toronto in the 1990s. While the University of Toronto owns the physical pieces, it does not own the copyright to the Grant’s artwork. Due to the handling the art received over the years and the acidic paper or boards on which the art was created, the illustrations were in deteriorating condition.

Biomedical Communications students, Jun Li and Ryan Kissinger, scanned the illustrations in an archival way to create a digital record of the artwork before it deteriorated any further.

The research project collected and organized metadata – artist, media, subject, dimensions and other important details – about the illustrations, in order to make that information accessible to people interested in the history of medical art. “Brian Sutherland has constructed a brilliant web application that allows users to search for and examine the artwork and data associated with them,” said Woolridge of the BMC lecturer.

BMC Professor Emerita Margot Mackay provided historical and subject matter knowledge and worked extensively with Concordia archivist, Nancy Marrelli, on the project in organizing and identifying the pieces of art. BMC Associate Professor David Mazierski provided essential insight into the art techniques and provided his perspective as an artist who had worked on the major revision of the Atlas in the ‘90s, said Woolridge.

The University of Toronto Art Centre (UTAC) co-presents *Splice: At the intersection of Art & Medicine* from October 23-December 1, 2012 on U of T’s St. George campus.

At the same time, UTAC’s Art Lounge exhibits *In the Service of Science: Student Work from the Graduate Program in Biomedical Communications*, UTM curated by Mazierski and BMC Assistant Professor Shelley Wall.

- Maeve Doyle (BMC Admin)

SIGGRAPH 2012

A BMC Adventure



BMC grads Tobi Lam, Kate Campbell, Minyan Wang, Bonnie Tang, and Merry Wang at SIGGRAPH 2012.

BMC graduates Tobi Lam, Kate Campbell, Minyan Wang, Bonnie Tang and Merry Wang of the Class of 2012, attended the 39th international meeting of the "Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques" (SIGGRAPH), August 2012 in Los Angeles, California.

An annual conference, SIGGRAPH attracts technical and creative people from around the globe who are excited by research, science, art, animation, gaming, interactivity, education and the web. The conference was held in the LA Convention

Center.

SIGGRAPH offers BMC-ers a unique glimpse into the most recent innovations in technology, and a chance to meet the creative minds behind the various industries - an opportunity not available to the general public.

The conference also allows participants to share ideas and further advance technologies. SIGGRAPH focusses a great deal on visual effects and cinematic and gaming perspectives but BMC-ers can apply the concepts to their own work.

"Every talk I attended, I found

myself automatically thinking 'how can I apply this to science or medicine?' It's like I'm programmed to think this way!" laughs Bonnie. "It was all very inspiring."

The students also grabbed the opportunity to promote the BMC Program and were delighted to see how impressed people were with what BMC-ers do.

SIGGRAPH 2013 takes place in Anaheim, California followed by SIGGRAPH 2014 in Vancouver.

- Maeve Doyle (BMC Admin)

AMI Toronto

Voices from BMCers who Took Part in this Year's Conference



Top row: Class of 0T8 and 0T9 at the BMC dinner; Class of 0T8 at the BMC dinner; newlyweds Mr and Mrs Fossat at the AMI gala dinner
Middle row: Yan Fossat, Cynthia Yoon, and Jason Raine; Cynthia Yoon and Gloria Situ; a table of students at the AMI gala dinner
Bottom row: alumni and current students group shot; and a silly group shot.

Simply put, the 67th AMI conference was amazing. Toronto being the home of our BMC program, so many of us alumni and current students attended and even rolled up our sleeves to get involved in various ways. Here are testimonies from just a tiny sample of us who helped make this year's meeting memorable, fun, and a learning experience for all.

-Takami Fossat (0T9)

Stephen Mader, Meeting Chair

Almost three years ago, when Linda suggested we mount the 67th Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Illustrators in Toronto, I shuddered to think of how we could pull this off; we wanted to surpass the membership's fond memories of when it was in Toronto in 1998. The only way I knew I could take on being Chair of the Meeting planning was to follow the adage that "many hands make light work". And the very capable hands that were offered to ILLUMINATE: Exploring Ideas in Biomedical Visual Communication did indeed lighten the load and allowed for the incredible success of the conference! We had 450 registrants – the highest number ever recorded at an AMI conference. We set high expectations of: a full program of stellar speakers from a broad geographic region; offering registrants many meals to keep our scheduling efficient; mounting stimulating workshops and Tech Showcase presentations; offering job interview settings and social exchange; revamping the salon experience; and providing many more features that would make this a truly different kind of conference.

I also wanted us to communicate broadly to the medical and scientific communities about our incredible group of highly specialized and unique individuals who make up the AMI. So, we mounted

"satellite" salons of past award-winning pieces in Mount Sinai hospital, the MaRS atrium and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (with an opening talk by Nick Woolridge). Working with the AMI's PR Committee, we also did an extensive blitz to a long list of media outlets, to communicate that this unusual and dynamic conference was happening in the core of Toronto – and Scientific American blogged about it! And, we hired Toronto Star writer, Graham Slaughter, to write extensive coverage of the conference and our field with the hope that a major science-communications magazine will pick up the story.

And what a story we have to tell – Toronto mounted a dynamic, educational and stimulating Meeting of in-depth learning and social engagement. Audra Geras set the tone in her keynote address – that we all have amazing talents to offer, and we can illuminate science and medicine to make a better place for everyone. Thanks to everyone who helped shape this event to create rich memories for all who attended the 2012 Toronto Meeting.

Marc Dryer, Program Chair

Being the Program Chair for the AMI meeting in Toronto was truly an exceptional experience. It involved two years of preparatory work leading up to the actual event: from the early days of scouting hotels, to the final moments of praying that all the speakers would make it. In the end, we found a great venue,



and everyone showed up! Establishing the program was a huge endeavor, but thankfully one that I did not undertake on my own. Shelley Wall, Kevin Millar, and Jodie Jenkinson were the Program Vice Chairs, and Dave Mazierski was our Workshop Chair. Together we brought together 63 speakers and presenters, addressed three themes in addition to the general sessions, and helped to attract a record number of attendees. What struck me most throughout this process was the breadth of topics that would be of interest to AMI members. We had to balance variety with coherence to construct a program that would make a valid statement about who we are, and what we do. It was a difficult but rewarding task.

Finally I will say that it was wonderful to work with so many graduates of the BMC program, and to see what a vital, engaged, and generous community of medical illustrators we have in Toronto. I'm sure all of our guests could see that, too. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this such a success!

Dave Mazierski, Tech Showcase and Workshops Chair

I have been involved in the planning of the last two AMI meetings held in Toronto: 1998, and of course, the most recent meeting in July. I can't say I remember much about the 1998 event; I was in charge of technology back then, which meant a lot of running around to check on slide projectors and Kodak carousels, video disk players, and a lot of other 'toys' that we simply don't use anymore. I attended only one talk, and I was so wiped out I slept through the awards banquet. This year's meeting was so much more fun... a lot of the grunt work was completed months before, and the management office staff took care of most of the logistical work onsite, so I got to participate in the meeting as much as everyone else and enjoy the fruits of my labour, so to speak. The best part of any meeting, though, is checking in with old friends and colleagues, so I was especially happy to see so MANY U of T grads and students in Toronto again... over a quarter of the meeting attendees! It was great to see you all, so I want to say thanks for supporting the AMI, and your profession, and your alma mater... the BMC Family grows bigger and closer every year!

Jodie Jenkinson, Program Booklet Designer

Designing the materials to promote the AMI 2012 meeting was truly a collaborative effort – from the efforts of Dave Mazierski designing the maps and “At A Glance” schedules to



Jodie Jenkinson's program booklet design (top) and portrait art (bottom).

the contribution of background art by Marc Dryer, Nick Woolridge and Merry Wang. The goal of the meeting committee was to create materials that reflected the energy of the upcoming Toronto meeting without being too Toronto-centric. With the exception of the small CN Tower that appears in the logo, there is little reference elsewhere in the program to Toronto. The logo was designed over a weekend by committee. It was passed around by our design team (Walid Aziz, Steven Bernstein, Carly Vanderlee, and yours truly) with each of us, in turn,

contributing to the design.

The booklet design was intended to capture and convey the energy of the meeting theme “ILLUMINATE”. Layered among the textures on the cover are neural networks and distant nebulae to spark the imagination. The overall layout of the booklet was spare and simple to afford quick reference and readability. Owing to the inconsistencies in the quality of the photos that were submitted by speakers, we made a last minute decision to draw the portraits in Photoshop. In truth, I think it was an excuse for Nick

Woolridge, Marc Dryer, and I to take on a creative project. We created a total of 64 portraits in a matter of a few days. In all, a great experience!

Takami Fossat, Salon Judge

The salon has always been my favorite thing to see at an AMI meeting. I've always enjoyed discussing with friends whether a piece is good or bad, innovative or boring, and trying to guess which pieces would win an award. So when the meeting came to Toronto this year, I jumped at the opportunity to become a judge for real this time! I really enjoyed how it

was a team effort, although I quickly learned how tedious the whole process was. I had A LOT of pieces to go through and I couldn't have judged them without my teammates. There was also something satisfying about hearing the screams of those who won awards that I gave at the awards ceremony. So yes, I would definitely do it again!

Olivia Yoonsoo Shim, First Time Attendee

I vividly remember the build-up of excitement and anticipation of seeing the AMI salon for the first time. The only salon pieces I

had seen were the past winning salon pieces on the AMI website, so I was thrilled to see the current works and research. At James Gurney's workshop, helpful and practical tips were given on water colour techniques such as hints on choice of subject matter, material and use of water brushes. After learning about his drawing habits (drawing in a streetcar standing up), I was challenged to draw more proactively. As a first-timer, I was careful to pay attention to the group dynamics and I sensed a great deal of love and history of many friendships that had a great impression on me.

AMI Salon Winners

The BMC Takes it by Storm with 25 Wins

Max Brödel Award for Excellence in Education
Margot Mackay

Professional Categories (13 wins)

Instructional Color Will Shepard Award of Excellence
Ian Suk (9T3) for 'All-posterior en bloc sacral window resection'

Instructional Tone
Dino Pulera (9T6) – Award of Merit for 'Alectrosaurus olseni, a basal tyrannosaurid from Mongolia'

Editorial
AXS Biomedical Animation Studio – Award of Merit for 'Hidden Switches in the Mind'

Animation: Advertising, Marketing, Promotional
Sarah Kim (0T6) and Jason Raine (0T4) – Award of Excellence for 'OxyNEO Mechanism of Delivery'
AXS Biomedical Animation Studio - Award of Merit for 'Biotrue ONEday Contact Lenses'

Animation: Instructional
AXS Biomedical Animation Studio – Award of Excellence for 'Microbiology lab: Fixing and staining procedures explained'

Albert Fung (1T0) – Award of Merit for ‘The Toronto Video Atlas of Liver, Pancreas, and Transplant Surgery: Pancreatico-duodenectomy’

Animation: Medical Legal

Artery Studios Inc. – Award of Merit for ‘Concepts of Intervertebral Disc Injury – John Doe’

Animation: Simulation, Visualization

Peter Leynes (0T8), Janice Wong (0T4), and Jason Raine (0T4) – Award of Excellence for ‘Bioequivalence Infographics Animation’

Animation: Broadcast, Film

AXS Biomedical Animation Studio – Award of Merit for ‘The Nano Revolution – elements created for documentary film’

Interactive Media: Instructional

Kevin Millar (9T9) – Award of Merit for ‘Motivational Interviewing’

Interactive Media: Health Promotion, General Interest

LifeLearn – Award of Excellence for ‘Pfizer Animal Health – Backyard and Beyond’

Illustrated Medical Book: Reference, Clinical Text

John Harvey – Award of Merit for ‘Sprains, Strains, and Automobiles: an Illustrated Guide to Commonly Litigated Injuries’

Student Categories (12 wins)

Instructional Color

Andrea D. Gauthier (1T2) – Award of Excellence for ‘Meningoencephalitis’

Joy Qu (1T3) – Award of Excellence for ‘Immunopathology of Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)’

Melanie Burger (1T3) – Award of Merit for ‘Neurological map of the external visual field’

Melissa Cory (1T3) – Award of Merit for ‘The Central Projections of the Vestibular Nuclei’

Enid Hajderi (1T1) – Award of Merit for ‘Diabetic foot ulcer: Visualizing the histopathology and pathophysiology’

Editorial

Natalia Burachynsky (1T2) – Award of Merit for ‘Data Visualization: Green Cities Index’

Interactive Media

Kate Campbell (1T2) – Award of Excellence for ‘The Water-Energy Nexus, H2O! Learning Series Interactive Lesson’

Andrea D. Gauthier (1T2) – Award of Merit for ‘Vascular Invaders’

Lyndsay Stephenson (1T2) – Award of Merit for ‘Learn About Biliary Atresia – A Mobile, Personalized Patient Education Experience’

Animation

Joyce Hui (1T1) – Award of Merit for ‘Perpetual pain: nerve growth factor and its role in rheumatoid arthritic pain’

Orville Parkes Student Best of Show

Andrea D. Gauthier (1T2) for ‘Meningoencephalitis’

New Media Best of Show

Kate Campbell (1T2) for ‘The Water-Energy Nexus, H2O! Learning Series Interactive Lesson’

Vesalian Scholars

Cindy Lau Among Others Take Home Big Awards for their MRPs

The Board of Governors of the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI) established The Vesalius Trust in 1988 to develop and support education and research in health science communications. The Trust awards annual scholarships to students who have completed one year of curriculum in medical illustration programs and bases the awards on scholastic achievement and project merit. Applications are judged on background, education and project concept, and design and production plan.

Of the forty-one applications received by The Vesalius Trust, fifteen scholarships were awarded, one-third of which were awarded to University of Toronto students.

Alan W. Cole Scholarship Award



Cindy Lau, of the Master of Science in Biomedical Communications Program (BMC), was named the top student scholar in The Vesalius Trust's 2012 scholarship competition.

Currently in her second year of studies, Lau received the prestigious Alan W. Cole Scholarship for her project "Creating Neural Pathways in Play and In Mind".

"Knowledge of how neural pathways work is important for medical students in learning the basis of many clinical symptoms and developing diagnoses and treatments," writes Lau. "However,

neural pathways are difficult to visualize, highly spatial, and involve large amounts of complex relationships and terminology."

Lau is developing a computer game to help students reinforce their concepts of neural pathways. With the use of visuals, interactivity and multimedia principles, she hopes to make learning the material more effective and engaging. Currently, Lau is prototyping the game in Flash, creating 3D anatomy assets and fine-tuning the interface and game mechanics under the guidance of her supervisor, Michael Corrin, content expert Dr. Barbara Ballyk and with help from the BMC faculty and her classmates.

Vesalian Scholar Award

Bonnie Scott was named Vesalian Scholar for her project "Cell Machines: A novel game-based study tool that teaches protein structure and function to university biology students."

Vesalius Trust Grant Award

Andrea Gauthier for "Vascular Invaders: Exploring how a 3D puzzle-type videogame might exercise spatial abilities and mental rotation skills and act as an effective, motivational study aid to improve knowledge retention in undergraduate students studying human vascular anatomy";

Lyndsay Stephenson for "Personalizing patient education experiences incorporating multiple tiers of information into a mobile application and sibling website for clinicians, parents and children in the liver program at the hospital"; and

Merry Shiyu Wang for "Cellular Delivery: An immersive three-dimensional visualization of patient-specific, stem cell-based drug therapy for Age-related Macular Degeneration".

- **Maeve Doyle (BMC Admin)**

Max Brödel Award

Margot Mackay Wins the Award for Excellence in Education

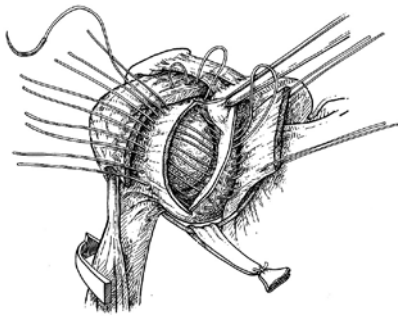


At the 67th AMI conference, Professor Emerita Margot Mackay was awarded the Max Brödel Award for Excellence in Education. I did not have the pleasure to train under her, but I wish I had. BMC program director Nick Woolridge, who introduced Margot to 450 guests at the gala dinner before she received her award, provided only a picture of what kind of teacher she was. The truth without a doubt lies deep within the hearts of all of the students she touched throughout her outstanding 47 year career.

- Takami Fossat (OT9)

Introduction Speech by Nick Woolridge

The Brödel Award for Excellence in Education award recognizes and honors a medical illustrator for outstanding educational contributions to the profession of Medical Illustration, and is awarded annually by the AMI. This year's recipient is Margot Mackay, Professor Emerita at the University of Toronto's Biomedical Communications graduate Program.



Many of you know Margot in a number of roles. Perhaps the principal role she is known for is as a surgical illustrator, for many prominent clinicians. When I first entered the program and started to see the range of work done by illustrators across the profession, I was always struck by the distinctively organic quality of Margot's work. It was like nothing else I saw. So unlike the classic carefully controlled eyelashing, yet it was thoughtfully composed and beautiful, and extremely clear, with carefully chosen and often original vantage points.

Her illustrations told very clear stories, and were prized by the surgeons who commissioned them.



A quite literal "role" Margot fulfilled was as a simulated patient. In more student projects than can be counted, Margot's dedication and adventurousness—and willingness to serve as a model—has seen her stricken with numerous medical conditions in student projects. She has "had" chronic pain, arthritis, post-stroke neuralgia, cancer, and acoustic neuroma, among many others.

Another role for Margot was that of an AMI member, where she was an active meeting attendee, and where she proved herself as a powerful social connector. Her capabilities as a social connector and *bon vivant* are legendary. Many an AMI member travelling through Toronto have stayed at her home, the "Hampton Hilton", and benefitted from her boundless generosity. Visitors to her home would often experience the creation of a home cooked gourmet meal from a kitchen in which only entertaining seemed to

be going on. On occasion, they would go home with a beautifully illustrated salmon recipe.

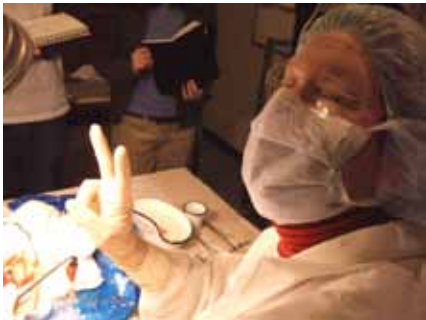
The role most relevant to this award is that of educator. She had a diversity of influences on her students. Personally, always admired the atmosphere of abundance and creative complexity in her office. Ok, her office appeared to have been the result of an explosion in a mess factory. I have sought to emulate Margot in this, much to Linda Wilson-Pauwels' chagrin.

Of course, the abundance of her office is just one aspect of her role as an educator. That office door was always open, and she was extremely generous with her time. One of her former students, Michael Corrin, says she was an "educator of abundance". Margot's abundance was in the time, skill, experience, and insight that she provided to her students.

That abundance and generosity would sometimes rub up against the limits of time. She once had a 50-minute lecture scheduled with a group of nurses, and had prepared a group of 250 slides. Some of our faculty thought she should probably try to shrink that down. She did her best, and managed to get it to 225 slides. Needless to say, the 50-minute lecture was somewhat extended.

One of my first memories of her teaching was entering an OR to see Margot performing

surgery herself. My eyes widened. I soon learned she was collaborating in a surgical technique research study, and her non-human patient was not at risk. She had honed her own surgical skills over the years by participating in surgical research, and the insights she gained from actually doing the suturing, ligating, and anastomosing fed directly into her teaching, and into her own work.



An inauguration in her surgical illustration class for many years were the renowned chicken surgery sessions, where she would purchase a fresh, unbutchered bird at Kensington market and proceed to do a complex cardiac procedure on it, giving a primer on surgical tools, techniques, and culture along the way. Margot was warm and helpful, but tough. You could not “slide” in her courses. Many a sketch was sent back for revision—and revision, and revision—studded with helpful suggestions. This dedication to and excellence in teaching has been previously acknowledged: in 2007, Johns Hopkins University School of

Medicine awarded her the Ranice W. Crosby Award for Distinguished Achievement.



I’ll leave the final word to one of her former students, Michael Corrin, who now teaches surgical illustration in our program. Despite the fact that she has retired, Margot still attends some sessions to critique student’s work, and he says, “Whenever I can I like to sit in on the critiques; I love to sit and watch her teach. Each session is a gem where I learn so much about the craft of storytelling, illustration and surgical technique. Margot remains my teacher and I am ever thankful for her knowledge and guidance.”

Award Acceptance Speech by Margot Mackay

(I will try to keep my remarks brief, unlike my annual Evolution of Surgical Illustration lecture!)

Thank you, Nick for your kind introduction.

Thank you AMI for this prestigious award.

I never imagined that 47 years after beginning my career at the University of Toronto that I would be standing here this evening receiving the Brödel Award for Excellence in Education.

Nancy Joy, my first teacher and Chair of what was then, the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine hired me to teach immediately upon graduation. I had virtually no experience – well not in my chosen career! The students were the same age as myself. No one ever listened to me! As time went by with each new crop of students I slowly began to feel a bit more confident and low and behold some of them actually began to listen.

Nancy Joy retired 1985 and one of my former students, Linda Wilson-Pauwels, became the Chair of AAM and my “new boss!” Linda, I thank you for your brilliant directorship and for inspiring me to become a better teacher and communicator.

The people I owe most of my gratitude to are, my many wonderful students that I have had the privilege to teach over the years. You have become my friends, colleagues and mentors for life. Without all of you this award would not have been possible. I feel truly blessed to have had this wonderful opportunity. I thank you from the bottom of my heart!



Margot Mackay with students at the 67th AML conference after receiving her award.

Brödel Award for Excellence in Education

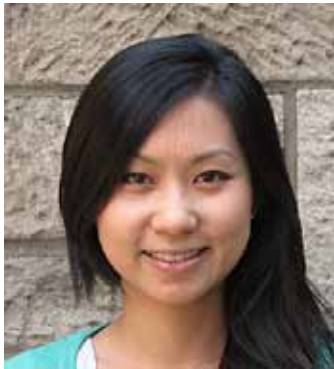
Brödel Award for Excellence in Education recognizes and honors a medical illustrator for outstanding educational contributions to the profession of Medical Illustration. Criteria include educational and/or administrative contributions to a graduate program and acting as a mentor to prospective students in Medical Illustration. The recipient should demonstrate a sustained contribution to education by presenting papers and workshops at regional and annual meetings and in print publications.

Past Recipients:

- 2011 Howard Bartner (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore)
- 2010 Gary Lees (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore)
- 2009 Bill Andrews (Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta)
- 2008 Linda Wilson-Pauwels (University of Toronto, Toronto)
- 2007 William Stenstrom (Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta)
- 2006 Steve Harrison (Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta)
- 2005 Bill Brudon (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
- 2004 Rick Hall (Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland)
- 2003 Neil Hardy (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore)
- 2002 Bill Winn (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre, Dallas)
- 2001 Octavia Garlington (Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta)
- 2000 Craig Gosling (Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis)
- 1999 David Mascaro (Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta)
- 1998 Alice Katz (University of Illinois, Chicago)
- 1997 Gerald P. Hodge (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
- 1996 Al Teoli (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Class of 1T4

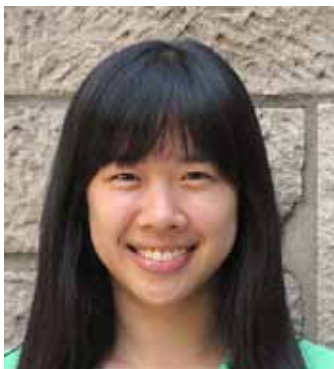
A Sneak Peak at this Year's Crop of BMC Students



Catherine Au-Yeung

I am from the Greater Toronto Area and grew up watching a lot of television. I suspect this contributed to my initial interest in science as I loved watching shows like *Wonderstruck*, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, and *The Magic School Bus*. During high school, I was accepted into the Ontario Science Centre Science School and as of more recently, earned a Master of Science degree from McMaster University within the Biochemical and Biomedical Science department. Currently, I have been given the rare opportunity to work towards a Master of Science in Biomedical Communications degree at the University of Toronto, and I am excited to merge the arts and science into a career. I was interested in the visual arts at an early age and have since developed a deep appreciation for the visualization and communication of topics within medicine and science.

Topics in these areas can be easily incomprehensible to those who are not familiar with the language and syntax involved. Thus, as a BMC student, I look forward to developing ways of allowing the wonders of science to be accessed and appreciated by anyone.



Yi-Min Chun

“Culture Shock” would be a bold understatement when my parents immigrated to Canada; my mother straight from the end of Cultural Revolution in China and my father from a poor family in Hong Kong to receive education in the West here at the University of Toronto.

One day, my mother accompanied one of her friends to an art studio to learn how to draw from the internationally acclaimed Chinese painting artist, Lok Tok. After hearing my mother’s struggles and her perseverance to make something of her life, Lok Tok took her in and let her live in the studio for a number of years. Fast-forward a few years to when my brother and I were born. Unfortunately, the family struggles were no different. As a result, we spent most of our time growing up in Lok Tok’s art studio.

It was a creative powerhouse for me. From very early childhood onwards, I frequently watched over others’ shoulders as they prepared their portfolios for art schools like OCAD and Sheridan Tech. After classes, my brother and I would help clean up the studio. Sometimes we even got to use and work with the in-house art supplies.

While we didn’t receive formal training like many others, when there was space and some left over materials from other students, we would have a chance to draw and learn new techniques from Lok Tok and his son YiTong Lok. My appreciation for the Chinese culture and the life of artists took off! In addition to being a patient and skilled teacher, Lok Tok was like my true grandfather: taking us to his exhibits, always listening to me rehearse my Chinese speech competitions, always having dinner with my family, and so much more.

I’ve always contemplated being an artist, even whilst entertaining my other major interest in sports. However, things quickly changed when I had severely damaged my knee.

I watched my first surgical tape at the age of 13 to cure my curiosity of what the surgery would be like for me. My first surgery was completed when I was 16 and second at 18. Since my injury, there has been a burgeoning interest in me to pursue the life sciences, learning more about surgery. I decided to get moving!

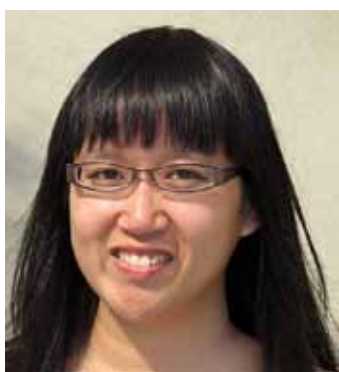
I’ve worked in various research labs since entering my first year of undergrad here at the University of Toronto. In 2010, I began a position working with Surgeon-in-Chief of UHN, Dr. Shaf Keshavjee. Since then, I have gained an incredible amount of surgical skills beyond undergraduate medical school with another colleague in the clinic, Dr. Jonathan Yeung. While working with the thoracic surgery team, Dr. Tiago Machuca discovered my drawing talent and suggested that I produce some surgical drawings of his lung transplantations in pigs. While taking a biomedical visualization course on St. George campus, I was urged by both mentors to apply for the biomedical communications program. Nervous about my minimal informal art training, I applied and the rest, as they say is history.



Nicole Clough

For years I attempted to balance my love of drawing and visual arts with a burgeoning passion for science. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, because it was one of the few schools that allowed me to combine both of my interests. I majored in Visual Studies, with minors in Biology and Sociology. It wasn't until after graduating that I learned about the Biomedical Communications program, and prepared to apply by taking missing prerequisites and further developing my portfolio. I found work with the Oceanographic Environmental Research Society, and created illustrations for their Marine Mammal Anatomy and Physiology manual, which is required reading material for UofT's Intro to Marine Mammal Adaptations course. Creating these illustrations, with the challenge of researching a concept and making it

come to life visually, cemented my decision to apply to BMC. I am delighted to now be a part of the BMC family, and am looking forward to finally entering this dynamic field.



Karyn Ho

Visual media have a unique ability to capture and engage audiences. As a biomedical communicator, I am passionate about using cutting edge science to craft dynamic stories. By joining the BMC program, my goal is to become an expert in visualizing science using modern methods and digital tools. Over the coming months, I plan to build a beautiful and informative collection of print and motion media for a variety of audiences. I can't imagine a more fitting way to support innovation, collaboration, policy change, and informed decision making.

My academic background is in chemical engineering and biomedical engineering. Most recently, I successfully applied nanotechnology to target anti-cancer drugs to a variety of breast cancer models. My work culminated in a successful Ph.D. defense, and five

peer-reviewed original research publications to date.

After discovering biomedical communications, I started looking for ways to illustrate ongoing research in my lab group. Aside from illustrating my own thesis project, I published artwork on the front covers of several journals, including Nature Materials, Journal of Materials Chemistry, Bioconjugate Chemistry, Advanced Functional Materials, and Macromolecules. As graduation approached, it became increasingly obvious that while I enjoyed engineering, being in research was no longer my biggest passion. I am more inspired by the transformative nature of visualizing science than by being at the bench. By translating knowledge into narratives, my vision is to captivate people, spark their curiosity, and motivate them to share what they learned.



Erin Kenzie

I grew up in Kitchener, ON and completed my undergraduate studies in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Waterloo in 2009. I felt that I was missing a crucial link in the pursuit of an engaging career and that I needed to satisfy my desire to study art at the post secondary level. I was drawn to the Art and Art History program at UTM and Sheridan College. Soon after to moving to Mississauga I discovered the Biomedical Communications program and have been enthralled with the notion of becoming a medical illustrator ever since.

My journey to the BMC class of 1T4 ultimately led me to complete my BEd at Lakehead University in 2012 where I discovered a passion for teaching and an understanding of the challenges one can face when delivering complex scientific concepts to a broad

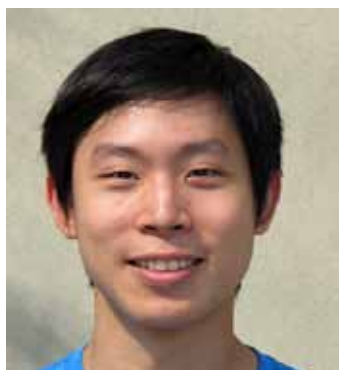
audience.

I am looking forward to being challenged over the next two years as I work alongside my talented peers to develop the skills that will lead me into a dynamic and rewarding career as a medical illustrator. I am eager to combine the knowledge I have gained throughout my varied studies to produce effective, scientifically informative and intrinsically beautiful pieces of art.



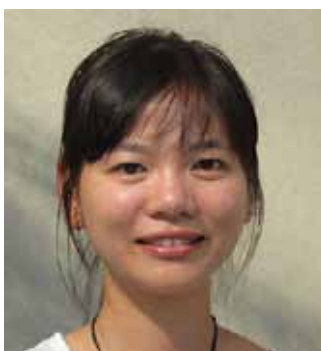
Megan Kirkland

I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Waterloo, studying molecular biology and biotechnology. My intent was to pursue molecular research, since I was drawn to the challenge and mystery. After spending several summers working as a lab assistant I became concerned that research may not be as enthralling as I had hoped. The Biomedical Communications program combined the challenge of visualizing molecular interactions with the excitement of a more dynamic career. My preferred form of art is cartooning and character design.



Joshua Lai

Since I was a child in elementary school, my assignments, journal entries, and short stories were often accompanied by drawings. This desire to draw always stuck with me as I doodled my way through the rest of my grade school years. Eventually, drawings took more surface area in my class notes, while biology notes and physics formulae were increasingly marginalized (but not forgotten). Even when I was completing my undergraduate degree in Health Sciences (Hons.) at McMaster University, epic battles against bizarre humanoid creatures would unfold beside my organic chemistry and pathophysiology notes. Undergraduate courses in human anatomy prompted me to begin incorporating anatomical accuracy to my own drawings, as well as to take a much more analytical approach to evaluating my artistic capabilities. During my time at McMaster, I was fortunate enough to be employed at the McMaster Education Program in Anatomy as a prosector and media developer/illustrator. These experiences helped solidify and increase my knowledge of anatomy, improve my fine-motor skills, grow as an illustrator, and gave me further insight into the world of medical illustration. I began to feel an increasing passion for scientific illustration and its educational value and therefore applied to the MScBMC graduate program at the University of Toronto. I look forward to all the learning experiences it provides!



Yi-Chun Lin

I grew up in Taiwan and completed my undergraduate degree in life Science at National Taiwan University. In my senior year, I happened to hear about the field of Biomedical Communications. I was immediately attracted to it and knew this is what I want to do in the future. Although no one around me is familiar with this field, I was very fortunate that my professors are all very supportive when I expressed the idea of pursuing career in Biomedical Communications. One of my professors even invited me to work in his lab. I was in charge of a national project to build a multimedia website about the birds of Taiwan as well as designed some other websites and publication for educational purpose. This experience really nourished me in many ways. I was able to use my creativity in designing interactive interfaces based the need of the audience. It helped me further understand the importance and difficulty for science concept to be properly and effectively delivered to the general public. I was constantly thinking about what could be a better way to communicate. And most importantly, I gladly found out that I really enjoy it! At this time, I also started to build my portfolio by taking some extended studies courses in Taiwan and eventually attended a visual art certificate program in Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. Coming to Toronto, by talking to the BMC faculty and students as well as attending the AMI conference this year, I discovered a great deal more of what a biomedical communicator can do to change the world and have been constantly inspired! I am looking forward to all the learning in BMC program!



Man-San Ma

There is nothing more that I would like to do than to be able to create effective visuals to better patient care, drive forth scientific research and translate knowledge between educators, students and experts.

My father, who worked as an architect in Hong Kong and later as a toy designer in Canada is a brilliant illustrator and was the first person to expose me to art. Under his influence I applied to Claude Watson School of the Arts program in elementary school and was fortunately accepted. I continued this program into high school where I majored in Visual Arts. It was during this time that I developed my technical techniques in traditional art and began doing freelance work. While I had always wanted to be an artist growing up, by the end of high school I felt like art was a selfish hobby and I

wanted a career where I could contribute to society. I ended up going to University of Guelph for the Environmental Sciences program where I majored in Ecology.

It wasn't until third year university that I visited the idea of forging a career in the field of medical illustration. As a summer student, I worked with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the University of Guelph to produce an interactive digital key to the Pentatomoidea (Insecta: Hemiptera) of Ontario. The key comprised of over 200 images. I later worked as a part time illustrator in the insect systematics lab at the University of Guelph.

Another overwhelming passion of mine is kendo. I competed as a National team member twice. My experience as an athlete has taught me to never give up. I always tell myself that limits are caused by a lack of imagination; that is a train of thought I have for both my sport and my everyday life.

By the time I graduate I hope I can redefine myself as a communicator of scientific knowledge. I look forward to all the new things that I will learn in this program with my amazingly talented peers and faculty.



Amanda Montañez

I have loved to draw for as long as I can remember. I grew up just outside of Boston and attended Smith, a women's liberal arts college in western Massachusetts. I graduated in 2006 with a BA in Studio Art and a minor in Spanish. Then, unsure of what to do with my art degree, I went into arts administration for a few years. I enjoyed supporting other visual and performing artists, but I missed making my own artwork, and eventually decided I wanted a career in which I could use my own creative skills to contribute something meaningful.

In the course of my online research, I came across the Association of Medical Illustrators. I was immediately excited and inspired at the prospect of going into this field, but also intimidated, as I had not taken a science course since high school! It

took a leap of faith for me to sign up for an Anatomy and Physiology course at a local university and start planning my applications to graduate programs. I also changed jobs and started working as an administrator the Center for Brain Science at Harvard University, where I found an amazingly dedicated and supportive group of scientists who helped to enforce my drive to succeed in this field.

After nearly two years of science learning and portfolio building, I was thrilled to be accepted into the Biomedical Communications program at the University of Toronto. I absolutely love this city, and I can't wait to learn as much as I can from the faculty and my fellow students in this program. I'm not sure yet what I want to do after I graduate, but I am eager to join the community of talented innovators who are bringing the field of medical illustration into the future.



Brendan Polley

I have always had a passion for both learning and teaching science. I graduated from the University of Toronto in 2007, with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology and Science Education. I then went on to complete a Bachelor of Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, while working as a curriculum developer for Science Outreach and the da Vinci Engineering Enrichment Program.

I then earned a Master of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto, conducting research in the field of vertebrate paleontology. A huge part of my research involved preparing scientific illustrations of fossils for publication so I enrolled in an undergraduate biomedical visualization course to polish my artistic skills. The course ended up being one of my all-time favourites, and it rekindled my childhood

love for drawing and art.

Following my graduate studies, I worked for three years as a Biology and Physics teacher at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Mississauga, ON. I regularly made use of illustrations and simulations to create engaging learning opportunities in the classroom, and I was both surprised and delighted to discover that many of the resources I had been using were created by BMC graduates. I was inspired to start developing my own resources for students, including interactive websites and educational apps.

When I picture the future of science education, I imagine students and teachers taking part in collaborative, immersive learning experiences through accessible technologies. I see digital resources breaking down geographic and economic barriers, allowing classrooms to interact with researchers, real-time data, and physical environments. I am incredibly grateful and excited to have the opportunity to make this future a reality through the BMC program.



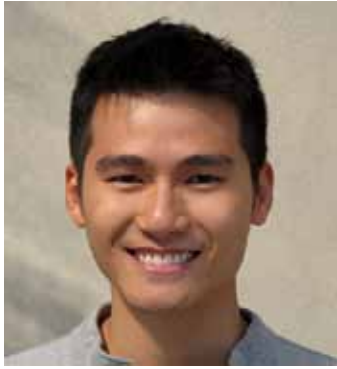
Cheryl Heeyon Song

I had always wanted to become an artist of some sort. First it was just painting- I thought I would be a celebrity artist like Bob Ross, who made painting ever so easy. Then I got into writing novels, and so with a couple of friends, I started illustrating comic books and had thought I would become a comic book writer/mangaka one day. As I got older and entered high school, my forte had changed from the literatures to science, but I did keep doodling to explain the concepts to myself and my friends who were having the same difficulty imagining what happens inside a cell. Soon I made cartoon strips for how crossing over during meiosis occurs for a school print-out, with the help of my Biology teacher.

I knew what a medical illustrator was by then, and so I searched for a program which would best prepare me to become a medical illustrator. Lo and behold, I found out that University of Toronto offers the Masters in Biomedical Communications program, so applied to University of Toronto to do my undergrad.

During the undergraduate years, I was fortunate enough to take the Biomedical Visualization course (HMB304 and HMB404 at U of T) which led me to meeting my current supervisor at Ontario Institute of Cancer Research (OICR). Working at OICR had exposed me to a number of things to consider as an upcoming medical illustrator, such as, how colour-blind friendly are the figures in journals and colour schemes in databases? How can we make the vast amount of data available to us represented in a simple yet comprehensive way? With such questions in my portfolio, I finally knocked the door to BMC at U of T. I hope to have an idea for answers to my questions when I am finished with this program, and

I'm very excited to see where those ideas would take me!



Andrew Q. Tran

Born to Chinese parents and raised in Vietnam, I moved to the United States during high school and spent the next 12 years in California. Growing up, I was captivated by biology and nature in an early age, and managed to keep a wide variety of animals as pets to satisfy my curiosities. Completely ignoring my latent artistic abilities, I never knew exactly what I wanted in life, and thus followed my premed peers to study Biology, later switched to Psychobiology, at the University of California, Los Angeles for my Bachelor of Science.

I started working in a research lab in my first year at UCLA for work-study. Before long, I found myself surrounded by pipettes for the next 7 years, doing preclinical research in pharmacology, oncology and immunology, without giving much thought about pursuing anything else other than science. When I eventually started contemplating the reasons for my decision to enter a PhD program at UCLA, I accidentally discovered the term “medical illustration” and had an immediate epiphany. I soon began taking formal art classes at a local college to make up for what I had been neglecting, determined to trade pipettes for pencils. It was an extremely humbling experience to be exposed to such a diversity of people and knowledge outside of the scientific community.

While building my portfolio, I moved my research career to the biotech industry. For 2 years, I worked in various therapeutic areas at Amgen, and later at Novartis, to broaden and strengthen my scientific background, until I made the move to Toronto for the Biomedical Communications program at U of T. I can hardly wait to learn as much as I can in the short time here, with amazingly talented and like-minded colleagues. Now with a plan, I aim to deliver comprehensible scientific and medical knowledge to the public, while advocating for societal support of biomedical advances, both domestically and eventually globally.



Andrew Tubelli

I was born and raised in the state of New York. I moved to Boston for school and graduated with my bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Boston University. For the next four years, I worked in a lab at BU researching the mechanics of hearing in dolphins and whales. When asked by fellow researchers at a conference what my research methods were, I found that when I described them I had to define a lot of jargon. I could tell by the glazed-over looks in their eyes that my project was no longer interesting to them. By contrast, I would show them my colorful 3D models of the middle ear bones, and the response was much more positive. This is when I realized that science needs to be communicated accurately yet concisely and colorfully in order to keep people interested.

From there, I developed a passion for figuring out how to communicate scientific concepts. I had an idea that I could use my hobby of 3D modeling and animation as a way to do just that, but I didn't know how to combine these two disciplines. I had the opportunity to attend a presentation on cellular and molecular animation given by Gael McGill, and it became clear how to bridge science and visual arts. I subsequently took his class at Harvard Medical School. During that time, I was referred to the University of Toronto's Biomedical Communications program. After glancing through the high-quality work in student portfolios, I instantly knew I needed to be in this program to advance my career. I took some drawing classes and built up a portfolio. I am very fortunate and honored to be selected as 1 of the 16 incoming students in the program.



Marissa Webber

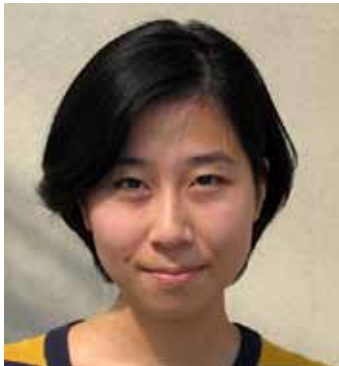
It seems everyone in this field has an interesting story behind what led them here. I think mine goes back to playing as a child on my grandmother's beach. Crushed marine invertebrates make for an interesting medium, which I would use to colour rocks, boats, and my little brothers.

I graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia with a Bachelor of Science, Honours Biology. For the research portion of my thesis, I was fortunate to study with Dr. Russell Wyeth and Dr. George Mackie looking at neurotransmitter composition in the central nervous systems of marine invertebrates. I spent two summers at the incredible Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island, B.C., dissecting, processing, and imaging these systems. I left believing that in order to truly appreciate and understand

the complexity and design of higher systems (and to illustrate them!) you have to first appreciate their more simplistic equivalents.

My artwork has always had an underlying theme: biology. It took selling my first piece to make the connection between art as a hobby and art as a career. I knew my subject matter. I figured out where I needed to go. Now it was just a matter of getting there.

The best part about medical illustration is that it's so opportunistic. There are endless combinations of media, subject matter, and marketing possibilities. For me, that's what makes it so attractive. I'm curious about everything biological, and I love working in a spectrum of different media. The BMC program is going to provide me with the tools I need to learn, grow, and flourish in one of the most amazing careers out there.



Alice Zheng

I was in my last year of undergrad Biology at Queen's University, and fast approaching a Major Life Decision: after my degree, would I blunder into the job market, or stay in a warm bubble of academia? Either way, my credentials were loose-- two summers researching cancer stem cells at SickKids hospital, a smattering of freelance illustration, and an amateur's enthusiasm for poetry and phylogenetics both.

There was a recruiting event on campus, and I went begrudgingly at a friend's insistence-- begrudgingly, because sleep ranked higher on my hierarchy of needs than 'Impending Career Decisions'. I've since thanked my friend for his persistence.

In a corner I found the Biomedical Communications booth, where I would soon -- though I didn't know it yet -- make my Decision. It seemed innocuous enough, and there was a

slick video playing in the background, something 3D and cellular. The other booths didn't have slick videos.

"What's this?" I asked?

"We're looking for applicants who like both science and art."

"That's me," I said, maybe too forcefully. I knew then that this program was for me, and they would just have to take my word for it. I put down my email, sent in my portfolio, and the rest of the story tells itself.

Now that I've been accepted, I'm blown away by the depth of knowledge that the program instills, and the variety of techniques it covers. I don't know where the future will take me, but I am lucky to be here now, in the midst of brilliant teachers and peers.

Kerri Weller's Parrot Tulips

A Personal Message to her Father gets Recognition

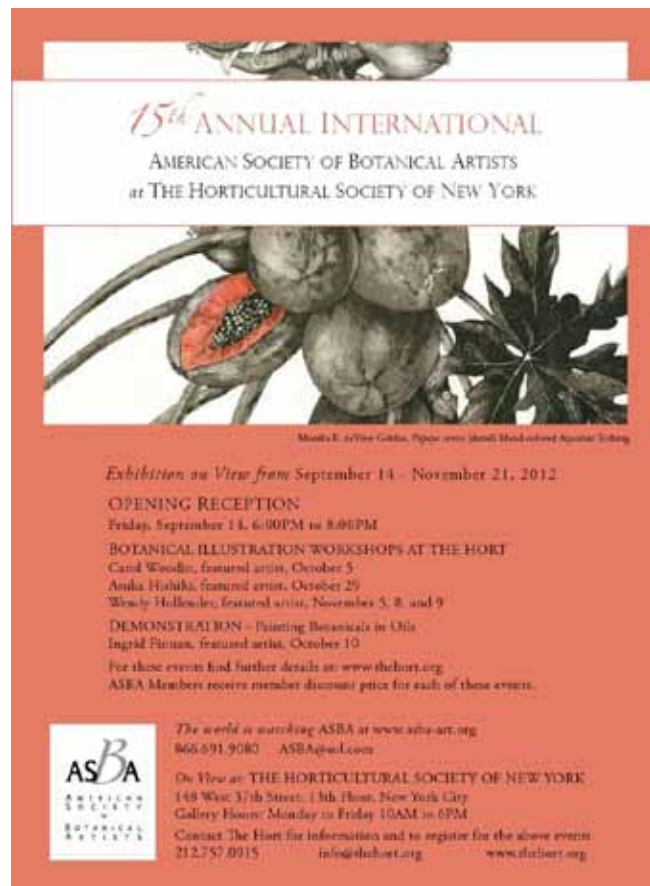
My oil painting of Parrot Tulips was juried into the 15th International Botanical Art Exhibition hosted by the American Society of Botanical Artists & Horticultural Society of New York.

Exhibition Info: 15th International Botanical Art Exhibition, American Society of Botanical Artists & Horticultural Society of New York. The exhibition opens September 14 and runs till November at The Horticultural Society of New York, 148 West 37th Street, New York, NY.

The story behind the painting: I did this painting after my father died. These were his gorgeous parrot tulips which arrived every spring in his garden for as long as I can remember. When closing up my parents's house in Toronto, I found the bulbs had been dug out of



Parrot Tulips, Tulipa x hybrida, 2012 © Kerri Weller (8T7), Oil on board, 13" x18".



Flyer for the 15th Annual International American Society of Botanical Artists Conference.

his garden. A thorough search, however, turned up 3 last straggly little bulbs which I brought back to Ottawa. Amazingly, the trio came up the following spring! It's really a painting about the joy and richness of my father's life and his love of gardening. For me personally, it also represents his struggle with aging, and his tremendous tenacity and will to live fully until with one last breath he passed into the next world.

"A graceful dance from late youth to old age" was a comment left in the guest book at the Plant Portraits Exhibition, Shenkman Arts Centre, Ottawa where it was just on display through March and April, 2012.

- Kerri Weller (8T7)

Announcements

Engagements, Weddings, and Babies



Wensi Sheng (1T0) and Tony Wang engagement

Dear friends! Tony and I were recently engaged during this year's AMI conference in Toronto. Three years ago, we met in a dorm room in Hong Kong. Three years later, I found Tony asking me to marry him on one knee. I was completely shocked and pleasantly surprised. It has been an unforgettable three years of my life. During this time, we helped each other to define who we are and helped each other to become a better person. We are so happy to have found each other, and we are so eager and excited to embark on a new life long journey together.



Takami Iijima (1T9) and Yan Fossat wedding

On June 2nd 2012, Takami Iijima (OT9) and Yan Fossat were married in picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake. The weather miraculously cleared just for their outdoor ceremony, which made for stunning wedding photos. Following a romantic carriage ride through town, the bride and groom enjoyed the best of what the Niagara region has to offer with 50 close family and friends at the reception dinner. The happy couple is now expecting their first child, due to arrive in April 2013.



Tabetha Lulham (1T0) and Jeff Rose wedding

Tabetha Lulham (1T0) and Jeff Rose tied the knot on a chilly but fresh June 3, 2012 amidst family and friends at the University of Guelph Arboretum.



Jason Raine (OT4) and Annabella Yim baby

Jason Raine (OT4) and Annabella Yim are happy to announce the birth of Kingston David Raine on the 21st March, 2012. He's been a lovely little boy so far, bringing lots of joy to his mum and dad and big sister Madeleine, who will not stop kissing and hugging him and saying 'nice to meet you baby,' even 5 months later. His current interests include: jumping, hitting things, trees, laughing at his big sister as if she's the funniest thing he's ever seen in his whole life, chewing on fists, jumping and boobies.



Janice Chan (OT2) and Anton de Ruiter baby

Janice Chan (2002) and Anton de Ruiter are pleased to announce their newest member of the family, baby Marie! Since she's number four she's had to be made of tough stuff especially having to brave daily smothering kisses and UFC style 'hugs' from her two older brothers and sister. There's never a dull (nor quiet) moment here in the de Ruiter household!

Announcements

Why not Consider a Career at the BMC?

The Biomedical Communications Program invites and welcomes applicants for the two following positions:

Assistant Professor - Visual and Textual Health and Science Communication Design – 1201293

What:

The Department of Biology, University of Toronto Mississauga, invites applications for a tenure stream appointment in the field of Biomedical Communications. The appointment will be at the rank of Assistant Professor and will begin on July 1, 2013.

Qualifications:

We seek candidates with expertise in textual and visual health and science communication design and associated research methods. The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline (Communications, English, Media Studies, Education, etc.), an established record of excellent scholarly research and publication, and demonstrated excellence in teaching.

Job Description:

The successful candidate will be expected



to develop a funded research program, undertake graduate supervision and teaching in the undergraduate and graduate biomedical communications programs. Salary to be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The University of Toronto offers the opportunity to teach, conduct research, and live in one of the most diverse cities in the world.

How to apply:

All qualified candidates are invited to apply through: <https://utoronto.taleo.net/careersection/10050/jobdetail.ftl?lang=en&job=1201293>. Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching dossier (highlighting all significant pedagogical accomplishments and including a statement of

teaching philosophy). All application materials should be submitted online. If you have any questions about this position, please contact n.woolridge@utoronto.ca.

Applicants should also arrange for graduate transcripts and at least three letters of reference (or a dossier) to be sent via email (on letterhead, signed and scanned) directly to the department, at maeve.doyle@utoronto.ca. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2012.

The UofT application system can accommodate up to five attachments (10 MB) per candidate profile; please combine attachments into one or two files in PDF/MS Word format. Submission guidelines can be found at: <http://uoft.me/how-to-apply>.

For further information on Biomedical Communications at UTM, see <http://www.bmc.med.utoronto.ca>.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Lecturer - Biomedical Communications: Biomedical Media and Visualization Design - 1201285

What:

The Department of Biology, University of Toronto Mississauga, invites applications for a teaching-stream appointment in the field of Biomedical Communications. The appointment will be at the rank of Lecturer and will begin on July 1, 2013.

Qualifications:

We seek candidates with a specialization in visual narrative, instructional media design and/or educational technology development; surgical illustration experience is an asset. Candidates must have an outstanding academic or

professional record with evidence of excellence in teaching and a commitment to pedagogical development and innovation. Applications are invited from scholars and practitioners with a master's degree or higher in a variety of disciplines including: biomedical communications, medical illustration, user experience design, media design, media and communication studies, information visualization, information studies, etc.

Appointments at the rank of Lecturer may be renewed annually to a maximum of five years. In the fifth year of service, Lecturers shall be reviewed and a recommendation made with respect to promotion to the rank of Senior Lecturer. Success in promotion depends on achieving excellence in teaching and promise of continued professional development. Salary to be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Job Description:

The successful candidate will be expected to undertake graduate supervision and teaching in the Master of Science in Biomedical Communications (MSc.BMC) program and at the undergraduate level in the Biomedical Communications undergraduate program.

The University of Toronto offers the opportunity to teach, conduct research, and live in one of the most diverse cities in the world.

How to apply:

All qualified candidates are invited to apply through: <https://utoronto.taleo.net/careersection/10050/jobdetail.ftl?lang=en&job=1201285>. Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching dossier (highlighting all significant pedagogical accomplishments and including a statement of teaching philosophy). All application materials should be submitted online. If you have any questions about this position, please contact n.woolridge@utoronto.ca.

Applicants should also arrange for graduate transcripts and at least three letters of reference (or a dossier) to be sent via email (on letterhead, signed and scanned) directly to the department,

at maeve.doyle@utoronto.ca. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2012.

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BMCAA Unconference 2012

Continuing Education for BMC Alumni and Current Students



Saturday, November 10th, 2012
10am-3pm
Room 1200 Bahen Building
UofT St. George Campus

Alumni \$10, Students PWYC, Presenters free
Coffee and Lunch provided

Attendees

To help plan our food order, please RSVP by:

1. Going to this wiki page:
<https://bmc.erin.utoronto.ca/uncon2012>
2. Logging in with the following:
U: alumnus
P:5har34fun!
3. Adding your name to the list. Thanks!

Presenters

We are currently looking for people interested in presenting/speaking. Let us know the general topic and length of time you would like (maximum 20 min, unless you have a special request).

BMCAA General Meeting and Elections

Getting involved with the BMCAA is a great way to maintain relationships and keep up to date with the field. Get in touch with us (bmcaa@utoronto.ca) if you'd like more information on any of the positions or duties.

We will be electing the following positions:

Co-Presidents (2)
Fundraising Coordinator
Secretary
Treasurer

- BMCAA Exec

Housekeeping

BMC on LinkedIn and Facebook

Follow BMC on LinkedIn and on Facebook! You can catch the latest news, see current job opportunities and contribute to popular discussions on topics related to our profession. It's easy and free! Just go to www.linkedin.com and join the group called **Biomedical Communications Alumni and Students** or visit the BMC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MScBMC.

Please Keep in Touch!

Email: bmcaa@utoronto.ca

Website: www.bmc.med.utoronto.ca/bmc/alumni

BMC wiki: www.bmc.med.utoronto.ca/bmcwiki



Alumni MIA

Can you help us find the following AAM/BMC alumni?

Send us an e-mail at bmcaa@utoronto.ca if you know where they are hiding...

André Beerens 7T2
Randy Averback 7T9
Rick Billinghamurst 7T3
Anne Marie Black 7T2
Lynn Goodchild (Kiryaly) 7T4
Valerie Harrison 6T9
Elizabeth Imrie 5T3
Cathy Jeffery 8T5
Laurie Johnston 7T5
Frederick Kelly 4T9
Emilienne Lambert 7T6
Shumin Lee 8T9
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
Jacquelyn Shaw
Stuart McGinniss
Davia MacDougall

