

Newsletter

SPRING 2018

mohawkcollege.ca/international

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welcomes the world!

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Recruiter Mina Kim welcoming
student Luiz Ubeda from Brazil
to Mohawk College

Mohawk College welcomes the world!

Last January, Mohawk College welcomed 953 new international students (3,679 total international students) from 83 different countries! Most students were from: India, China, Vietnam, Nigeria and Brazil. Growing numbers of students from around the world are making Mohawk their school of choice.

Celebrating our students – laughing yoga, anyone?



Each year, the International Student Leader Award is presented to an international student who is highly engaged at the College and in the community at the annual Celebration of Learning Awards night. At this year's celebration, held on March 22, 2018 at Carmen's Banquet Centre, international student Pramit Mehta earned recognition for role modelling, leadership qualities and his commitment to collaboration. Pramit

is in his second year of Business Accounting (Co-op) and recently made the Dean's Honour List.

Within his first semester at

Mohawk College, Pramit contributed over 110 hours of service to the college and the Hamilton community, recorded 5 approved positions on his co-curricular record, and co-founded Mohawk's "Laughing Yoga Club" which brought laughing yoga to Hamilton's downtown core on Christmas day. Pramit's positive energy is integral to student engagement, and he continues to impress with his enthusiasm and commitment.

We asked Pramit what he likes about attending Mohawk College and he commented that "each and every one working at Mohawk irrespective of what department ...makes sure that students at Mohawk succeed academically and personally." He also said that

"International Square is my family. Even though I may be about 15,000 kilometres away from my family, I don't feel that I don't have my family around me. Moreover, I would say that one of the paramount reasons for me winning the International Student Leader Award 2018 in my very first year at Mohawk is the International Square. Awesome people with a big smile at J137 has not only helped me to radically improve my leadership skills but also improve my collaboration and communication skills."

Pramit makes us proud to have him as a member of our international student community here at Mohawk!



International Strategic Plan

Mohawk International is currently updating its 3 year Strategic Plan! We are meeting with various stakeholders and staff and are pleased to present the outcomes we are targeting over the next 3 years.

Mohawk International's focus is to deliver a **Great Experience** that develops **Global Citizens** all while building Mohawk College as an international **Best Practice Leader**.

OUR PURPOSE:

Enable a welcoming community for our students and faculty to meet their global potential.

TARGET OUTCOMES:

- 1 Offer an enriched student life experience.
- 2 Deliver an academic experience that supports the development of job-ready global citizens.
- 3 Support global citizenship through partnerships.
- 4 Grow and diversify the international student population.
- 5 Create an agile, flexible, responsive service delivery model.



GREAT EXPERIENCE



GLOBAL CITIZENS



LEADER

International supports – update

As mentioned in the last Mohawk International newsletter, the College launched several new positions to provide support to both faculty and students in an effort to promote international student success. Faculty Leads, Student Coaches at each campus and the Teaching and Learning Consultant – International Education (CTL) are working hard on various initiatives. Here is an update on some of great work happening in this area!

Faculty focus - building frameworks for success

Since the launch of the Faculty Lead positions in September 2017, the group works together to identify priorities and concerns as they relate to specific academic areas. The Leads along with the International Liaison and CTL Consultant, Kelley Hoyt, have a roadmap of projects and initiatives to support a more diverse and inclusive student environment. Opportunities are organized into three themes: **Academic-Led Initiatives, Faculty Support Toolkit** and **Student Support Toolkit**. The team is working to create campus-wide awareness of the supports currently available to faculty, staff and students and developing new tools to support emerging needs identified by staff and students.

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UPDATE FROM KELLEY HOYT -

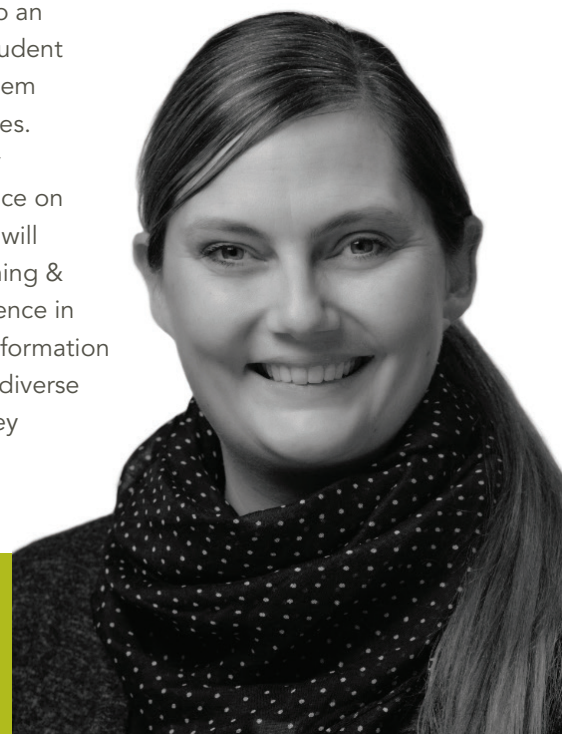
Teaching and Learning Consultant on International Education (CTL)

In addition to working closely with the Faculty Lead group on a variety of up and coming projects, Kelley Hoyt is compiling resources and offering learning opportunities for faculty on inter-cultural teaching skill development. Through CTL, Kelley co-facilitates regular “Snack & Chat” sessions on the broad topic of inclusivity, presents to CEDP teams on common challenges faced by International students and practical strategies for supporting them, and presents to new part-time faculty at the “Teaching for Success” workshops on the topic of Teaching in Multi-Cultural Environments.

Kelley recently acquired training to become an Intercultural Development Inventory Qualified Administrator which allows her to administer the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). This tool assesses for intercultural capacity of teams and individuals. (For further information on this self-assessment please visit www.idiinventory.com.) She is now using the IDI with various teams in the college.

Kelley is also working with Andrew Connery, Educational Technology Specialist with CTL, to develop an informational video on our international student population and how faculty can support them as they face unique and common challenges. In the spring, you can expect to see Kelley presenting at the Inspiring Minds conference on “Culturally Competent Teaching” and she will also be presenting at the Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education 2018 conference in Sherbrooke Quebec in June. For further information or support in teaching and learning in the diverse classroom, please feel free to contact Kelley at kelley.hoyt@mohawkcollege.ca or call extension 3504.

Kelley Hoyt



Student supports promote success and awareness

As mentioned in our last newsletter, new international student supports include Student Coaches at each campus, a Student Events and Welcoming Officer, a Student Career Advisor and an Inter-Cultural Counsellor. Here is just a highlight of some of the great work of these supports...

On February 7th, Hussam Eldib, International Student Career Advisor, facilitated a Job Club in conjunction with our Coffee Club. There was an opportunity for students to ask questions on how to create a resumé as well as how to dress when attending an interview. Hussam also discussed with students the importance of incorporating the Co-Curricular Record into their portfolios.

On February 21, Steve Owens, Employer Liaison Officer from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

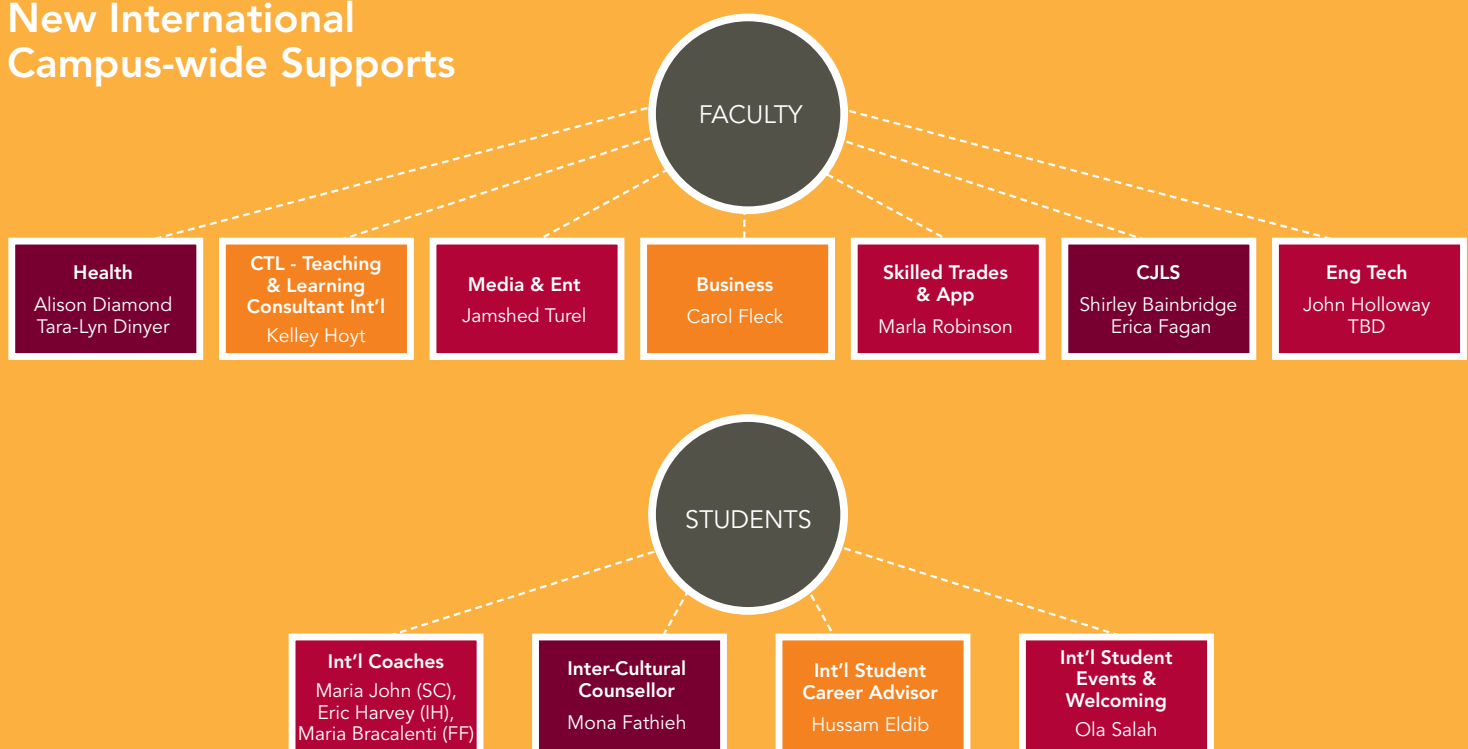
Canada joined the Slice and Advice event at Fennell where he discussed pathways to permanent residence as well as answered questions about obtaining permanent residency.

Meanwhile at the Institute for Applied Health Sciences at McMaster, our Student Services Coach – International, Eric Harvey, facilitated a Students Rights session during Slice and Advice. This session was focused on giving students information on their rights

and responsibilities as a worker in the Canadian workforce as well as a renter. Both domestic and international students attended the session. On April 4th, international students enjoyed Easter Coffee Club. Coffee Club occurs bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in J137 and encourages conversation and comradery. On May 30th, during Common Hour Jamie-Lyn Minaker, a public health nurse, was on-campus to promote living well in Canada.

FACULTY - DID YOU KNOW you can request Inter-Cultural Counsellor, Mona Fathieh, to visit your classroom to give a brief overview of supports available in the college for mental health well-being for international students? Contact Mona in Counselling Services at **ext. 3142** or **mona.fathieh@mohawkcollege.ca** for more info!

New International Campus-wide Supports





News from the Language & Culture Centre

The Language & Culture Centre hosts international visitors

The Language & Culture Centre hosted several international visitors over the winter term. We welcomed 120 high school students from Concord College in China on January 31st to check out our Media programs and tour our campus. The students had a jam-packed day of workshops and presentations and were thrilled with the great options for furthering their education at Mohawk!

Check out a video of the visit
(shot and edited by Journalism student Andres Biliald)



Florian Schäfer working with Mohawk TV Media students

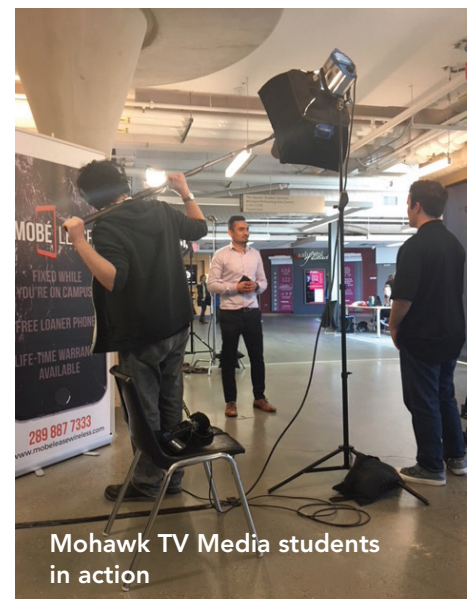
https://youtu.be/L0T7_AXeAWc

During the week of March 12th, Mohawk's Language & Culture Centre hosted German native Florian Schäfer, Director of International Consultants for Education and Fairs (ICEF) Media, to collaborate on various projects.

Florian's expertise lies in cross-cultural communication, and understanding how culture plays into creating marketing and media content for diverse audiences. Florian completed work with our TV Media students on video content which addresses common

questions international students have about coming to Canada, registration, International Square processes and getting a new cell phone. The videos shot and produced by our students will be a part of a series of quick and Millennial-friendly content made available on our Mohawk International website, giving students a sense of what to expect when they arrive in Hamilton. Florian also delivered a workshop on "Marketing to International Students" which was attended by colleagues from Columbia International and McMaster University.

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Mohawk TV Media students in action

Tune in to "Elyse in Wonderland" - Our weekly international radio show @ 101.5 The Hawk



Are you curious about the world, travel and new perspectives? Then, tune in to Elyse in Wonderland, a weekly live radio show hosted by Mohawk International staff members Elyse Pipitone and Jin Kim where guests from around the world share their stories. Tune in on Thursdays at 5pm to hear the show, or visit www.facebook.com/elyse1015 for updates on new guests, live chat Q&A and downloadable episodes. Have a recommendation for a guest or topic? Please feel free to send us a message. Hope to see you soon in wonderland!



Mohawk International joins Dialogue+ Forum: Promoting peace and diversity through youth mobilization and engagement

The Dialogue+ project promotes ethno-cultural relations through youth engagement and is currently being rolled out in five cities across Canada, Hamilton being one of those cities. Mohawk International staff and students are proud to be members of the Dialogue+ Hamilton Advisory Committee and attended

the first Dialogue+ Forum hosted here in Hamilton on March 7, joining representatives from McMaster University, Collège Boréal, and the City of Hamilton, among many others.

The Forum, hosted by the Centre de Santé Communautaire Hamilton/Niagara, brought together

professionals and young Hamiltonians of various backgrounds and cultures to discuss goals and strategies of social cohesion and inclusion and how to reduce risks of racism, discrimination and radicalization. These discussions shed light on important initiatives and groups around Hamilton, which are dedicated to fighting racism and strengthening dialogue around diversity and unity, such as Hamilton for All and Global Hamilton Connect.

Ola Salah, Events and Welcoming Officer in the Language & Culture Centre commented that "The Forum was a great opportunity to appreciate how the Hamilton community can come together and address negative attitudes towards minority groups. The day was a testament to the power of young people, and how they can lead our community towards positive change."



The Dialogue+ Forum in Hamilton on March 7



Events in the Language & Culture Centre

Winter Orientation 2018

During the Winter 2018 semester, the Language & Culture Centre welcomed new and returning students to several of its signature events. On January 20th, new international students started their journey at Mohawk College and their first stop was the New International Students Orientation. Over 320 students took part in the day to learn about services available on campus and how to get involved and made new friends along the way. Over 20 volunteers and mentors, 11 vendors and 13 staff made the Winter 2018 Orientation one of our most successful international students' orientation events yet!



Students and volunteers enjoying Winter Orientation 2018

The Language & Culture Centre also worked with different student groups to plan and execute cultural events.

The Chinese Student Society assisted in the Lunar New Year celebration, which took place on February 15 at the Arnie, marking the beginning of the lunar New Year in China, Korea and Vietnam. Over 300 students from various countries

joined to celebrate the Year of the Dog (in the Chinese calendar) with amazing performances in music and dance conducted by over 12 students. Another collaboration was the Holi celebration, or "festival of colours," that marks the

victory of good over evil, as well as the beginning of spring in India and Nepal.

The Language & Culture Centre also took part in some college-wide events, such as Valentine's Day, Student Appreciation Day, College Open House and Easter. The Centre has also introduced Movie Thursdays, available to all students to come and enjoy movies and free popcorn in room J137 on the first Thursday of every month.

On April 21, Mohawk International also hosted the International Students Appreciation Dinner at the Courtyard by Marriott to celebrate the successes of international students inside and outside the classroom.

Throughout the summer, the Language & Culture Centre will continue to host events such as orientation, a trip to Canada's Wonderland, Ramadan, Canada Day, and Start Smart. To find out more about our events and projects, follow [@MohawkLCC](#) on Twitter, or email ola.salah@mohawkcollege.ca.



Some of the great Mohawk International volunteers helping out at an event with Ola Salah, Student Events and Welcoming Officer in Mohawk International



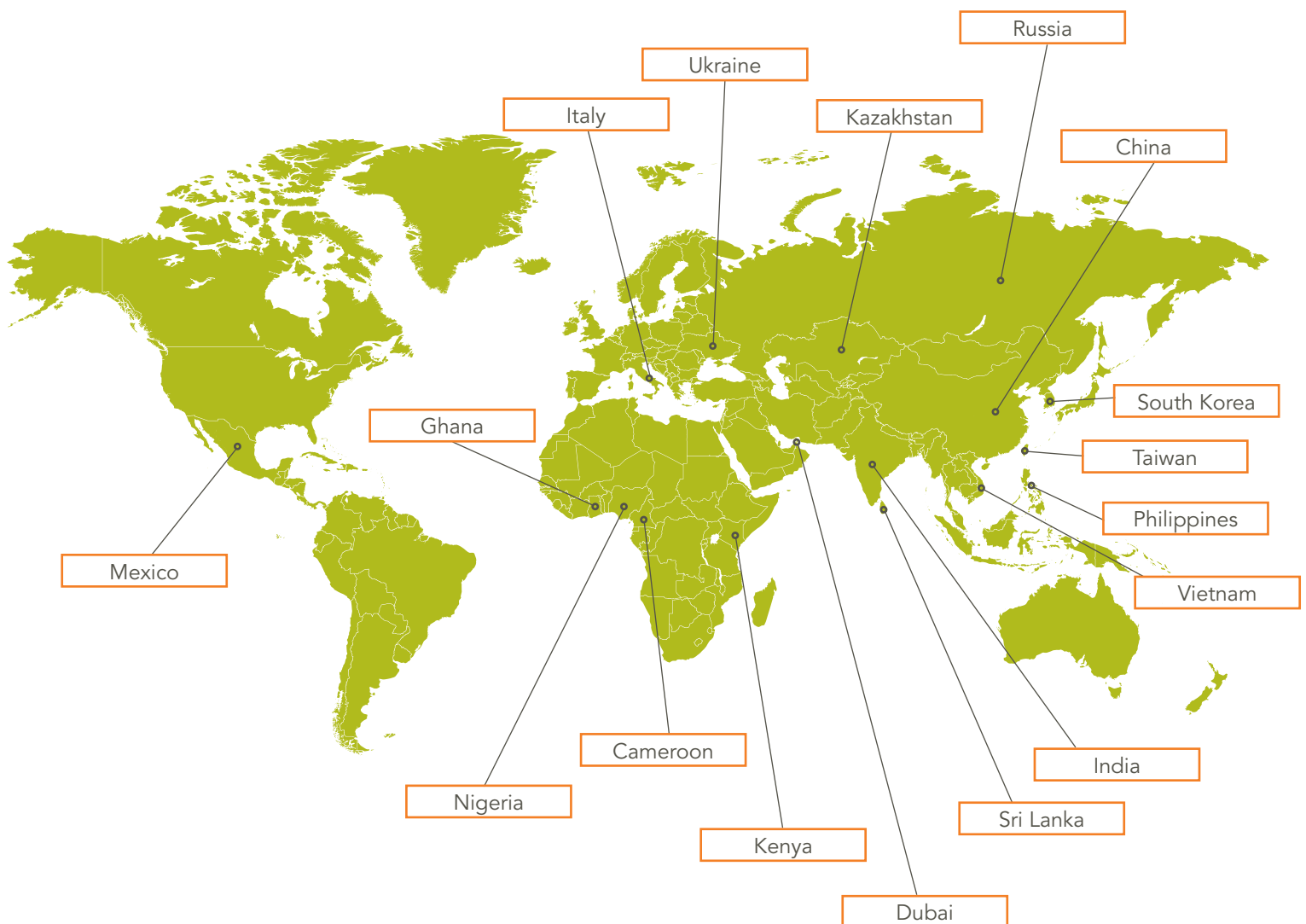
News from International Recruitment

The International Recruitment team is comprised of eight staff from countries all over the world. Each market specialist is responsible for recruiting students and developing relationships with partners from their target market – but what exactly does that entail? Read on for a 'day in the life' of a Mohawk International Recruiter...

Where in the World:

The past six months in international recruitment

Check out where our Market Specialists have been in the past six months:



On the Road with Maggie Chen: The exciting and sometimes exhausting days of being an International Recruitment Officer/Market Specialist

You can find Mohawk College's Market Specialist for China, Maggie Chen splitting her time between Canada and China, often spending four months of the year in China. Her role is to support our partners and students in China as they make the important decision to come to Canada and study at Mohawk. She is always looking for new opportunities to engage with the Chinese market and to increase the awareness of Mohawk's excellent programs, faculty and facilities. One of the most rewarding outcomes of her work is to see students that she has recruited in China in the halls here at Mohawk, realizing their potential and graduating to become successful members of the community.



Maggie Chen presenting to prospective students in China.

Are you curious as to what Maggie, and our other international recruiters do on a recruitment trip overseas? Take a look and experience a day in the life of Maggie...



Days spent at Recruitment Fairs - typically from 9:00am - 9:00pm





Staff on the move in Mohawk International

Welcome, Thea Laidman, Director of International Recruitment



Thea Laidman

Mohawk International was thrilled to welcome Thea Laidman to the role of Director, International Recruitment in December 2017. In this position, Thea is responsible for the Mohawk International recruitment team, external international recruitment strategy and implementation, market planning, relationship management, and serves as the internal advisor providing market intelligence on international program development with key Mohawk College stakeholders. Thea is also responsible for developing strategies that support college-wide objectives focused on growing our international programs plus attracting and retaining diverse students to the College.

Thea brings eight years of experience in International Education to this position and has worked in, travelled to, or lived in, 37 countries. She has experience as an international student while studying in Italy and Brazil and volunteered on international education projects in Kenya, China and Swaziland. She is passionate about international education and helping students achieve their goals.



Welcome Jacques and Cristina to International Student Services

International Student Services was pleased to welcome two new part-time office clerks this past winter: Jacques Heri Soares da Silva and Cristina Cioca. Jacques is from Brazil and has been in Canada since 2011. He began as a volunteer in the department and is now happy to be a part of the team due to its "strong, supportive culture as well as its commitment to staff and student success." In his spare time he loves eating sushi, cooking for family and friends, travelling and caring for his two rescued cats from Brazil. Cristina was born in Romania and has been in Canada for five years. As she loves meeting new people and learning about different cultures, she has found an ideal role where she gets to meet new students every day. She finds her team's dedication to international students "inspiring and motivating" and is thrilled to be "part of something amazing" at Mohawk. When she's not welcoming students to Mohawk, she enjoys working out and taking long walks in the summer.



Jacques (left) assisting with new student check-in.

Welcome, Bhupinder Gill, Academic Manager



Mohawk International was pleased to welcome Bhupinder Gill beginning in January, 2018 to fill in for Natalie Hughes who is on maternity leave. In the role of English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Academic Manager, Bhupinder provides academic and administrative leadership for the EAP/ESL programs within

Mohawk International's Language & Culture Centre. A creative and passionate educator with over 20 years of progressive teaching, curriculum/program development and leadership experience at school boards, colleges and universities, he is committed to helping learners and staff identify and develop their own passions while becoming successful and confident with their skills. A well respected and active professional, Bhupinder has served as Vice Chair, Board of Directors, TESL Ontario and holds a Master of Education in Teaching English as a Second Language from Brock University.

Welcome, Rouxanne Irving to the Admissions Department



Rouxanne Irving is not new to helping international students succeed at Mohawk, having been an International Student Services Support Officer before joining the Admissions team this past winter as Coordinator, International Operations – Admissions. In her new role, Rouxanne coordinates the work of the Admissions Team,

oversees student payment functions, and produces reports while working closely with the Management Team to streamline processes. Rouxanne herself was an international student at Mohawk College, coming to Canada from Jamaica in 2011. She graduated from Mohawk College with a Diploma in Business Accounting (Hons), and was awarded The President's Silver Medal while a student. In her spare time, she likes to volunteer, explore technology and socialize with friends. Rouxanne adores the beautiful scenery and warm welcoming people of Hamilton that remind her of her first home, Jamaica.

So long, Leo Barsony!



On March 29, the International team, friends and partners said a teary farewell to Leo Barsony as he set off on his retirement after

36 years of service. Leo was a member of the original team that welcomed the first group of International students to Mohawk in 1982 and supported the

creation of Mohawk's ESL program in Japan, building a school in Malawi and developing numerous partnerships in China, Brazil, Mexico and elsewhere.

Through his 36 years at Mohawk, Leo remained a tireless champion of international students through his work as an international recruiter and his advocacy for international students once they arrived at Mohawk. Leo is known for getting to know the student personally, connecting by phone with their families, and always trying to find the unique solutions to their problems

or circumstances. It was not uncommon for Leo to have students join his family at his home for Thanksgiving dinner or for him to visit with the grandparents of students while on overseas recruitment trips.

Leo demonstrated the same commitment and loyalty to his colleagues by always having time to mentor and listen, to share, and most importantly to dispel tense situations with his signature big-hearted laugh coupled with his healthy perspective on life.

Contact us!

Recruitment & Admissions

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Rouxanne Irving, Coordinator, Admissions rouxanne.irving@mohawkcollege.ca

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Mohawk International Staff Retreat, June 2017