Another season, another reason
For VIP creativity and diversity
Winter was the weather
But we still got together
To help people who are equal
Let this term be a sequel
To the one that just passed
Memories will last
Let’s all have a blast
Many help to form as one
Having fun...
Working until the job is done!
On a chilly February Monday a group of VIPs gathered for a special job search presentation given by SDC’s Career Counsellor, Pamela Bere. Pamela chatted with each VIP and found out a bit about each person, what kinds of jobs they were looking for, and where they were in their job search. She then gave them some helpful and creative ideas for searching for summer jobs and post-graduation employment, tailored to their individual needs.

Thanks again to Pamela Bere for her time and effort in giving this presentation to the VIPs!

To find some ideas for your own job search, go to SDC’s Career Services website at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/career/students/paths.html?job_search_clinic
#online

The VIP Program would like to recognize the volunteers who have contributed their time and effort for two years or more. Congratulations from the Student Development Centre!!!

VIP (2 Years):
Jessie Cox
Anisa Diwan
Kaitlin Dupuis
Marlo Galler
Kelly Heffernan
Anthea Lai
Yun (Jessie) Luo
Rebecca Colman

VIP (3 Years):
Hana Badreddine
Mandy Lai
Stella Ng
Christina Sanguinetti

Qiao Qiao
Ashwati Raghunath
Greg Ross

Note: 2 Semesters = 1 Year
VIPs, Let US know what YOU think!!!

Don’t forget to fill out your anonymous program feedback form!

Your comments and ideas help us improve the VIP program.

Complete the form on-line at

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/vip/paths.html?VPEvaluation

CONGRATULATIONS to
ENGLISH CONVERSATION LEADERS 2003-2004!!!

2 Terms:
Maria Bolivar
Sara Byerley
Alecia Chen
Cynthia Chu
Jessica Cox
Karen Dunlop
Kaitlin Dupuis
Reina Hassell
Kelly Heffernan
Louis Hui

Ai Kaneko
Sukhkiran Kaur
Sarah Kordish
Silvia Krulc
Connie Lam
Martha LeBlanc
Jessica Lyn
Meha Muralidharan
Jen Lajoie
Shallen Paul
Ashwati Raghunath

Salwa Saeed
Henna Singh
Chhayalak Sun
Danielle Thibaudeau
Melissa Walters
Shelly Wu

3 Terms:
Usman Naeem
Dear VIPs,

I remember when I was a university student some of my most rewarding experiences came from volunteering. I liked helping other people and I liked challenging myself with something new. Over this past year I have had the privilege of being on the other end of the volunteer experience with recruiting and working with student volunteers through SDC’s VIP.

I have enjoyed this chance to meet all of you and see you develop in your various VIP positions. I have appreciated your unique perspectives and experiences, and the overall positive energy of 114 students getting involved and wanting to help. Thank-you for your dedication and your willingness to give back to the UWO community.

I would also like to welcome back Sandra Pehilj from her year at home with her new baby and family. Sandra will be returning in April to resume her position as VIP’s Program Coordinator. Welcome back Sandra!

Rachel Crowe
Interim Program Coordinator
SDC’s Volunteers In Progress

---

Learning Skills 101

Who Are They?
Thinking about trying a new VIP position? Recently we asked two Learning Skills Assistants, Rebecca Colman and Samantha Waxman, about their experiences volunteering in SDC’s Learning Skills’ Drop-in Centre (Room 200, UCC).

Why did you choose the Learning Skills Assistant position and what do you like about it?
We wanted the opportunity to help students who may be having trouble adjusting to university. We like that we get to meet lots of people and that it’s a chance to give back to the school. There’s also a real sense of accomplishment when students come into the clinic (and we can help them).

What has surprised you about working in the Learning Skills Drop-in Centre?
The number of people who come in for help with math and science specifically.

What would you like others to know about this position?
It’s a great way to get involved. (It’s a good position) for people who like to interact with and help others.

For more information about this and other VIP positions, visit www.sdc.uwo.ca/vip

---

A WORD FROM RACHEL  Written By: Rachel Crowe

Dear VIPs,

I remember when I was a university student some of my most rewarding experiences came from volunteering. I liked helping other people and I liked challenging myself with something new. Over this past year I have had the privilege of being on the other end of the volunteer experience with recruiting and working with student volunteers through SDC’s VIP.

I have enjoyed this chance to meet all of you and see you develop in your various VIP positions. I have appreciated your unique perspectives and experiences, and the overall positive energy of 114 students getting involved and wanting to help. Thank-you for your dedication and your willingness to give back to the UWO community.

I would also like to welcome back Sandra Pehilj from her year at home with her new baby and family. Sandra will be returning in April to resume her position as VIP’s Program Coordinator. Welcome back Sandra!

Rachel Crowe
Interim Program Coordinator
SDC’s Volunteers In Progress
What is it like to be an English Conversation Leader?

All I can say is that it was such a rewarding experience. I came out with a broader scope of what international students and immigrants experience when they enter a country so different from their own. Not only is it a challenge to learn the language but to also adapt to the many cultural diversities.

My circle of international students and I celebrated Halloween with a pumpkin carving contest, sharing goodies and sharing laughter. This was a new experience for all of them, and we had some very creative pumpkin designs. Our sessions went into the Christmas season, and we ended by celebrating with a gift exchange, playing games, eating Christmas cookies and, lastly, singing the 12 Days of Christmas! I was so proud of the way they were so eager to participate.

We got to know each other quite well and developed lasting friendships. The students got together and presented me with a plant and a card that they all signed. It brought tears to my eyes as it was addressed “To a special teacher”. To have made even a small impact on their positive learning experience while they are in this country was truly my biggest reward.
Hanging Out in London This Summer?
Here are Some Suggestions of Things to Do...

**JUNE**

**June 19, 2004 – June 20, 2004: NBA HOOP-IT-UP 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL**
This annual basketball tournament takes place at the Western Sports Centre. There are also lots of interactive displays and events to participate in. [Web: www.hoopitup.com](http://www.hoopitup.com)

The London Airshow & Balloon Festival takes place at the London International Airport and features aircraft displays and performances, and balloon launches. [Web: www.londonairshow.com](http://www.londonairshow.com)

**JULY**

Sunfest is a multicultural celebration with dancing, songs and craft vendors in Victoria Park. This is an event you don’t want to miss! [Web: www.sunfest.on.ca](http://www.sunfest.on.ca)

**July 16, 2004 – July 18, 2004: HOME COUNTY FOLK FESTIVAL**
The Home County Folk Festival takes place in Victoria Park. There will be crafts, food, and music by traditional and contemporary folk performers. [Web: www.homecounty.ca](http://www.homecounty.ca)

**July 29, 2004 – August 2, 2004: LONDON RIB-FEST**
Come out and see who makes the best ribs and help support The Memorial Boys’ and Girls’ Club of London in Victoria Park! There is also live entertainment, crafts, and free Ferris wheel rides. [Tel: (519) 434–9114](tel:(519) 434–9114)

**July 30, 2004 – August 15, 2004: LONDON FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL**
This festival features a variety of unique theatre and busker acts and fun for the whole family taking place at various locations in downtown London. [Web: www.londonfringe.on.ca](http://www.londonfringe.on.ca)

**AUGUST**

**August 21, 2004 – August 22, 2004: DRAGON BOAT RACE FESTIVAL**
Come out and see these beautiful boats race across Fanshawe Lake. Events and festivities throughout the weekend. [Web: www.londonccnc.ca](http://www.londonccnc.ca)

Source: [http://www.londontourism.ca/Events.asp](http://www.londontourism.ca/Events.asp)

Check out some of these sites for outdoor activities in London:
- City of London: [www.city.london.on.ca](http://www.city.london.on.ca)
- Thames Valley Hiking Club: [www.thamesvalleytrail.org/index.html](http://www.thamesvalleytrail.org/index.html)
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority: [http://thamesriver.org](http://thamesriver.org)
- Southern Ontario Tourism: [www.soto.on.ca](http://www.soto.on.ca)