

Nexus Publishing Society President's Report for 2009-2010

Prepared by Andrea Moir, NPS President

This year, Nexus will be celebrating its 20th year as a student newspaper. We have been fortunate enough to have Jason Schreurs, Managing Editor of Nexus, for over 10 of those years. At two decades old, Nexus has been a consistent and unfailing part of Camosun College, and has given students a voice and outlet to share theirs, and others', stories.

I have been on the Board for two consecutive years, and have enjoyed watching the progress and change the board and paper as a whole has overcome. In our first board meeting this year, we had to bid adieu our vice president, Shane Scott-Travis, as he had been awarded an editorial position, the much sought-after Student Editor. The board was able to stride through this change and elected Jason Motz, the current treasurer, as our Vice-President. After one semester, Jason was accepted into the Creative Writing Program at UVic, so we were once again without a second man. Alan Piffer was then elected and took us through to the end of the year with great contributions and ideas. This is just one example of the changes that are customary for Nexus, as the majority of students at Camosun College are here for one or two years, as opposed to university papers who can expect their writers to be involved in the paper for four years or more. To have Nexus as a stable and consistent newspaper while dealing with the changes and adjustments is a huge feat, one that once again comes back to the hard work of our Managing Editor, Jason Schreurs.

Changes were also made this year in other areas of the paper. After losing our layout editor, Laila Brown, last year, the board decided to restructure our staff positions in a way that would better fit the structure of our editorial staff. We eliminated the student copy editor position and split the layout position into two separate positions, held by Layout Editor Sarah Dart and Assistant Editor Greg Pratt. We also hired a web designer, Chantelle Mussell, to design a new website that would attract more students to our online addition. The new site was launched six months ago and we have received great feedback from the staff and students. In addition, we will also be hiring a co-op student for the summer months, to update our site and upload additional articles to the Nexus site every day, as we don't print over the summer. This position is a great way to keep students coming to the site throughout the summer months.

I am also happy to note that Nexus was involved in all three of the Canadian University Press (CUP) conferences this year. The board made the decision to spend slightly over the allotted training budget to send as many of the hard-working staff and volunteers to the three conferences: NASH CUP held in Edmonton, WPNCUP held in Kelowna, and WRCUP held in North Vancouver. For the NASH conference, the board, along with Jason and UVIC's staff, spent many hours planning and preparing to propose a bid to hold 2011's NASH CUP in Victoria, hosted by Camosun College, and UVIC, combined. While we prepared a solid proposal and an entertaining video, Montreal's McGill University was the successful bidder. Choosing to go against such a prestigious university that was celebrating its 100th year as a newspaper was a hard battle, but we believed, and still do, that Camosun College and UVic could host a successful NASH, and I hope next year's board will consider a re-bid.

The most notable change Nexus may face is a policy adjustment in regard to election of the president and treasurer of the board positions. Depending on a vote that will take place at the 2010 Nexus Annual General Meeting, these positions could be voted on in public forums, similar to the way the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) performs their elections. This idea was brought forward the CCSS. The CCSS strongly suggests we perform our elections in this way. We will leave the decision up to our staff, volunteers, writers, and friends of Nexus who come to the AGM and vote on this action.

As student editor, Shane Scott-Travis already wrote a gracious and well-telling year-end report, I won't go into the editorial side of the paper, except to say we were blessed to have writers that will go on to continue to inform and entertain a variety of audiences for years to come. Our staff took risks in topic choices, but will no doubt see rewards.

Sincerely,

Andrea Moir, President, Nexus Publishing Society