



Artsci Alumni | Issue 3

This edition of the McMaster University Arts & Science Alumni Newsletter circles around a series of Program grads who have made headlines this winter. From community initiatives and career milestones to award nominations, we're proud to feature the impressive work of our diverse alumni base. This issue also showcases recent Program highlights, including the 2019 Winter Lecture and some new Artsci courses. As always, we encourage you to connect with us and share your stories so we can, in turn, share them with the wider Artsci community. Enjoy Issue 3!

Newsmakers



Arts & Science Alum Publishes Debut Novel

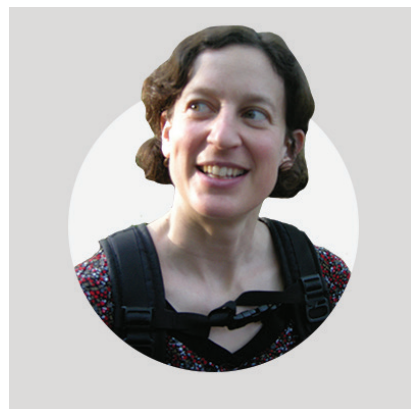
Sunanna Bhasin (2017) has published her debut novel, *Underpass*. In true Artsci fashion, Bhasin published her book while also completing a Master's in accounting. Loosely inspired by her own life, the book tells the story of Indian-born parents raising a Canadian-born daughter in Canada.

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Welcoming Newcomers Using the Great Outdoors

Adrienne Blattel (1998) runs the Intercultural Outdoor Program in Montreal, which helps newcomers to Canada settle into their new environment by taking them on epic outdoor excursions. From canoeing and kayaking to biking, hiking, and camping, Blattel's programmed adventures have been helping newcomers for almost 10 years.

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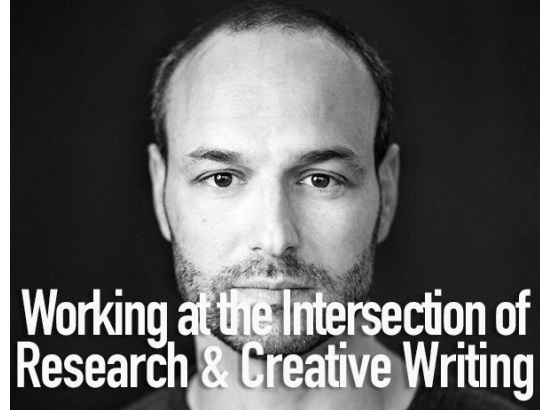


2018 Grad Nominated as Woman of Distinction

Stephanie Bertolo (2018) was nominated for a 2019 YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the category of "Young Woman of Distinction." This category honours women aged 18-25 who demonstrate leadership and maturity beyond their years, whether at school, in the community, or in the workplace.

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Program Highlights



Working at the Intersection of Research & Creative Writing

On the surface, creative fiction and research might seem like polarizing concepts. But ask Anton Piatigorsky, an author, playwright, and professor in the Arts & Science Program, and he'll tell you that the two concepts are not only connected, but actually interdependent.

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Artsci Prof an Advocate for Environmentalism

Eighteen years ago, Dr. Lynda Lukasik and a group of active community members rallied together to protect Hamilton's Red Hill Valley. Since then, she has founded Environment Hamilton, been an advocate for significant change in the local community, and now finds herself teaching a brand new Artsci course.

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Tech & Society III: Livable Communities

Taught by Dr. Brian Baetz, Professor Emeritus in McMaster's Faculty of Engineering, Technology & Society III is an Arts & Science course that flips customary practices by bringing students to important topics instead of bringing topics to them.

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Leading Mac's Sustainability Initiatives

Hosted and supported by Arts & Science, McMaster's Sustainability Minor embraces the Artsci pedagogy of teaching from a holistic, interdisciplinary perspective. The minor provides students with an opportunity to explore sustainability from many angles by taking courses from different Faculties and programs.

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Congrats to the 2018 Discovery Program Graduates!

This past December, academic perseverance was on full display as graduates of the McMaster University Discovery Program received their certificates. Run by the Arts & Science Program, Discovery is a free, non-credit course offered to Hamilton residents who have experienced barriers to post-secondary education.

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2019 Winter Lecture with Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh

Arts & Science students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends gathered in January for the Program's 2019 Winter Lecture. This year's talk was delivered by Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Professor of History and Global Human Rights at McMaster and a former Artsci prof.

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Notices, Reminders, and Events



• Thanks to everybody who came out in November to the memorial for Dr. Louis Greenspan. Artsci alumni Lauren Gorfinkel (2017), Mia Kibel (2017), and Varun Puri (2017) spoke on behalf of the Program, while Artsci alum Kati Ivanyi (1988), Dr. Greenspan's physician, addressed her personal relationship with Louis. You can read their speeches [here](#).

• Thanks to grads Pawan Aulakh (2015), Simon Gooding-Townsend (2013), Angela Irwin (2011), Andrew Prine (2011), and Lauren Tignanelli (2016) for visiting with current students over Milk & Cookies on 5 Feb 2019. If you are willing to participate in similar Milk & Cookies events, please contact Artsci Director Dr. Jean Wilson at wilsonj@mcmaster.ca.

• Please continue to visit the [Alumni in the News](#) section of the Artsci website. There, we post links to articles about or referencing our grads. Recent posts include stories by or featuring Jim Dunn (1991), Michael Law (2001), Monika Dutt (1999), Tiffany Moore (1993), Patrick Byrne (2011), Phillippe Bedard (1999), and more.

• If your place of employment might be interested in hiring recent Artsci grads, please send Blake Dillon a note at dillonb@mcmaster.ca detailing positions that are available. We will be maintaining a job postings board on the Artsci website designed to inform current students and recent grads about relevant work opportunities.

• Congratulations to Avery McNair, a Level IV Arts & Science student who has received the 2019 Renaissance Award! Artsci has a long history of Renaissance Award winners, including Jackie Brown (2013) and Ros Pfaff (2013), Anthony D'Ambrosio (2014) and Andrew Case (2014), Rachel Brain (2015) and Maia Stevenson (2015), Sutina Chou (2016), Korryn Garvey (2016), Tai Jacob (2017), and Alexia Olaiola (2018) and Emily Siskos (2018). Read about Avery's plans for the award [here](#).



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