

## What human books can do for you! A collaborative event model

**Presenter:**  
**Irene Wallace**  
**Career Educator & Student Employment Facilitator**



Photo credit: Camosun College



# *Living* Library



Photo credit: Camosun College

CHANGE EVERYTHING.



## Camosun College - locations





# *Living* Library

Our collaborative partner



Photo credit: Camosun College

# Planning and Organizing

## **First steps:**

- 1. Campus location = determines program linkages**
- 2. Date = November or February**
- 3. Rooms & seating capacity = 20am + 20pm**
- 4. Reception area**



## Planning and Organizing

### Identify Living Books

- ❖ Program related
- ❖ Alumni
- Gender
- Age
- Career entry point
- Ethnicity
- Profile community members
- Faculty recommendations

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Photo credit: Camosun College

## Planning and Organizing

- Get faculty on board
- Include college admin & alumni association



# Biography and Images

- Biography and images are sent to the library team
- A short story is created
- The image is prepared for the libguide → sizing, editing



# Living Library



**Regan McGrath**

Accountant/Owner Operator,  
McGrath Consulting

Regan opened her own accounting firm after completing her chartered accountant articling at KPMG Victoria and a tax year at McAvoy Rule & Company. As well, she teaches Quickbooks accounting software as part of Camosun College's Continuing Education.

Regan holds a BA in Psychology and Political Science from McGill University, and a Certificate in Professional Accounting from Camosun College. Regan has been a director of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce and sits on Dance Victoria's Night Moves committee.

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# Living Library

**Wednesday, November 13**



**Councillor Christopher Mark Coleman**

Acting-Mayor,  
City of Victoria

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How does one get to be Acting-Mayor? Christopher's journey is more than the positions he's held and the education he's undertaken. He's worked five years in retail and 28 in the food service industry, more than half of those in marketing. He has managed a not-for-profit society, been a lawyer with the Canadian Forces and a youth worker on contract to the Anglican Church. All of this is rounded out with 15 years as a municipal elected official.

Christopher has a BA in Geography and Geology, as well as graduate studies from UVic. He has a law degree from UBC and an MBA from UVic.

**View 'Living Books' bio and register for an appointment at [camosun.ca/library](https://camosun.ca/library)**

**Lansdowne Library – Nov 13**



## Living Library Libguide

- ◉ Entered biography & picture into the libguide
- ◉ Created a user friendly template
- ◉ Biographies: list with limited info → linked to complete biography → linked to online booking and email booking
- ◉ [Demo](#)



**Regan McGrath (Alumnus)- 1:00-3:00pm**  
Accountant/Owner Operator,  
McGrath Consulting

**Biography & Appointment**  
[Click Here](#)

## Online booking system

- Online booking system and email booking
  - Booking system is MRBS, a free, open source web application
  - Collaborated with Camosun IT staff to create design for booking system.

Camosun Students: Book Online  
Click Here

Camosun Alumni: Send Email  
employ@camosun.bc.ca



## Marketing highlights: Student and Alumni Employment Services

- See session handout for list
- Faculty & academic advisors
  - sent event link and recommendations for books that match their students
- Classroom visitation
- Information tables once per week
- One page flyer put into Instructor/Faculty mailboxes

# Marketing at the Library

- Customized fortune cookies
- Librarians promoted event in research education classes
- Library RSS
- Event posters displayed
- Registration table at the Library – one week prior to event

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Photo credits: Camosun College



# Living Library



Social media  
network in town =  
promotion

## RSS



Camosun's Student Newspaper

# NEXUS

camosun's student voice since 1990





Linked in®

Living Library

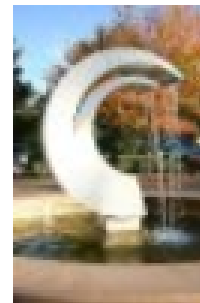


Angie

**Living Library is back and alumni are welcome to book an appointment through [employ@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:employ@camosun.bc.ca) to talk to a Living Book for some career guidance. This is a great opportunity to network:**

**Angie B.**

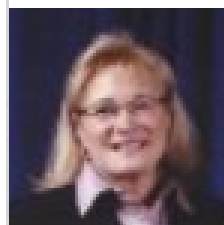
**Manager, Advancement & Alumni Relations at Camosun College**



[Living Library Fall 2013 camosun.ca/libguides.com](http://camosun.ca/libguides.com)

15 Minutes Can Change Your Life! Welcome to Camosun's Living Library Event November 13, 2013 9:00am-11:00am & 1:00pm-3:00pm Camosun College Library, Lansdowne, LLC 151 map A living or human library is an event where you can

check out a person as a...



Penny

**Penny G.**

**Sport Management Executive**

This is a great event! Can you imagine 15 minutes with your future employer? #priceless #careerstrategy

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Brought  
to you by  
Student & Alumni  
Employment Services  
in partnership with  
Camosun  
Library

# Living Library

**What if 15 minutes could change your life?**  
Book an appointment with a real person to  
learn about their **career path** and **educational  
background**.



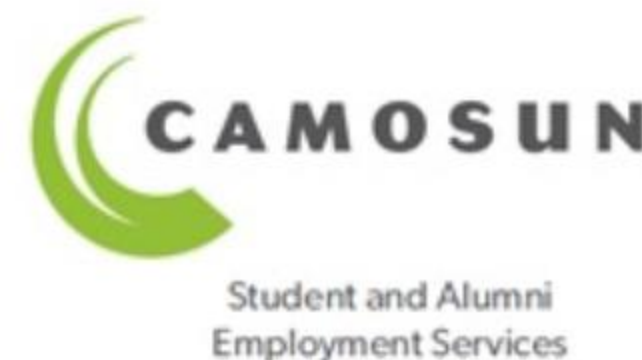
**Wednesday, November 13**

9:00 – 11:00am and 1:00 – 3:00pm

Lansdowne Library

View 'Living Books' bio and register for an appointment at  
[camosun.ca/library](http://camosun.ca/library)

For more information email  
[employ@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:employ@camosun.bc.ca)  
or call 250-370-4181





# NEXUS




camosun's student voice since 1990


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## Camosun's Living Library offers students valuable knowledge

 October 30, 2013 by Jayden Grieve, contributing writer

 [Leave a Comment](#)

The general consensus amongst successful people is that knowledge is power. On Wednesday, November 13 the Lansdowne campus will be hosting a Living Library for students to get knowledge in a variety of fields. No, this Living Library isn't the inevitable genetically-modified-books-come-alive-and-take-over-the-world apocalypse; rather, it's an event where professionals from many different disciplines gather to give students the skinny on their fields.



"One of the most valuable strategies you can use to figure out not only where you want to go but how you get there is to talk to people that are in the field," explains Camosun employment facilitator Irene Wallace, who, along with Camosun's library staff, is organizing the event.

Students are able to book a spot in a two-person appointment, either with a friend or a stranger, to discuss for 15 minutes any

### CURRENT ISSUE



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**NEXUS  
IS LOOKING  
FOR  
CAMOSUN  
STUDENT  
VOLUNTEERS**

**PHONE:  
250-370-3591**

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EDITOR AT  
NEXUSNEWSPAPER  
DOT COM**



# Mechanical Engineering Technology at Camosun

[About Us](#)[Events](#)

## Living Library @ Camosun

Posted on March 5, 2011. Filed under: [Information](#) |

From Irene Wallace, Student Employment Facilitator,  
CESE, Camosun



Well Folks, we are finally public with starting to get the word out pertaining to Camosun's **Living Library**, with the first event to be held on:

**Thursday, March 17 – 1:00 to 3:30 PM – Lansdowne Library.**

Check out the library page link [on the top of the left column] to view the biography for each of the 'books' (speakers). A link to the related BC Public Agency page is located under each speaker's name.

One exciting feature is that the library can track how many hits each page is receiving. As of minutes ago, there was a total of 86 and the information only went public a couple of hours ago. Helps to have the information on the library home page.

Now we just have to hope that students/alumni sign 'out' the books...

<http://camosun.ca/services/library/> — **About:** A living or human library is a event where you can check-out a person. Rather than reading, you can talk with the living book, and learn from their story.

[About these ads](#)

## Blog & Dept. Pages

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[Co-op info for employers](#)

## Posts calendar

March 2011

**M T W T F S S**





**Camosun College**

@Camosun

The Living Library returns to Lansdowne Library on Nov. 13. Can 15 minutes change your life? [ow.ly/q6ZnE](http://ow.ly/q6ZnE)



**Camosun Alumni** @CamosunAlumni · Nov 8

What if 15 minutes can change your life? Experience the Living Library Nov. 13 at Lansdowne library [ow.ly/qzebq](http://ow.ly/qzebq)



**Camosun Alumni** @CamosunAlumni · Nov 5

#camosunalumni can sign up to meet a Living Book at Camosun's Living Library Event [ow.ly/qwej8](http://ow.ly/qwej8)



**Camosun College** @Camosun · Nov 1

The Living Library returns to Lansdowne Library on Nov. 13. Can 15 minutes change your life? [ow.ly/q6ZnE](http://ow.ly/q6ZnE)



RETWEETED BY



**Transition House** @VictoriaWTH · Oct 25

We're delighted to be part of @Camosun Living Library event this November! Working for a good cause is a good career option I'd say! #yyj



**Camosun Co-op/Career**

13 Nov

@CamosunEDUatWRK

Living Library Book: Kathleen Troger - 9:00-11:00am  
Employment Services  
Coordinator, Garth Homer Society @Camosun  
[pic.twitter.com/CfNYUoFvLM](http://pic.twitter.com/CfNYUoFvLM)



**Camosun College Foundation** shared a link.

February 5, 2013



Home - Living Library 2013 - LibGuides at Camosun College Library

[camosun.ca/libguides.com](http://camosun.ca/libguides.com)

LibGuides. Living Library 2013. Home.



# Living Library

**Living Library Book  
an appointment with  
a real person to learn  
about their career  
path and educational  
background.**

View 'Living Books' bio and  
register for an appointment at  
[camosun.ca/library](http://camosun.ca/library)

For more information email  
[employ@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:employ@camosun.bc.ca)  
or call 250-370-4181

**Wednesday, November 13**

9:00 – 11:00am and 1:00 – 3:00pm

Lansdowne Library



**CAMOSUN**

Student and Alumni  
Employment Services

Brought  
to you by  
Student & Alumni  
Employment Services  
in partnership with  
Camosun  
Library





# My Living Library appointments:

Living Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Time: \_\_\_\_\_

*Appointments are 15 minutes long*

*View 'Living Books' bio and register for an appointment  
at [camosun.ca/libguides.com/15min](http://camosun.ca/libguides.com/15min)*

## Event day

- Team of volunteers work together
- Table at the entrance of the library
  - Check-in point for those with appointments
  - Manage flow of traffic
  - Work with last minute changes (no-shows; cancellations)
  - Add new appointments
  - Answer questions
  - Update libguide information



Photo credits: Camosun College



## Event day

- **Table outside of event room**
  - Manage flow of appointment change over
  - Student Feedback form



Photo credit: Camosun College



# *Living* Library

## Event in action





# *Living* Library

15 minutes CAN change your life





# Living Library



Photo credits: Camosun College

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## Advantages for participants

- ◉ Networking practice
- ◉ Mentorships formed
- ◉ Jobs landed
- ◉ Career guidance
- ◉ Course suggestions
- ◉ Volunteer opportunities



# Living Library



**Camosun Alumni** @CamosunAlumni · Nov 13

Living Library well underway with lots of great networking among #camosunalumni and students! [pic.twitter.com/irAKitITKi](https://pic.twitter.com/irAKitITKi)



Photo credit: Camosun College



## Assessment, Fall 2013

**111 students am sessions  
142 students pm sessions  
= 253 students**

- **Students have option of signing out multiple Living Books**
- **Attendance continues to improve with each event**



Photo credit: Camosun College

# Student Survey Highlights

- Do you feel that the Living Library was a worthwhile event? Yes – 22, No – 0
- Would you attend a future Living Library event? Yes – 21, No - 1
- Would you like to see more similar events offered to students? Yes – 22, No – 0



# Living Library

- **“So informative, so inspiring. Bridges the gap between school and career”**
- “I found out more about the University I want to go to and got some more contacts”
- “Brilliant! Brilliant!!! I was matched up with 2 gentlemen both of whom helped to hone my direction. Educated, insightful opinions. Outstanding”
- “Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. What a high! I’m feeling very positive about my choice of career path. Thank you!”



Photo credit: Camosun College

## Employment outcome

**Mature student with prior work experience,  
unemployed 7 months after completing program**

- Outcomes for attending Living Library event
  - Living Book offered a free, executive career search service
  - Another Living Book offered to meet about part-time lecturing opportunities at a post-secondary institution

**“Extraordinary result”**

**“Valuable”**

**“Sophisticated career tool”**

**“Deploy on a regular basis”**



# Employment outcome

## **Student signed out Living Book in target area of employment**

- Outcomes after Living Library Event
  - Exchanged contact info, later setup information interview which turned into a formal job interview
  - 2 weeks after event, student was hired and working casual hours
  - 1 month after event, student was offered full time work

**“Great conversation”**

**“The Living Library is a very powerful tool for making connections and getting employed”**

## Feedback from Living Books



Photo credit: Camosun College

“Thanks so much to you and your fabulous team for the great morning working with your Camosun students. I have already had emails from a couple of them asking more questions. It was a great time!!”



# Budget

- Expenses: SE Dept (\$532) + Library (\$407)
  - table linens
  - supplies for décor
  - flowers
  - catering
  - fortune cookies
  - postcards/posters
  - gifts for guests

# Questions???

## *Living* Library



Photo credit: Camosun College

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