

February 2012

## HIGHPOINTS:

Around Campus This Month

Service and Support Featured Area:  
Career Services/Cooperative  
Education D1063

Post Secondary-Wide Awards

What You Need to Know Right Now!

Inspiring Story: Meet Susie

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## Post-Secondary-Wide Awards

Applications for Post Secondary-Wide Awards are now being accepted by the Awards and Scholarships office (London Campus, Room K1003). Apply now so you can have an opportunity to be recognized by your peers and win a cash prize! Students may download applications today at [www.fanshawec.ca/postsec](http://www.fanshawec.ca/postsec). Submission deadline is February 24, 2012.

There is also a **complete listing** of all Awards, Scholarships and Bursaries available: <http://www.fanshawec.ca/money/>. Check the side tab called Endowment Funds

**First Generation Bursary** application deadline for W2012 NEW students is February 10<sup>th</sup>. [www.fanshawec.ca/financialaid](http://www.fanshawec.ca/financialaid)

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**First Generation website info:**

[www.fanshawec.ca/1stgen](http://www.fanshawec.ca/1stgen)

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## Around Campus This Month: February

It's a sweetheart of a month for sure. Lots of **on-campus events** are happening: **iweek** runs January 30 – February 2<sup>nd</sup> and features International hospitality. **Looking for job or career information?** Career Services presents daily informational seminars February 6 – 10<sup>th</sup>. Most notably the **Career & Summer Job Fair** takes place Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in J Gym. So if you are looking for a seasonal job or heading into a full-time career check out the 80+ employers here at your front door... **Mid-terms** are happening so form a study group with your peers, [access college resources](#), talk with your faculty - be prepared!

## Career Services/Cooperative Education – Room D1063

**Career Services** provides employment support services for all full-time Fanshawe students, assisting in the development of effective resumes and job search techniques. Career Services Consultants post thousands of permanent, part-time, volunteer and seasonal jobs to the CS website: [www.fanshawec.ca/careerservices](http://www.fanshawec.ca/careerservices) including on-campus and workplace vacancies. Numerous employment-related events such as Career Week and the annual Career Fair are listed as well as career related workshops. Students are encouraged to check the job site often. Set up an appointment with a Career Services Consultant to discuss your entry into the 'world of work'.

**Co-Operative Education** at Fanshawe has the most programs of any college in Canada covering everything from Fashion Design to Civil Engineering Technology. Assisted by a Co-op Consultants, students enrolled in a co-op program have the opportunity to apply theory learned in college to work situations; gain valuable work experience before graduation; develop and refine career plans; earn as well as learn; develop job search, interview and communication skills and learn valuable life skills through real work experience!

## What You Need To Know: February – Working hard

- ✓ Applications for further study at Fanshawe College are due the February 1 for students enrolled in a one year program
- ✓ Mid-term anxiety to maintain or upgrade marks from last semester may increase. Help is available - now is the time
- ✓ Seasonal, part-time or career job search begins



**Wellness Tip:** If you feel like veg'ing on the couch with a video and snacking on a cold, wintery day, reach for a protein bar or packet of soy nuts instead of those high energy, high fat snacks. Fruits & veggies are another great alternative.

**Important Dates:**

**Feb 1:** Last day for 2012/2013 OCAS admission applications

**Feb 15:** Student Assistance Bursary application deadline for winter term

**Feb 20:** Family Day Holiday – Closed

**Feb 27 – Mar 2: Intra-Term Days**  
READING WEEK. There are no scheduled classes but Fanshawe is open. This is a great opportunity to get ahead or catch up on coursework. College services and supports are available this week.

**Healthy Recipe:**

Hurry Up Chocolate Cake

- 1 ½ cups flour, ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup sugar, 4 Tbsp cocoa
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp vanilla, 1 tsp vinegar
- ½ cup margarine
- 1 cup buttermilk

Sift dry ingredients into 9x9" pan. Stir to blend. Make 3 hollows in mixture with spoon. Put vanilla in 1, vinegar in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and melted margarine in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over all this pour lukewarm butter milk. Stir & blend until smooth. Bake at 350 F for about 30 minutes. Leave in pan to cool. Dust with icing sugar.

She was born in Montreal to Chinese parents who married virtually sight unseen. Her mother didn't finish elementary school nor did her father complete high school. She is the mother of four children, a small business entrepreneur and currently a First Generation mature student at Fanshawe College in the Law Clerk program. Susie Mah - this is her story.

After high school Susie attended Dawson College in Montreal and graduated from what was then called Commercial Art. After a couple of years employed as a graphic designer she realized that the literary side of her mind was "still waiting to be explored and developed." So three years later she graduated from Concordia University with a Film Production degree and began working in the art department of feature films, television shows, and at the CBC. She thrived and survived the demands of a creative industry, often working 60 - 80 hour weeks. TV projects included the Royal Canadian Air Farce, Kids in the Hall, and Road to Avonlea. Film projects included Cocktail, the Good Mother, and Barnum. Susie drafted sets, did graphic design, and oversaw construction, painting, special effects, and props. She worked in large and small teams and even hired staff. She quickly rose from 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Art Director, to Art Director, which is just under Production Designer in the hierarchy of filmmaking.

She was living in Toronto with three children, and then added a fourth. It was 1999, Susie was ready to leave the film industry. It was a good time to go – the industry was changing and the recession was impacting jobs. Susie and her husband chose London as a great community in which to raise their kids.

That was 12 years ago. For the first 5 years she was a homemaker. Slowly she took on some short term freelance jobs in graphic design; did some periodical writing; wrote business articles for the London Free Press; and did graphic design work for Orchestra London as well as Morphy Containers. But this next chapter seemed less fulfilling. Available jobs were increasingly "starting out kind of jobs." So Susie began a Fair Trade, eco-friendly business and sold giftware at various fairs and festivals around London.

She took a job with Sun Media in Woodstock for a while and then one day she realized she had lost interest in her work. She wanted, no she needed a new career. One where there was no discrimination against older women, one that paid well, one that could expedite her through the education system quickly and one with a future of clear progression moving up the ladder to success. Susie recognized she was closing the chapter on her first career and wanted a shiny, new second chance. The Law Clerk program seemed a good fit. After checking out various educational options she felt that "*Fanshawe would do the best job of educating me.*"

And here she is – setting a positive and proactive example for her children and sharing daily stories of being back at school with the family. Her husband trained as a brick and stone mason at Fanshawe and continues to excel in renovation– just not at their home!

Today Susie is maximizing her time and opportunity here at Fanshawe to be the best student EVER in the Law Clerk program. She invests in her Fanshawe community, leads by example and believes in giving back. She exhibits a solid sense of self, breathes authenticity and is big into global thinking and inclusive action – *it takes a village to raise a child*. Currently she is the incoming Fanshawe Adult Social Club president, volunteers weekly at the student run Sharing Shop, and is a mentor for First Generation students transitioning to post-secondary education. *Leadership through relationships...*

After graduation she wants to work in London for a couple of years to gain experience and then return to the cultural hub of Toronto. Susie laughs when she says it's time to go back and do all the things she missed doing the first time around! Check out: [www.susiemah.com](http://www.susiemah.com) for examples of her graphic design and freelance writing or the Fair Trade handicrafts she sells at: [www.vagabondgifts.ca](http://www.vagabondgifts.ca)