



*The Words will not Come
Before the Images by Lisa Boivin*

Access to Post-Secondary Education: Adapting to the Changing Landscape

A Symposium to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of the Academic Bridging Program

Saturday November 18, 2017

9:00 am — 4:30 pm

Woodsworth College

119 St. George Street

Student Panelists



Carlos Arceo

Carlos had been away from high school for three years when he made a decision to pursue post-secondary studies. He had always been interested in history and philosophy and felt alienated and unsatisfied with his work in the service industry. He first completed the two-year General Arts and Science Diploma at George Brown College and then entered degree studies at U of T in 2016 through the Diploma to Degree pathway. Carlos is pursuing a double major in East Asian Studies and Philosophy with a minor in Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health. His goal is to undertake graduate studies in Continental Philosophy and Comparative Literature.



Prilly Bicknell-Hersco

Prilly completed the Transitional Year Program in 2015 and is now pursuing a major in Diaspora & Transnational Studies and a double minor in Sociology and Caribbean Studies. Prior to studying at U of T, Prilly was a full-time mother of two. She felt compelled to pursue post-secondary education both to advance her own career and also to serve as a role model for her children. She intends to pursue further education at the Masters and Doctoral levels. She is passionate about social justice issues, equity and access to education, and hopes to work in one or more of these fields.



Janessa Duran

Janessa moved to Toronto on her own at age 18. After several years of living paycheck to paycheck, she felt tired and jaded from working in the service industry. Realizing that education could open doors to a more fulfilling career, Janessa entered post-secondary studies in 2014 through the Academic Bridging Program. She is pursuing a double major in Peace, Conflict, & Justice Studies and Diaspora & Transnational Studies. Upon completing her degree, she hopes to pursue a Masters in Public Policy. Her long-term goals include working for the City of Toronto or the Provincial Government to help shape policies in regards to equity issues. She is also saving up to make a down-payment on an apartment for her parents.



Joel Fisher

Joel began his studies at the University of Toronto in 2015 via the Academic Bridging Program. Previously, he worked in social services at a youth shelter program in downtown Toronto. He has also worked as a musician, playing in venues throughout Toronto and touring across parts of Canada and the U.S. Joel is pursuing a major in Philosophy with a double minor in Writing & Rhetoric and Creative Expression & Society. His short and long-term goals include acquiring a solid knowledge of primary philosophical traditions; improving his academic and creative writing skills; and attending graduate school.



Sean Frost

Sean became motivated to pursue post-secondary studies while incarcerated at a federal penitentiary. Determined to build new skills and set an example for his two children, he completed a college diploma in General Arts and Science at Northern College. During his probation, Sean completed the University of Toronto's Academic Bridging Program and is now pursuing studies in the Humanities stream at U of T. As the founder of 'Global Inspiration Initiative,' Sean draws upon his life experience to educate and inspire young adults through mentorship, workshop facilitation and public speaking engagements. His long-term goals include building his 'Global Inspiration Initiative' and working as an educator at U of T.