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Session Description	Modality
<p>Title: Acadia Wildlife Museum Presenter: Jen Kershaw Description: Come discover the Acadia Wildlife Museum. This teaching collection includes specimens dating as far back as the 1800s from all over Turtle Island. Location: BIOL Basement Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: Anatomy of the Human Heart Presenter: Matt Hazel Description: This will be a hands-on presentation on the anatomy of the human heart. There will be a brief lecture, followed by participants dissecting sheep-hearts and comparing the fresh tissue to anatomical models and diagrams. Location: HSH 049 Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Art Gallery – Behind the scenes: Make your own print Presenter: Laurie Dalton and Kelsey MacGowan Description: Founded in 1978, did you know the Acadia University Art Gallery has a permanent collection of art! One of our collection strengths is printmaking - join us in our outreach and collections lab to learn about how we research and work with the collection. This is followed by a hands-on experience where you can make your own print to take home. Location: BAC 131 Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Cannabis in Canada: The Future's Past Presenter: Johannes Wheeldon Description: In 2022, the federal government in Canada launched a statutory review of the Cannabis Act to determine whether the legislation was meeting "Canadians' needs and expectations." The review focused on the law's impact on Indigenous people, home cultivation, and the health and consumption patterns of young people. However, a more fundamental debate persists. Has legalizing cannabis in Canada been a good thing? The debate in Canada surrounding the legalization of cannabis has been framed based on the purposes of the Cannabis Act and its dual objectives of protecting public health and maintaining public safety. In this talk, I will argue that to understand the future of cannabis in Canada, we should look to the past. Location: BAC 201 Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: Collections of Curios Presenter: Wendy Robicheau Description: Come and hold history in Acadia's Archives and Special Collections. Let us excite your curiosity with selections from the vast collections of curios. Please note: No food or drink is allowed in the research space. Clean hands are required to handle items. Location: VML 214 Available in Session: 2</p>	 
<p>Title: Compost, Carbon Dioxide and Food Production...the Perfect Loop Presenter: Paul Arnold Description: The presentation describes and demonstrates the research that captures the carbon dioxide released from a compost process, cleans it, and delivers it to a small</p>	

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<p>greenhouse to increase its productivity. Waste plant matter is then delivered to the compost reactor where the process is repeated.</p> <p>Location: KCIC Auditorium</p> <p>Available in Session: 2</p>	
<p>Title: Consumer Dream Technology</p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Ken Raj Leslie</p> <p>Description: Dr. Leslie is an expert in sleep and dreaming. He is also the founder and CEO of MotionBed Inc., a sleep-tech start-up based in Kentville NS. He has developed a novel dream tech app called DreamDirector, built on the Apple Watch and iPhone. DreamDirector helps you remember and influence your dreams and have lucid dreams. Dr. Leslie's research at Acadia has focused on developing DreamDirector as a home sleep lab to allow for home sleep and dream studies, to advance our understanding of sleep and dreaming.</p> <p>Please note: Bring an Apple Watch and iPhone, if you have them.</p> <p>Location: BAC 207</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: De-stress at the Library with snakes and therapy dog(s)</p> <p>Presenter: Mike Beazley</p> <p>Description: Experience what the library has to offer to our students to de-stress during exams.</p> <p>Session 1 – Pete's Snakes</p> <p>Session 3 – Therapy Dogs</p> <p>Location: VML Quiet Reading Room</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: Exploring the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. Snoezelen Room: A Multi-Sensory Experience</p> <p>Presenter: Roxanne Seaman & Rayona Silverman</p> <p>Description: This interactive session will introduce conference attendees to the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. Snoezelen Room, a specially designed multi-sensory environment that supports individuals of all abilities. Snoezelen experiences has been widely used to promote relaxation, engagement, and sensory stimulation for individuals with disabilities, dementia, and sensory processing challenges. Attendees will learn about the principles of Snoezelen, its benefits, and how it can be integrated into therapeutic and recreational settings. The session will also provide a hands-on experience with various sensory elements, including soothing lights, tactile surfaces, and calming sounds. By immersing themselves in the Snoezelen environment, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how multi-sensory stimulation can enhance well-being, reduce anxiety, and support diverse populations. This session offers valuable insights into the power of sensory-based experiences.</p> <p>Max Enrolment: 10</p> <p>Please note: Shoes are not permitted to be worn in the Snoezelen room, socks are recommended.</p> <p>Location: AAC 201</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 2</p>	 
<p>Title: Find your favorite fossil!</p> <p>Presenter: Deanne van Rooyen</p> <p>Description: Come and explore some of the fossils in our collection and learn how geologists use fossils to reconstruct past environments. Learn how to identify some of the major fossil groups you may find in local rocks and see some ancient relatives of our modern animals.</p> <p>Location: HSH 057</p> <p>Available in Session: 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Flavour Alchemy: When Sour Turns Sweet</p> <p>Presenter: Jamal Amyoony</p> <p>Description: What if a lemon tasted like candy? Join this short, interactive sensory test using miracle berry, a natural fruit that temporarily turns sour flavors sweet. Come challenge your taste buds and experience how flexible your senses really are.</p>	 






Session Description	Modality
<p>Location: HSH 422 Available in Session: 2</p>	
<p>Title: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - Acadia's Biocontrol Initiative to Protect our forests + Biocontrol Facility Tour Presenter: Kirk Hillier Description: I will present some background on the massive impact of invasive HWA on Nova Scotia's forests, and research that Acadia and its partners are engaged in to preserve our Hemlocks. Following this, participants will be provided with a brief tour highlighting the new Biocontrol Facility developed in the KCIESC research greenhouses. Location: KCIC Auditorium Available in Session: 1</p>	  
<p>Title: How Do Loudspeakers Work? Presenter: Michael Robertson Description: Have you ever wondered how sound is reproduced in a loudspeaker, or why we put speakers in boxes? If so, this is the talk for you! We will start by exploring a couple of the terms used to describe sound, move onto what the parts of a speaker do, and finish with a listening party using a couple of pairs of homemade loudspeakers (audio on a budget). There will be plenty of demonstrations, and hopefully some fun along the way. Location: HSH 147 Available in Session: 1</p>	  
<p>Title: Improving our Communication Presenter: Laura Churchill Duke Description: As a communications instructor for kinesiology and nursing students, Laura's aim is to not teach facts, but to teach skills. One of the big things employers are noticing about new employees is that they don't have the ability to make small talk, and they can't make eye contact when talking. This could be a result of COVID, the heavy reliance on phones, and an increase in anxiety. Laura spends a lot of time teaching people how to talk and feel comfortable in doing so. She uses a lot of activities to get people talking and you will learn about different barriers that get in the way of conversations. This hands-on workshop will use some of these activities and can be transferable to one's own unit or personal life. Please note: Please arrive with a Willingness to participate in activities Location: BAC 234 Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	  
<p>Title: Inclusion benefits everyone: Stories from Axxess Acadia Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Initiative Presenters: Anna MacDonald, Grace Smith, Katie Forman, Mary Sweatman Description: Acadia is one of only three universities in Nova Scotia to offer an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) initiative, and if you haven't heard of us, we would love to tell you all about the initiative in this session. Axxess Acadia opens doors for students who cannot access university through traditional admissions requirements and strengthens our campus by growing a culture of belonging, contribution, and mutual learning. In this panel discussion, we will share stories of inclusion from multiple perspectives within the Axxess Acadia Inclusive Post-Secondary Education initiative. We'll begin with a brief overview of Axxess, and the roles represented on the panel. Panelists will include Axxess Program Coordinators, an Axxess participant and communications coordinator, a tutor/fellow student, and a faculty member. Together, we'll reflect on what inclusion looks like in practice, how involvement in Axxess has shaped our thinking and relationships, and how the program supports social integration across campus. We'll close with time for questions and conversation. Location: BAC 244 Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: Inside the Message Machine: How Political Communication Works Presenter: Alex Marland</p>	

Session Description	Modality
<p>Description: This interactive session provides a behind-the-scenes look at how political messaging is created, coordinated, and communicated in today's media environment.</p> <p>Location: BAC 241</p> <p>Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: International Climate Change Politics: A Simulation</p> <p>Presenter: Andrew Biro</p> <p>Description: In this session, we will go through a simulation that I use to teach about international climate change politics. The simulation presents a highly simplified version of the negotiations that happen under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which have been going on for over 30 years. Despite (or because) of its simplicity, the simulation highlights some important dynamics and challenges faced by those seeking to deal with climate change at the international level.</p> <p>Location: BAC 239</p> <p>Available in Session: 1</p>	  
<p>Title: Library Supports for Accessibility: Staff and Students Alike!</p> <p>Presenter: Maggie Neilson</p> <p>Description: This session introduces Acadia's administrative professionals to the range of accessibility services and resources offered through the Library. Designed for staff who regularly interact with students, the session will highlight how to recognize information access needs and connect students to appropriate supports, including accessible course materials, assistive technologies, and library services for individuals with print disabilities. Importantly, the session also emphasizes that many of these resources are available to staff as well as students, supporting accessibility in daily work and professional development. Participants will learn about accessible physical and digital library spaces, alternative format services (including NNELS), and how the Library collaborates with the Accessible Learning Office. The goal is to equip administrative staff with practical knowledge to foster a more inclusive campus while supporting both student success and staff accessibility needs.</p> <p>discovery.</p> <p>Location: BAC 236</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 2</p>	
<p>Title: Lower Back Health</p> <p>Presenter: Sarah MacKinnon</p> <p>Description: An anatomy review of the lumbar spine and an explanation of some of the most common causes of low back pain. An emphasis will be placed on practical strategies to help prevent low back pain in the workplace. Participants should wear clothing that is easy to move in.</p> <p>Location: BAC 229</p> <p>Available in Session: 1</p>	  
<p>Title: Making the Invisible Visible Again</p> <p>Presenter: Michael Robertson</p> <p>Description: It sometimes happens that ink used in the preparation of documents fades resulting in reduced contrast between the ink and substrate (paper, parchment, pottery, photograph, etc.), often to the point where the writing is no longer readable. One method for recovering contrast between the ink and substrate is to use imaging techniques involving a variety of light sources, filters, and cameras. Even though the ink may be invisible using normal indoor lighting and our eyes, residual ink may absorb, reflect or luminesce with colors outside the normal range of human vision. In this talk, an introduction to the methods used for imaging outside of the normal human range of vision and applications to a variety of documents and paintings will be presented. Please feel free to bring along any faded documents and we can have a go at restoration.</p> <p>Location: HSH 147</p> <p>Available in Session: 2</p>	  










Session Description	Modality
<p>Title: Pathology 100</p> <p>Presenter: Melanie Coombs, Glenys Gibson, and Wasundara Fernando</p> <p>Description: Interested in knowing what happens to our dynamic tissues when we get sick? Join us in Pathology 100! In this mini-lab, you'll get a chance to see what happens at a cellular and tissue level in cancers and some other diseases. Also, you'll get to see the way some Biology labs work, for both teaching and research.</p> <p>Location: BIOL 240</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Prototyping with the Acadia Engineering Department</p> <p>Presenter: Angelo Posteraro</p> <p>Description: Join the engineering department for a tour of the lab and workshop spaces, learn how the onsite capabilities could assist research measurement and prototyping requirements, and participate in a short activity using our CAD/CAM tools.</p> <p>Location: CAR 215</p> <p>Available in Session: 1</p>	 
<p>Title: Real-Time: the news as a textbook</p> <p>Presenter: Geoffrey Whitehall</p> <p>Description: I share an experiment in teaching politics in real time by treating the news (The New York Times) as the course textbook. I explore the strengths, weaknesses and challenges.</p> <p>Location: BAC 237</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 2</p>	 
<p>Title: ReconciliaACTION: Working to Amplify Indigenous Voices through Community Learning</p> <p>Presenters: Cynthia J. Alexander, D. Beverly McKee, and Daniel Saunite-Filho</p> <p>Description: Drawing on the ReconciliaACTION Series—a student-centred campus-community learning initiative at Acadia University in Fall 2024—we share insights into how, when given the opportunity, students are keen to engage as well-informed, visionary young leaders working to decolonize our campus and society. This interactive, participatory session illustrates how, as campus community members and as citizens, our individual decolonizing efforts (including daily micro-actions) are critically important in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Location: KCIC Auditorium</p> <p>Available in Session: 3</p>	
<p>Title: Reimagining Research at Acadia: Youth, Participation, and Purpose</p> <p>Presenter: Kristin S. Williams</p> <p>Description: The Student Research Lab is a youth-engaged research initiative hosted at Acadia University and led by Prudentia Institute, a registered charity dedicated to advancing youth empowerment through research and knowledge mobilization. Recognized as one of Acadia's research centres of excellence, the Lab demonstrates how rigorous scholarship and meaningful community engagement can work together to create impact. This information session invites Acadia employees to learn more about the Lab and to celebrate the impressive work being carried out by youth researchers. High school students aged 15–18 participate in the Lab as co-researchers, not research subjects. Over an intensive, 14-week, ethics-approved program, youth design and conduct qualitative research, analyze data, and mobilize findings on issues that matter deeply to them, including empowerment, engagement, employment, and advocacy. The Lab functions as both a high-impact research program and a developmental experience, contributing to peer-reviewed scholarship while building youth confidence, leadership, and critical insight. The session also highlights how the Lab aligns with Acadia's commitments to research excellence, experiential learning, and community partnership.</p> <p>Location: BAC 235</p> <p>Available in Session: 3</p>	

Session Description	Modality
<p>Title: Repeat but don't repeat: The role of repetition in learning and retaining new skills</p> <p>Presenter: Krissy Keech</p> <p>Description: In their first year, music students discover what the latest brain research says about making new skills "stick." These principles apply to learning all skills, not just music! So, learn like a music student, and apply these concepts to whatever new thing you're trying to master! Be prepared to participate a little with some minimal movement while seated. Please note: We will do some clapping and tapping, so loose clothing is preferable, but not required.</p> <p>Location: HDH 226</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Research Ethics and Integrity at Acadia</p> <p>Presenter: Stephanie Jones</p> <p>Description: Highlighting what research involving humans at Acadia looks like/ Acadia Research Ethics Board, mandate, and purview.</p> <p>Location: BAC 238</p> <p>Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: River Magic: Reflections on Research and Guiding on Wilderness Rivers in Western Canada</p> <p>Presenter: John Colton</p> <p>Description: The Tatshenshini Alsek River is a British Columbia Provincial Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Often called the Grand Canyon of the North, it is renowned for its glacial scenery and wildlife diversity, while also supporting cultural and economic life from the seasonal salmon fishery at the river's mouth to the traditional territories of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. Drawing on 35 years of wilderness river-raft guiding and research in this region, John reflects on a career shaped by the river, including early work on protected areas management, advocacy to help protect wilderness places like the Tatshenshini/Alsek Rivers, and emerging questions about the implications of climate change for the watershed and the people connected to it.</p> <p>Location: BAC 238</p> <p>Available in Session: 1</p>	 
<p>Title: Safety Awareness at Home - being prepared for an emergency at home</p> <p>Presenter: Safety & Security Speaker</p> <p>Description: Acadia's Department of Safety and Security is excited to host the Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator to present Safety Awareness at Home - being prepared for an emergency at home - what to pack, what to have, where to go!</p> <p>Location: BAC 234</p> <p>Available in Session: 2</p>	
<p>Title: Security, Technology, and Liberties in 21st Century</p> <p>Presenter: Can E. Mutlu</p> <p>Description: The role of technology in global security practices is increasing. This is coming at the cost of individual freedoms and liberties. The liberty/security balance is at a disequilibrium. This lecture will look at the issues impacting individual rights and freedoms, how they are related to the increasing use of technology - especially in spaces like borders.</p> <p>Location: BAC 239</p> <p>Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Take a Breath - Movement Snack</p> <p>Presenter: Susan Barratt</p> <p>Description: Take a few minutes to reconnect to your body. Release tension using breathing and gentle movements accessible to all bodies and fitness levels. The session will draw on inspiration from tai chi, yoga, Antigym, and other movement modalities. Bring water. Be prepared to remove your shoes.</p> <p>Location: BAC 229</p> <p>Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	

Session Description	Modality
<p>Title: The Acadia Observatory Presenter: Peter Williams Description: I will give an overview of the observatory and how it is used. If the weather is clear I will try to show some images of the Sun. Location: BAC 203 Available in Session: 2</p>	
<p>Title: The Art of Controlled Chaos: A Choose Your Own Adventure Trauma Simulation Presenter: Tori Dawson and Elizabeth Deutsch Description: This interactive Choose Your Own Adventure Trauma Simulation offers conference attendees a hands-on look into how nursing students think, decide, and act in high-pressure clinical situations. Designed within the BScN program, the session invites participants to step into the role of the care team as a simulated trauma patient's condition evolves. Attendees will select nursing interventions at key decision points and immediately see how those choices impact patient outcomes. Unlike traditional simulations, participants can rewind the scenario, revise decisions, and explore how alternative actions change the trajectory of care. The experience concludes with a guided debrief using the Critical Judgement Model, helping participants understand how nurses prioritize information, anticipate risks, and respond to rapidly changing situations. This engaging session is intentionally accessible to non-clinical audiences and highlights the complexity, teamwork, and critical thinking involved in nursing practice. Please note: Please bring water and eat before coming. Location: EMM 108B Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	  
<p>Title:The Cassandra Project: Crisis Prediction through Literary Analysis Presenter: Dr. Julia Poertner Description: The Canadian outpost for Project Cassandra at Acadia University is analyzing narratives of nature and culture in the Arctic region and looks at broader geopolitical issues related to Canada's international relations. Named after the mythological figure Cassandra, whose accurate predictions of doom were ignored by those around her, the Cassandra Project highlights how narratives can serve as early warnings of impending crises. Literary works often reflect the cultural and societal shifts that precede political instability, violence, and environmental challenges. The Cassandra Project demonstrates that through literary analysis, early indicators of emerging crises, from social tensions to regional conflicts, can be detected far before they become visible in more traditional, data-driven reports. Location: BAC 207 Available in Session: 2</p>	 
<p>Title: The highest tides in the world? Presenter: Richard Karsten Description: We have been told that the Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world (more particularly in Minas Basin near Burntcoat Head). But is this true? A recent project near Tasiujaq in Northern Quebec aims to wrest the title from the Bay of Fundy. What makes the tides so high? How do we determine where they are the highest? What can we do to win the title back? Location: BAC 206 Available in Session: 2 and 3</p>	 
<p>Title: Tour Our Historic Campus Presenter: Wendy Robicheau Description: Think you know the campus? Walk back in time with Wendy and see the campus as it was before 1920. Buildings and stories await your discovery. Please note: Dress for the weather as this tour will be outside Location: VML Lobby Available in Session: 3</p>	 

Session Description	Modality
<p>Title: Tour: A Grand Pré History Tour: A Virtual Bike, Hike or Drive with our QR Code Phone App.</p> <p>Presenter: Glyn Bissix</p> <p>Description: Take a ride back into History with an Interactive QR code Phone App. Bring your Android or I-Phone and within minutes you'll be taking a virtual tour of Grand Pré's storied history from the Mi'kmaw Legend of Glooscap to the Acadian's amazing engineering that is The Landscape of Grand Pré. You'll be bemused by Longfellow's Evangeline, be uneasy with our lingering connection to the slave trade and intrigued by the New England Planters. And, as you step forward to the present, you'll be amazed by our farmers' resilience to climate change and sea level rise. In an instant, you'll become skilled tour guides to both entertain and educate your family, friends, and tourists. Once tuned in to our app, you'll be able to hop on a bike for a jolt along the Harvest Moon Trail or take a more leisurely car ride.</p> <p>Please note: Bring your Android or I Phone.</p> <p>Location: BAC 203</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	  
<p>Title: What are you playing for? Introducing the Acadia Centre for Critical Play (ACCP)</p> <p>Presenter: Jon Saklofske</p> <p>Description: The Acadia Centre for Critical Play (ACCP) is an on-campus space in which video games can be critically explored, experienced, and understood in an Arts and Humanities context. It consists of a substantial playable collection of digital game hardware and software from the last 50 years, including console, computer, and VR experiences. The ACCP also houses a focused library of video game studies publications for researchers and students. Unique to Atlantic Canada, the Centre will serve as a hub for video game studies and research in the region, establishing Acadia as a leader in this rapidly-growing and increasingly important area of scholarship. In short, the ACCP is a place for research and exploration, a site for experiencing playable history, and a place to encourage critical thinking about an interactive media form that's shaping the life experiences of most of our students. What are you playing for?</p> <p>Location: VML 239</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 3</p>	
<p>Title: What do rocks look like on the inside?</p> <p>Presenter: Deanne van Rooyen</p> <p>Description: Ever wonder what geologists do with microscopes? Would you like to see what your favorite rocks look like on the inside? This presentation will take you on a tour through the microscopy laboratories in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science and show you a technique we use to look at rocks on micro-scale. Join us for a look at local and faraway rocks using petrographic microscopes.</p> <p>Bonus activity: bring your favorite rock for ID and we'll find something similar in our collection to check out using the microscopes.</p> <p>Max Enrolment: 15</p> <p>Location: HSH 312</p> <p>Available in Session: 1 and 2</p>	

Modality Legend

 Case Study	 Debate	 Demonstration	 Discussion	 Hands-on
 Lecture	 Panel	 Performance	 Tour	