

# A Moment with... Dr. Sydney Scott

You may know Dr. Scott from the classroom setting, or see her breezing by in one of her colourful outfits.

Recently, we had a chance to sit down and chat informally with Dr. Scott. Here's how it went:

## Why did you choose to teach?

I didn't. I got called. I was a corporate banker. My university asked if I would come in and teach a course and I laughed because I didn't see myself as an academic. It was University of Alberta. I went in and taught and loved it. Didn't go back to corporate banking and have been teaching ever since.

## Who would you say was most influential in your life?

Dr. Scott in her office. Photo credit: Shilpa Samji.

It would be a tie between my father and son.

## What was your first paying job?

My very first job was at a ski store selling boots and supplies. I was 15 pretending to be 16.

## What book are you currently reading?

(laughs) Which one? I tend to read about 4 – 5 books at any one time.

## Reading is one of your passions?

Absolutely.

## What's your favourite Food?

I like fresh, tasty savoury food. I will try anything I can eat.

## Complete this sentence: On a Saturday afternoon, you're most likely to be found...?

Grading or reading a book.

## Do you have any kids?

I have a fabulous son that I love with my whole heart.

## If you could have lunch with anyone (dead or alive) who would it be?

George Clooney.

## What's the best thing about teaching for you?

When the student's face lights up and they go, "ah!" That's magical for me.

## Advice to graduating students going into the "real" world?

Work in an area you love, and follow your passion. And passion ideally for me, would not be money, but the passion of what you really want to spend the hours of your life doing... and money will come.

## Advice to students in general?

You've got an opportunity to play with learning with low risk here. Take advantage of it. Stretch yourself. Go into areas that people think are weird or crazy or whatever. Go to the edges of the learning and have fun.

## Tell me something about what you teach.

My dissertation is on how we can develop as leaders into wise leaders. Something that I'm passionate about is helping people break through the stereotype of leading and become a true leader.

## Do you have a favourite quote?

Yogi Berra: "The future ain't what it used to be."



## The Facts:

**Been with UCW since:**  
2008

**Position:**  
Faculty Member and  
Dean of Business &  
Management

**Teaches:**  
Strategy, Leadership  
and Change

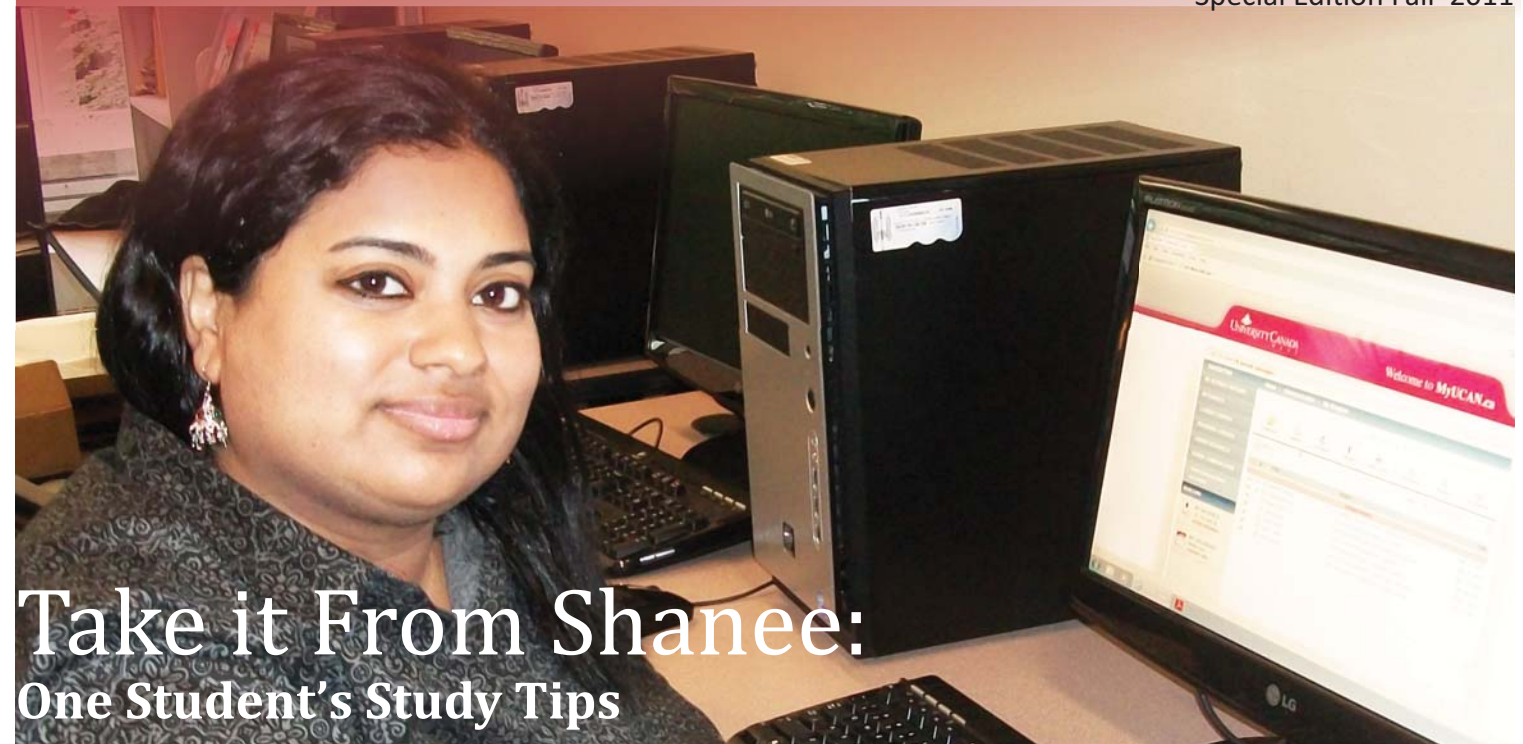
**Background:**  
B.Sc.  
MBA  
PhD



University Canada West

# UCW Round Up

Special Edition Fall 2011



## Take it From Shanee: One Student's Study Tips

Shanee in the computer lab. Photo credit: Lisa Duong

"Never count the pages!" was the response when asked about tackling long reading assignments.

At 24, Shanee Philip has completed her Bachelor of Commerce (Bcom) degree and started a successful accounting business. She is currently enrolled in UCW's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, on track for completion at age 25, and is a member of UCW's Student Committee.

Predictably, her achievements didn't come without hard work. In order to complete her BCom degree in one and a half years, she chose to attend University Canada West due to its compressed terms and smaller class sizes. At any given time, Shanee shouldered seven to eight courses. Once, she even took nine courses in one term.

"I miscalculated the courses. In the first two weeks you don't realize the load. It's only in the third week when it gets hectic. There was a time when I felt like I just needed to sleep for two days," she said. "Seven courses is comfortable. One course a day."

However, Shanee admitted that she works better under pressure. Taking more courses pushed her to focus and absorb course material. "When I'm disciplined, I study really well."

To help her out, Shanee's sister gifted her a large whiteboard, where on one side she listed all of the courses she completed and on the other side, a weekly "Sunday to Monday" calendar was made for the courses she was currently taking. She added in her class schedule, assignment deadlines and other obligations.

Any completed tasks were marked in green, while incomplete tasks were moved to other spots on the calendar.

With slow music playing from iTunes in the background, Shanee highlighted and made notes on post-its as she read. Sometimes she checked the assigned homework questions prior to reading the text "because those are the important points in the chapter."

Other study tips include knowing the value of practical examples attached to theories, and the value of collaboration amongst classmates. "Case studies are more like stories,

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# President's Message

Congratulations to Harmanpreet Singh for naming this special edition of our Newsletter. And sincere thanks to others who so generously and creatively submitted naming entries.

Enhancing student engagement within our university community is a priority, as is providing exemplary student service. We are working to create more opportunities for student/faculty/staff communication - online and in person.

Whether it is through formal means including course and program

evaluations or student input to Academic Council, or through informal venues such as Town Hall Meetings, Coffee with the President, or Student Appreciation Days, we are genuinely listening and seeking to respond to ideas and recommendations.

Our Student Committee is another valued source of student opinion for UCW. Please consider becoming involved in the Committee and participating in upcoming student events.

Effective communication is a two-way commitment and has two-way

benefits. We welcome your perspectives and hope you enjoy this Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Verna Magee-Shepherd

## Mark your Calendars!

Thanksgiving Holiday:  
October 10, 2011

Graduation:  
November 19, 2011

# Support for Success (...Continued from front cover)

so it's easier to interpret the situation. It's easier to understand the tools." When it comes to presentations, "make notes as much as you can. That makes life very easy."

She can study for long periods of time, such as the stretch between breakfast and lunch, then lunch and dinner. At peak exam times, her sisters would sometimes bring food into her room to ensure she's not missing meals.



Shanee with her sisters, Shine (left) and Shama (middle) Photo submitted.

It seems like books rule her life, but Shanee never limits social events. She likes to garden, cook, dance and listen to music. She goes to church on Sunday and Tuesday evenings, and fills in as a Sunday school teacher from time to time. She rarely turns down an opportunity for fun. "If I'm out with a friend, I never look at the watch at all."

For example, if her social time cuts into two hours of allotted study time, she will add on half-hour sessions through four days to make

up for the lost time. Another trick is to let her family know that she has an exam the next day, so they are the ones reminding her to leave a family function early.

Her family, especially her two older sisters are an integral part to her academic success. "My sisters understand when I fall behind, even before I realize it."

They, along with friends, were also the force that encouraged Shanee to start her own business.

"Towards the end of 2010, I started my own accounting service. I did taxes for students from the university as well as students from the outside. The family support was always there."

This year, in addition to earning her MBA, Shanee plans to volunteer for The Canadian Red Cross and other organizations.

# Understanding Academic Council and Its Student Reps

Analogous to a Senate, Academic Council is a formal body that focuses on academic quality including policy and program approval. According to the Council's by-laws, the council "speaks for the academic standards and requirements of the University."

UCW's Academic Council currently has 16 members. The Council is made up of: the University's president, Vice-President Academic, Deans, board-appointed member, Registrar, Librarian, support staff and faculty members, along with student representatives and alumni.

At this time, Ebrahim Jadwet is the student representative for undergraduate students, while Robert Grant represents the graduate student body. They both feel that student representation is an important component of the Council and their roles are to act as a voice for students at Council meetings. They gather feedback from fellow students and give their opinion from the students' perspective on issues raised at the meetings.

"The main pillar of the university is students. Academic Council is a link between UCW management and students," said Jadwet.

"I think it's critical for students to be actively involved with the development of programs. In a way, UCW has developed its programs with students as opposed to for students," added Grant.

While the Council routinely meets four times per year, the work of the undergraduate and graduate representatives is ongoing, as they



From left: Graduate representative, Robert Grant; Undergraduate representative, Ebrahim Jadwet. Photos submitted.

continually talk to fellow students to better understand any upcoming needs.

Since becoming a member in February, 2011, Jadwet has attended all meetings and even booked his vacation around Council's meeting schedule. If he cannot attend in person, Grant will attend the meetings via teleconference.

Jadwet is very proud to be a member of Academic Council and a voice of the students.

Likewise, Grant finds it rewarding that he is, "helping shape the future for fellow students."

**"The main pillar of the university is students. Academic Council is a link between UCW management and students."**

## Easy Student Tips on Staying Healthy

**Eat.** Stay away from processed or packaged foods with high fat and sugar content that will cause an energy crash. Remember to eat regularly and avoid the trip to McDonalds when studying late.

**Be active.** From sitting in the classroom, to sitting while studying, to sitting while on the computer or watching T.V. - students sit a lot! Remember to move those muscles by taking a walk between classes or after meals. Join a gym or get your friends together to play sports.

**Sleep.** Get into the routine of sleeping and waking up at the same times. Avoiding exercise or a large meal before bed may help give you a more restful slumber.