



For immediate release

BCS welcomes first alumnus Scholar-in-Residence

It is our pleasure to announce Hannah Walti, BCS'12, as our third—and first alumnus—Scholar-in-Residence. Hannah is a documentary filmmaker from Southern Quebec whose most recent work, *The Polar Bear Project*, follows the Inuit community of Inukjuak. She will join us on campus from April 6 - 20, inclusively.

After graduating from BCS in 2012, Hannah moved to London to study at the MET Film School in Ealing Studios. As a director, she believes in exploring and widening her understanding of the world by seeking and telling exceptional stories outside of the mainstream. Other projects of hers include documentaries about remote and/or isolated communities, including cloistered nuns in London and a clinic for children with intellectual deficiencies.

The Polar Bear Project is extremely dear to Hannah's heart and has an even greater BCS connection. Fellow Class of 2012 graduate Dr. H  l  ne Babakissa is also involved; H  l  ne has been the general practice doctor of the Inukjuak community for the last year and a half.

"At BCS, we were taught to look further than ourselves, to look outside, to question, and to discover as much as we could about the world. We were taught to expand our horizons and our knowledge, to always strive for excellence in our work and goodness in our hearts.

The Polar Bear Project's main goal is to do just that. It is intended as a collaborative work, a platform for Inukjuak and its community, and is directed in accordance with the residents of the village and with respect and forward thinking."

- Hannah Walti, BCS'12

Given the BCS connection and influence, it was a natural fit for BCS to sign on as a sponsor. With filming still in progress, we are honoured to have Hannah join us on campus to share her love and extensive expertise of filmmaking with our community. During her two-week tenure, she will be presenting in chapel—both about her time at BCS and its influence on her life and career, as well as about *The Polar Bear Project* itself. She has also prepared a comprehensive workshop on documentary filmmaking for interested students (see details below).

Workshop A - Realism, reality, and magic in documentary filmmaking

Introduction

- screening of part of *Nanook of the North (1922)*, with a commentary on exoticism, fiction, and the ethnographic trap;
- screening of part of *Nalujuk Night (2021)*, Jennie Williams' short documentary and the use of magical realism to shine a light on society and culture;

- screening/presentation of materials from *The Polar Bear Project* location scout (a comparison on realistic vs fantasized depictions of the north, and a healthy mix of harsh reality and magical realism in the documentary).

Execution

- shooting a short documentary self-portrait on the concept of HOME;
- prepping for a documentary shoot; writing a script, finding main axes and making plans;
- equipment, angles, and how we film people and places to make them look a certain way that will feed our story;
 - magical realism elements in the documentary (planning for moments and visuals that feed the soul of the story, and how to shoot them);
 - green light and sharing ideas with others;
 - the shoot will take place at the students' convenience in-between April 6 and April 20, with Hannah available as counsel and tech support.

The BCS Scholar-in-Residence program, made possible by the generous support of the Eric T. Webster Foundation, Cynthia Baxter, KHC'52 and family, and the R. Howard Webster Foundation, fuels a spirit of innovation, an outside-the-box perspective, and a mindset focused on the advancement of knowledge, teaching, and learning at BCS for students and faculty alike.

About Bishop's College School

Established in 1836 in Quebec, Canada, Bishop's College School (BCS) is an IB World School offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and certificates. With a 250-acre campus bordered by farmland and rolling hills on one side and by the city of Sherbrooke on the other, BCS is a small, welcoming community and a second home to students from over 35 different countries. We create a caring community of learning and development where cultures connect and individuals matter. By embracing a rigorous yet supportive academic program and a well-rounded education that includes athletics, the arts, leadership and development, and global citizenship, BCS is preparing students to become tomorrow's leaders. We offer a Bilingual Option (English and French), as well as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program, and are a proud member of Round Square, through which students can go on exchanges and volunteer abroad.

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