

Waking up and getting involved

Contributed by Madison Blue
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Newell takes college social networking to a new level

Most students don't even like to talk to their roommate first thing in the morning, let alone the entire college.

Patrick Newell, a second-year radio broadcasting student does just that. Waking up at 4:30 a.m. he heads to the college to do his first CKDJ Radio show. The 21-year-old will attend class and possibly have a meeting for an event or organization, all before lunchtime.

Newell is one of the college's 12 senior student leaders who direct and supervise other student leaders for on and off campus events.

When Newell got his acceptance to Algonquin residence and residence council, he wasn't expecting this to be his daily routine. "My classmates always joke that between classes when we walk down the halls, I always have to stop by someone's office just to say hello, or I say hi to 20 kids in the hallway I know," said Newell.

With upwards of 1,500 facebook friends Newell has become a crucial part of the Algonquin College student network.

Newell is involved with a number of organizations and groups on and off campus. He helps out with activities ranging from varsity soccer to appearances at The Observatory, with events often overlapping.

"I like getting to meet new people at every event, whether it be hosting Gonqfest and getting to meet Down With Webster, or just doing orientation and getting to meet all the new students; encouraging them to become involved and have the same passion and love for Algonquin as I do," said Newell.

All of this glory doesn't come easy. Newell invests most of his time on college projects and organizing orientation. Last winter, Newell and three other students along with Student Transition Coordinator Jeremy McQuigge, attended the National Orientation Directors Association's annual conference in Michigan.

"I got more in depth with leadership through Jeremy McQuigge," added Newell. He and McQuigge will also be attending this year's conference in New Orleans.

"That's when I

realized how much of a difference a volunteer position like being a student leader can make on someone," said Newell.