

Fall 2018 | VOLUME 94

Durham College Alumni Magazine

Reflections

**SNAPSHOTS IN ACTION:
THE 48-HOUR FILM CHALLENGE
TAKES THE STAGE**



**DURHAM
COLLEGE**
SUCCESS MATTERS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fall is an exciting time of year that signifies change and new beginnings for all of us. I would like to congratulate the more than 4,000 Durham College (DC) students who received their credentials during this year's Spring Convocation in June. We had the pleasure of presenting an Alumni of Distinction award to four deserving recipients – Chief Bryant Wood (1990), Manjula Selvarajah (2014), Kurtis Sisk (2000), and Roland Kielbasiewicz (1990) – all of whom have made extraordinary contributions to society while also achieving career success.

The Durham College Alumni Association (DCAA) is here to serve its members by listening to their voices throughout the year as well as at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our AGM was held at the new Centre for Collaboration and Education (CFCE) on September 12 where we highlighted a year of achievements and many new initiatives that benefit both DC students and alumni. The event included guided tours, a special reception and ribbon cutting ceremony, unveiling the new Durham College Alumni Association Café in recognition of our \$250,000 pledge to the capital campaign. The CFCE is an amazing building that will serve generations to come and we are incredibly proud to be a part of this legacy.

In November, we look forward to attending the 2018 Premier's Awards Gala hosted by Colleges Ontario when we celebrate Ontario's outstanding college graduates. This year our nominees are Brandon Bird (2012), Manjula Selvarajah (2014) and Lorraine

Sunstrum-Mann (1988).

Change and new beginnings are also happening at the DCAA. I am so pleased to welcome Michele Roberts as the incoming President and four new directors to the board, Ryan Cullen, Brent Lessard, Doug Duplantis and Cameron Ackerblade. We are heading into a new year with a strong and diverse board of directors and I am excited at what this new collaboration will bring.

Looking ahead, our alumni membership will grow to over 100,000 by the year 2021 and so our focus has been about connections and engagement! The DCAA has been hard at work, with outreach programs, meeting with alumni for coffee connections, heading to the classroom to connect with students – our future alumni, and connecting with businesses to help grow our affinity program. We've made some wonderful connections and our alumni never cease to amaze and impress!

I am honoured to have served as President of the DCAA for the last year. As we all transition into new beginnings, remember that the DCAA exists to serve you. We welcome your feedback and we hope that you will stay connected with us, to enjoy the many benefits that we offer. For the latest news and updates, please connect with us on Twitter @Alumni_DC, follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/durhamcollegealumni and join us on LinkedIn Durham College Alumni (for students and alumni).

I wish you all the best in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine Garnett".

Elaine Garnett, Class of 1990
President, DC Alumni Association

REFLECTIONS

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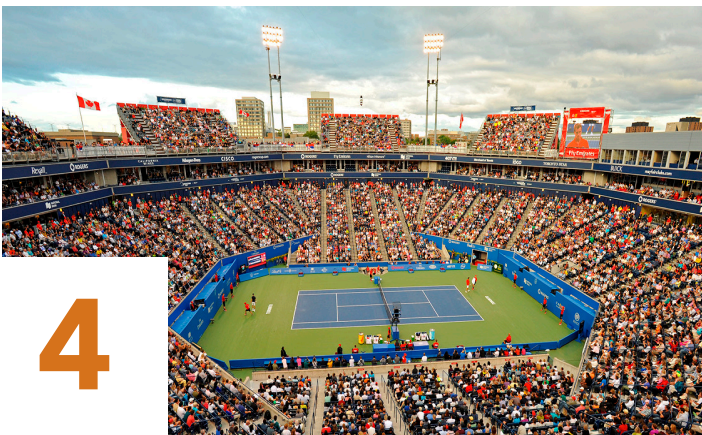
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From DC to Tennis Canada: Jake Krotowski Gives It His All

By Aaron Short

Photo Credit: Jake Krotowski

Game. Set. Match. Sports Administration grad Jake Krotowski hits an ace with Tennis Canada.

Krotowski sells and promotes high-profile tennis tournaments containing the world's top talent like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and Eugenie Bouchard, just to name a few. Along with the rest of his corporate sales team, Krotowski is responsible for generating millions of dollars for Tennis Canada through different sales tactics across various audiences. Durham College (DC) taught him a lot of valuable life skills that helped him get to where he is today.



Jake Krotowski rink-side at the Canadian Tire Centre

After careful consideration, Krotowski chose DC to study Sports Administration due to the program's reputation. He found the college's program provided more essential elements needed to help him get into the sports industry compared to many other programs he considered; making Durham College his top choice.

"It was everything I wanted and quicker, it was two years and an internship," says Krotowski, "I knew that in this industry an internship is what will get you into sports."

“Honestly, I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for Durham.”

Krotowski began his studies in the Sports Administration program in 2012 and described it as the time of his life. He found the entire program had such a strong group of professors who had real life experience in the sports industry. They knew it so well that students were able to get a real understanding of what it took to not only get into sports, but to stay in it. He fully believes he would not be where he is today without DC and these great professors.



Scenic Shot of the Aviva Centre where Jake works and hosts the Rogers Cup

For his school placement, Krotowski scored big getting an internship with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. (MLSE) as a ticket sales and service intern. He credits DC and his professor Matt Akler for helping him secure the amazing placement.

"The way the program is set up, you get exactly what employers are looking for and it allows you to actually reach out and make connections," says Krotowski. "Akler is really creating an engine at Durham that cycles people into the industry. He's the entire reason that I'm here today."

After bouncing around from MLSE to the Ottawa Senators and then to Tennis Canada, he credits every opportunity entirely to who he knew. One of his top tips to make it in the sports industry is to make connections. "Build relationships," says Krotowski. "You have to do things that set you apart and take every opportunity you get, because if you don't, the other 300 grads will." He encourages all students while they are still in school to reach out to a variety of industry professionals for a quick chat. It helps you stand out and make connections that could potentially help you in the future.

“If you build relationships the right way you will get a job regardless of your education and skill level.”

Since graduating from the program in 2015, Krotowski loves where he's at today. He hopes to one day go back to DC and teach students the right way to get into the industry, focusing on how to effectively make connections and keep them. He wants to encourage students to spend their free time volunteering, and to present themselves the right way on social channels; it's free marketing so take full advantage of it.

His message is clear – take initiative, get out and be actively making connections. Whether you're a student, new grad or have been an alumni for years, always be networking. You never know when a new connection could lead to your dream job. 🏆

A LIFE DEVOTED TO WORDS

Story and photos by Nicole Hann

It all began with a love for writing. From holding titles such as crime reporter, executive officer and travel writer, Donna Donaldson attributes most of her success to Durham College's (DC) Journalism Program.

Donaldson began her studies at Durham College in 1987 after months of working unpaid as a freelancer for a local weekly paper. Working as a freelancer opened up Donaldson's eyes to the world of journalism and all it had to offer. "I didn't get paid as a freelancer, my pay was seeing my name in print and being able to accumulate stories for a portfolio," says Donaldson.

With a burning desire to learn more about the field of journalism, Donaldson made the best decision of her life as she decided she would begin her journey into journalism at DC. Donaldson's studies in the program provided her with writing, photography and design skills. She was given the opportunity to write for The Chronicle, Durham College's student newspaper and became the first student to interview incoming DC president at that time, Gary Polonsky.

“I didn't get paid as a freelancer, my pay was seeing my name in print and being able to accumulate stories for a portfolio”

That opportunity led to her story being published in The Chronicle and to her having a long-standing relationship with the DC president, which she maintains to this day. Donaldson realized the importance of building relationships and networking with people who inspire you.

Donaldson graduated from the DC Journalism program and received the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild award for her academic achievement. Her first job was at the Pickering Bay News as a reporter/photographer covering the Town of Whitby. Left without a desk as a newbie reporter, Donaldson admits she would carry her typewriter into work every single day to type up her stories. She would also develop and print her own photographs.

Next, she was a full-time reporter/photographer at the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, which in turn led to a stint as a crime reporter for Oshawa/Whitby This Week. She covered some high-profile cases including the infamous Knob Hill Brinks robbery.

After the birth of her second child, Donaldson started her own company, "Front Page News Communications" where she took on freelance writing and photography jobs as well as design work. It was here where she started co-ordinating Metroland's New Homes and Interiors and real estate sections which led to her being approached to become Executive Officer of the Durham Region Home Builders' Association.

Donaldson's advice to aspiring journalists: Seize the day. "Whatever opportunities you get, whether it is paid or unpaid, you should take those opportunities and volunteer," she says. "You gain experience and when you go for a job interview, you will stand out having those things on top of your education." 📷



Donna Donaldson stays true to her journalistic roots with her camera, notepad and pen in hand.

Making it work in Digital Photography

By Tasha Jetha

Photo Credit: Katie Lynn & Co.

Katie Lynn's journey in the photography world keeps getting in sharper focus.

When Lynn enrolled in the Digital Photography program in fall of 2014, she had already graduated from university and had spent time in the work force. Commuting from nearby Newcastle, Ont., Lynn immersed herself in the program and absorbed the software, including Adobe and other media disciplines.

Working alongside industry professionals allowed Lynn to gain real world experience and insight to the type of work she hoped to be one day doing herself. The hands on experience offered in the Digital Photography program prepared Katie to start her own photography business and become an instructor in the Digital Photography program. Katie feels the variety of classes taught in the program sets students up with success when entering the working world and allows them to grow as photographers.

"All the classes I took gave me skills that benefited me years later," she says. "In every class there were parts I liked and there were parts I disliked."

Currently, Lynn runs her own photograph business called Katie Lynn & Co. (<https://katielynnandco.com/>) mainly focusing on weddings, commercial, lifestyle work (families and maternity) and more recently she has been expanding into videography for weddings. And everything came full circle last year when she

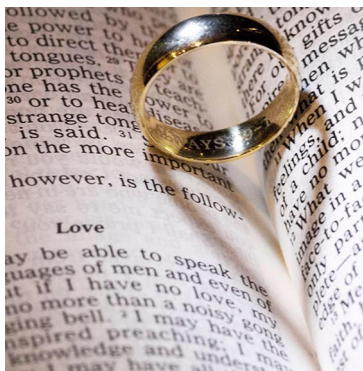
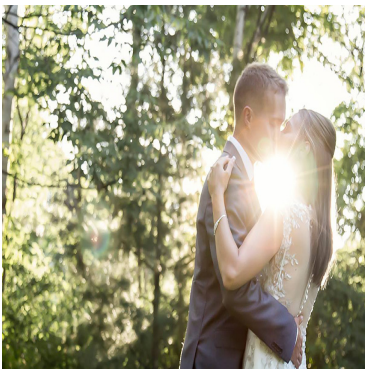


Katie Lynn, Digital Photography graduate of the Durham College Class of 2016.

was hired as a part-time instructor in the Digital Photography program, teaching one section of the Image Processing class, where she is sharing her knowledge with the next generation of photographers.

"All the classes I took gave me skills that benefited me years later," she says. "In every class there were parts I liked and there were parts I disliked."

Of course, one of the most challenging aspects of being a professional photographer today is the competition - everyone with an iPhone and Instagram account thinks they've captured the perfect digital moment in time. Lynn encourages her students to "always be shooting" and tells her students to stay on top of their assignments - especially in her class. 📷



Samples of various work Katie has produced while shooting weddings for her business Katie Lynn & Co.

Grow Your Way To Success

By Kyla Malcolm

Photo Credit: GrowWiseHealth.com

Cannabis is a rapidly growing and developing industry that continues to change daily. Whether being used for medical or recreational purposes, this industry is projected to produce millions, if not billions of dollars to the Canadian economy.

As Canada takes steps to end the prohibition on marijuana, Durham College (DC) is taking steps to integrate cannabis-related learning into many courses and programs. That's why the college introduced the two-day intensive Medical Cannabis Fundamentals for Business Professionals course, offered through the School of Continuing Education.

“

The word that best describes this industry is opportunity and Durham College wants to help people get ready to make the most of this opportunity.”

This course, designed primarily for business professionals who already have expertise in a specialized field (such as marketing, healthcare, accounting, etc.). It is specifically for people who want to start a career in the medical cannabis industry.

This course is designed for business professionals who already has expertise in a field of study and provides industry knowledge related to cannabis. The material taught is exactly what employers have said they want prospective employees to know and will leave students going into the industry with an understanding of how it works. Durham College has met with 20 licensed producers to discuss and listen to what they want and need in an incoming business professional.

“The word that best describes this industry is opportunity,” says Debbie Johnston, Dean of Continuing Education at Durham College. “And Durham College wants to help people get ready to make the most of this opportunity.”

Offered as both an in-class and on an online interactive simulcast, the course will have approximately 30 students in the

classroom, while the others will be on a live feed. This online access makes it easier for people outside of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), even outside of the province, to participate in this program. The class itself will have students participate and complete various exercises, class discussions and group work.

The course developer worked in close partnership with GrowWise Health. GrowWise Health provides people with knowledge to make informed decisions about their journey with cannabis. The relationship with GrowWise Health is the first of many that DC has established with major companies in this industry. As time goes on and the industry changes, programs will stay up-to-date through their strong connections with these organizations. This gives the college access to subject matter and people with knowledge in the industry. As time goes on, and the industry changes, the program will stay up to date through their connection with GrowWise Health.



GrowWise™

GrowWise Health provides patients and healthcare providers with personalized education to make informed choices about medical cannabis treatments.

This course is a one-of-a-kind in Ontario, and no other college yet offers anything like it. As the industry has grown ten fold, Medical Cannabis Fundamentals will garner a broad range of business professionals who want to expand their knowledge about this fast-paced industry. 🍃

Fast-Track Program Opens Doors

BY Alexandra Mcpeake
Photo by: Guilherme Siqueira

While most teenagers nervously prepare for their first day of high school, one new Canadian couldn't wait to start learning.

Guilherme Siqueira began his first year of high school shortly after arriving in Canada from his native Portugal at the age of 13. The struggles of learning a new language, meeting new people, and becoming accustomed to a new country were challenging, yet he earned top marks and eventually his high-school diploma in 2007.

Soon after, Siqueira was accepted into the University of Toronto, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. A few years later, looking to maximize his education in a short period of time, he enrolled in the Chemical Engineering Technology fast-track program at Durham College.

//

In my program, we're always helping each other get better grades, whether it's studying or seeing what we did for a certain lab report.

"I felt like I needed a little bit more hands-on experience in the field and I already had a lot of knowledge in chemistry, so the program seemed like a good fit," he says. "One of the things I liked about the program was that there was a co-op, so I would get to work with a company in the field."

Siqueira continued to work part-time at multiple jobs, as he had been for most of his post-secondary education, including tutoring high school students in such subjects as chemistry, math, and physics. He continued to work hard in his college program making good use of student services, and working with instructors and peers.

"In my program, we're always helping each other get better grades, whether it's studying or seeing what we did for a certain lab report," says Siqueira, "Having friends at school motivates you."

Since graduating from Durham in 2016, Siqueira is currently employed with Green for Life Environmental Inc. as a Waste Quality Control specialist. "I feel very comfortable with dealing with chemicals and anything in the chemical industry," he says. 🍷



Recent photo of Guilherme Siqueira attending interview at Green for Life Environmental Inc.

On the Air: The Recent History of Riot Radio

Story and photos by Abby Bell

Durham College (DC) is a busy place, full of opportunities for students to get involved in ways that will help shape their time at college and gain experience in their field. The campus radio station, Riot Radio, is a great opportunity for students to learn more about how it operates.

Dan MacNally, the manager of Riot Radio, recently reflected on how far the school's station has come, and for him, it all started when he was a student at DC. MacNally and his friends studied Entertainment Administration, now known as the Music Business Management (MBM), and they were trying to find a placement for their program. When they couldn't find a placement, they decided to create their own opportunity. Thus the birth of Back-row Records, a label focused on supporting local artists. But this wasn't their first foray into the music world — the group played an instrumental role in bringing music to the masses back in the day when the station was located in DC's Marketplace and called The Freq.

"It was something for students to listen to," says MacNally. "It was a very basic setup, but it gave listeners a chance to have music played at any time on campus."

When MacNally graduated in 2004, the School of Media, Art and Design (MAD), under Dean Greg Murphy's guidance, took over the day-to-day operations. This gave MAD students an opportunity to learn new skills and gain experience in their desired field through various volunteer opportunities including Technical Support, script writing, being an On-air Host and being a part of the Street Team.



A behind the scenes look at a show where they talk about *Game of Thrones*



Riot Radio has an incredible system that makes the radio shows come to life.

Unfortunately, there was another company called The Freq, which once they discovered the college's radio station, the School of MAD was forced to change the name of the station. This led to the station's rebranding and new name, Riot Radio.

In 2011, the Student Association at Durham College and UOIT (SA) took over the station, giving both college and university students an opportunity to be a part of the station. MacNally was working for the SA during this time, but in a different department. However, following UOIT and DC creating separate student associations, Durham College Students Inc. (DCSI) took over and MacNally became the manager of Riot Radio in the fall of 2017. In his new role, he hopes to create more awareness on campus about the station. He has seen the benefits students have gotten from being part of the station first-hand.

"It helps kids get out of their shells," says MacNally. "First-year students become connected in to the school by getting involved. It's become a safe and positive space for students to learn and grow while connecting people on campus."

MacNally hopes Riot Radio continues to expand and grow both its listener base and volunteer pool through finding new ways for audiences to listen to the station on a smartphone and finding ways to let students know how they can get involved.

But the station's activities aren't limited to current students — alumni can get involved by being a guest or special co-host for a show, becoming an off-campus partner, or by simply tuning in and listening to the great programs.

Follow Riot Radio on social media @dcsiriotradio. 

Let's Talk About Mental Health

Story and photos by Tishana Bissoon

According to the Ontario University and College Health Association, 46 per cent of students in Ontario reported feeling so depressed it was difficult to function. This is a reality that Darlene Heslop is trying to influence in a positive way as the Director of the Campus Health Centre at Durham College (DC). Heslop is a graduate of DC's Nursing program, which has opened the door for many career opportunities in professional lifetime such as labour and delivery, infection prevention and control and finally management. Heslop's time at Durham College has inspired her to continue her education to complete a BScN in 2004 and a MBA in 2014. As a former DC student, Heslop understands the importance of developing a mental health toolbox and believes post-secondary institutions should provide services for students to develop skills that will benefit them both inside and outside of the workforce.


After a 20-year career in the nursing industry, Heslop came to the realization that not all professionals are equipped or comfortable to assist in students their mental health challenges. It is important for students to develop the tools to help navigate certain situations you may encounter in the real world. This process begins in the post-secondary college environment. Her current position has given her a unique opportunity to help DC students with their physical and mental well-being. Currently, the Campus Health Centre provides students with access to mental health nurses, registered nurses, a naturopathic doctor, medical doctors, chiropractors/physiotherapists and a dedicated support team to help navigate their way. In addition to its current staff, the centre is looking to expanding their scope to help cope with a students' mental well-being. The Campus Health Centre began this journey. They are pleased to announce their MOU with Ontario Shores, a local mental health service. We are a host site for a Demonstration Project. The students at DC can be referred to participate in this study and can receive free Cognitive

Behaviour Therapy CBT for mild to moderate depression or anxiety.

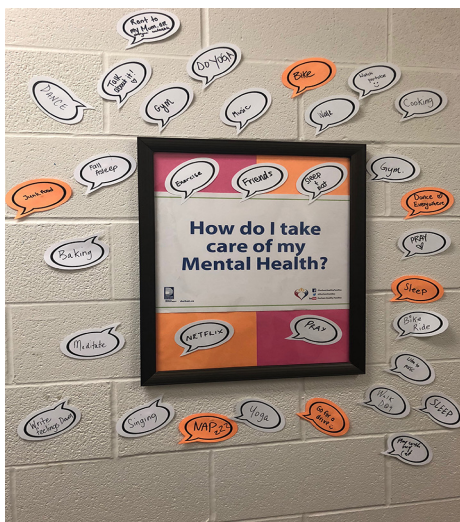
Heslop has a unique opportunity in her role where she can help shape a student's college experience. My first task was to help re-write our Mission statement. In July the new mission statement is, The Student's Health Experience Comes First. This aligns with the DC mission and vision.

Her current project involves access to a psychiatrist via Personal Computer Video conferencing PCVC at the campus health centre. It is unconventional in the sense that a psychiatrist will not physically be on campus to talk to students, but rather they will be available through new technology. With access to a web camera and a computer screen, students will be able to connect with the psychiatrist to develop a mental health plan tailored specifically to them.

"We engage with students in their lives often when they are away from home for the first time," says Heslop. "A time when the potential for first time mental illness onset is the greatest and when they are balancing work and studies and exposure to partying. Simply said, we need to support the student during a very stressful time in their lives. We believe in building resilience and coping skills and providing resources for crisis intervention and treatment when required".

Within the next few years, the Campus Health Centre plans on expanding their services to include everything they can to help their students succeed both mentally and physically. 

“The stigma prevents some from accessing appropriate help; therefore, limiting their potential success”



Students come together to talk about how they take care of their mental health.



The front doors of the newly renovated Campus Health Centre located steps away from the on campus gym facility.

Getting into the Game

Story and photos by Kaitlyn Farrow

The best advice for future students entering Durham College's Sports Management Program: Go into the experience with an open mind.

Much like the sports world itself, the program has earned a reputation for teaching students how to explore all aspects of sport, while simultaneously boosting their portfolios via volunteer initiatives and providing networking opportunities to point them in the right direction. In short, the goal is to get students into the game.

Also in keeping with the sports theme, the program employs a teamwork approach, setting up each graduate to work behind the scenes in the sport industry with a curriculum covering sports public relations, the business of sports, marketing and event planning.

"Over three years, students will have a lot of exposure to the various aspects of sport," says Nadine Lamarche, Durham College Professor.


"There is a lot of group work, so smart time management is key. They learn exposure to the working sports world through guest speakers and field trips and learn a great deal through the volunteer work. It's interactive and fun."

The dependable gameplan: Inside the classroom, students prepare their own sport-related conference, giving them insight into what their internships will look like.

“There is a lot of group work, so smart time management is key. They learn exposure to the working sports world through guest speakers and field trips and learn a great deal through the volunteer work. It's interactive and fun.”

Outside of the classroom, they get the opportunity to take a volunteer non-profit management class. By reaching out to different charitable organizations, students gain knowledge on how to manage, recruit and execute a volunteer event, most often with a sports theme. Within the first year of the sport business management program, students are required to complete 10 hours of volunteer work to get a jump-start on networking.

In recent years, the Sports Business Management program has helped put on the "Hockey Helps the Homeless" campaign for their sports and event marketing class. The one-day hockey tournament raised a whopping \$15,000 last year and Lamarche is already thinking big for the next shinny showdown: "I think we're going to double that amount," she predicts.

Most impressively, the program boasts a solid track record of placing graduates into the sports world. Graduates are spread all over North America – working in sports management, with advertising agencies and marketing firms, event planning and, of course, with sports franchise. Among them, Phil Pritchard, a former Durham grad now working behind the scenes for the Stanley Cup-winning Pittsburgh Penguins. Go team! 



Students entering the Durham College's Sports Management Program will leave feeling equipped with knowledge on various aspects of sport.

Training The Next Generation

Story and photo by Victoria Kelly

A healthy body and mind is key for up-and-coming police officers getting ready to join the force. Helping them achieve this balance is Blair Darlington, Durham College (DC) grad and now professor in the college's School of Emergency and Justice Studies.

Darlington graduated from the Fitness and Health Promotion program at DC in 2010. After which he bridged into the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT), where he studied Kinesiology, and graduated in 2013. Fast forward to 2016, and Darlington traded in his student ID card for a faculty card as he began teaching at Durham College. In addition to teaching, Darlington is a personal trainer at LA Fitness in Oshawa, Ont. If you can't find him in the classroom, it's almost guaranteed you can find him at the gym, working out or training his clients.

Darlington currently teaches Introduction to Health and Wellness and Fitness I for Police Foundations students, which works out well as they're also his favourite courses to teach. Introduction to Health and Wellness allows him to deliver his knowledge of fitness and health in a classroom environment, rather than a personal training session. Fitness I runs alongside the Health and Wellness class as the students implement the theoretical information they have learned in a physical, hands-on setting.

Being a teacher and a trainer always keeps Darlington on his toes, with each profession allowing him to grow and learn. His knowledge on each subject is growing every day; whether it's a new subject or new way to exercise, both areas are constantly changing.

“I hope that my students take a strong work ethic to accomplish and sustain a healthy active lifestyle. That is what I teach the clients I train and the students I teach. We do not simply exercise because I am preparing them for the physical components for their interview as a police officer, or to meet the physical demands of their careers, but to demonstrate that exercise and health is a lifestyle.”

What's next for Darlington? He's currently enrolled at Texas A&M University and is planning on pursuing his career as a firefighter. He will be visiting Texas to participate in a firefighting boot camp, and is planning on achieving his firefighting certifications in Texas with hopes of becoming a firefighter in Ontario. While completing his testing and certifications, he's continuing to teach part-time at DC.

“I could not be more thankful for my professors at Durham College,” says Darlington. “They played an instrumental role in the person, trainer, and teacher I am today, thanks to the time I spent studying Fitness and Health Promotion. How could I not choose to give back to a place that was so good to me?”



Darlington teaching his Fitness I class. This class informs the students about the importance of physical fitness and health.

“I like to think that each of my professions make me better at the other,” says Darlington. “Both of my professions allow me to directly work with people. I am constantly growing with every new student and with every new client. Simply put, each person is unique; no one client or student is the same. This forces me to deliver lessons in teaching and training in different ways so that everyone can understand. People learn differently and have different abilities with exercise and learning. I believe my personal training and teaching has led to a stronger ability to communicate to diverse groups of people.”

SLIDING INTO SUCCESS

Story by Gabrielle Poirier

Photo by Courtney Pope

For someone barely out of her teens, Courtney Pope has covered a lot of ground since graduating from Durham College's Public Relations program - and a good deal of that ground has been snow-covered.

At 22, Pope currently wears two hats as Marketing and Events Manager and Promotions Co-ordinator at Brimacombe Ski Club, a popular resort in scenic Garden Hill, Ont. A few years after her graduation, Pope only has positive memories of her days at Durham, where she learned the value of a good mentor and how to make the most of a college work placement.

“Listen to your mentor, get the most out of your placement and in general ask a lot of questions,” says Pope. “Just try everything.”

Born and raised in Port Hope, Ont., Pope was first drawn to Durham College for its photography program. She was also keen on the college's solid track record of rewarding work placements.

Before deciding on Durham College, Pope researched the public relations programs at several other Ontario colleges and attended different open houses to try and find the one that was the best fit for her. It was the presentation given by Lynn Gough, the program co-ordinator of the Public Relations Program at Durham College, that peaked her interest. After listening to her presentation during an open house, Courtney was fortunate to meet Lynn and have a conversation. Pope enrolled in the program in the fall of 2014. “Lynn was a major influence in my coming to Durham, no question,” she says.

In mid-2015, Pope began a corporate placement at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. She made such a good impression on management staff that they decided to hire her on a full-time basis after her placement ended. Several months later, she took




COURTNEY POPE IS AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG FEMALE MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF IN THE PR INDUSTRY.

a junior public relations position at Brimacombe. That morphed into a managerial position, and she currently is the manager of the entire department, supervising a team of five to 10 people, depending on the season.

“Listen to your mentor, get the most out of your placement and in general ask a lot of questions.”

A few years removed from campus life, Pope has a brand-new appreciation of the program's unique educational approach as dispensed by instructors with real-world experience.

“The PR program at Durham prepares you for the real world,” she says. 

Announcing EclecticSoapBox

By Kayleigh Scott

Photos by: Emma Harris

Every day brings a new challenge - or several challenges - for Carin Harris.

The graduate of Durham College's Internet Application and Web Development program currently holds down double duty as a busy blogger and college instructor. And, she's also the mother of two.

Harris, who resides full-time in beautiful Bowmanville, Ont., enrolled in the web program in 2012 and instantly discovered her favourite class was the course in social media.

"The teacher was a very real person, it was useful and current," says Harris. Most of her energy these days is devoted to running her own blog, eclecticsoapbox.com, on which she shares stories from her life as well as parenting advice, her take on new products, travel reviews and other interesting topics. She launched the blog in late 2014 with the goal of keeping it real.

"I wanted something that was different. I started it to share stories from my life for my kids."

With the hard work and skills learned from the class she was able to get a big following on her social media with over 14k followers on her Instagram page alone. With a big following it helps promote her blog posts.

With her blog on the rise, she has many partnerships. From Netflix, President's Choice, Ford Canada to GoodNites she has written her experiences with those products. But the one thing that she writes the most about is her kids because they inspire her blog. Her partnerships with many products and entertainment go back to the reality of using them with her family. Carin brings the in-house experiences to her readers, letting them know how it would affect her family. Besides writing about her partnerships, she writes about her everyday adventures with her family. She brings a personal style to her blog that her viewers like.



Carin Harris, Blogger of eclecticsoapbox.com.



Carin Harris (left) is enjoying time with her family.

One thing about Durham College that Carin liked was the program length. "It was close to home which was important with young kids, and it was a two-year program." With her family close to the school, she found it a nice balance between home and school life. Now with a daughter following in her Durham College footsteps and a son who is almost done university, she now has some time to go to colleges and teach what she has learned.

With her background from the Durham College Web Development program, she is able to teach others at different colleges. Carin is currently teaching Photoshop Essentials for web use. Although in her past before Durham College, she has had to teach others about many things. She has had to train staff in sales, and when she was working for Statistics Canada, she trained over a hundred enumerators and assistants. With that under her belt, she has a way with teaching.

"I combine a variety of techniques when I teach to keep them interested and frankly, awake."

Carin likes to teach with a twist of fun. She always makes sure everyone understands but also makes everyone laugh to keep the interest level up.

Carin's favorite part about Durham College was the end of the day. After a long day of classes to come home, see her family and beloved dogs. Durham College has helped push her in the right direction with her career. 🧺

Ready, set, create!

By Laura Wilson

Photo Credit: Durham College

Working under a tight deadline - and learning how to work with others - provides the creative fuel for the MAD 48-hour Film Challenge.

Now an annual event at Durham College, this unique project tasks students from the School of Media, Art and Design to work in teams as they script, film and edit their own stories, with a few twists and turns provided by their instructors along the way, and all within a 48-hour timeline. That's a lot of ground to cover in just two days. Each team receives a genre for their film, a line of dialogue and a random prop - all the ingredients required for them to flex their creative muscles.

The 48-hour Film Challenge requires solid teamwork and co-operation, bringing together students from the Advanced Filmmaking, Broadcasting for Radio & Contemporary Media, Contemporary Web Design, Interactive Design, Media Fundamentals, Photography and Video Production programs, along with staff and faculty to create 50 masterpieces.

In a relatively short period of time, these students employ a variety of disciplines to demonstrate their ability to work as a team, which is a growing necessity in their respective fast-paced industries. According to MAD Dean Greg Murphy, "When a graduate in media can demonstrate their ability to work effectively on a team, they are more attractive as a candidate for employment."

First launched in the summer of 2016, the 48-hour Film Challenge acts as a way to engage and orient students while providing them the opportunity to collaborate among Durham College programs. The learning emphasis is on "soft skills" in communication, teamwork and problem-solving, all vital attributes in a creative industry.

One of the highlights of the year for Mr. Murphy is presenting the group of over 500 MAD students from seven programs with their group members and assigning them their parameters for the challenge. Another favourite moment: "When Oshawa Mayor John Henry welcomes the audience at the Cineplex Odeon Theatre on a Friday morning, to view all 50 films made by the students," he says.



Student film makers have only 48 hours to script, film and edit their submissions.

The MAD faculty and staff take the idea of real-world experience one step further by bringing in a panel of film-industry professionals to serve as judges for the competition. Judges included John Arkelian, Director, Cinechats Film Program; Andy Malcolm, Foley Artist, Footsteps Studio; Eileen Kennedy, Film Liaison for Durham Region; Catherine Richards, Director of Culture and Recreation, City of Oshawa; and Katie Boone, Manager, International Projects and Partnerships, DC.

“When a graduate in media can demonstrate their ability to work effectively on a team, they are more attractive as a candidate for employment.”

The goal behind the esteemed judging panel is to help students make connections in their desired field while also receiving a professional opinion. "Initially, I called some local people from the film industry and then added people that knew our school. They helped us develop a system for judging," says Mr. Murphy.

This year's winning team was handed the daunting task of creating a western story featuring a mop and a character with a passion for Velcro. Their clever interpretation, entitled "Strung Out," earned team members Nicole Potter, Kendall Schofield, Ashlyn Van De Vien, Jordan Rivoire, Flynn Badgley and Naven-dven Loganathan the honour of having their names engraved on the prestigious Deanie award, a miniature likeness of Greg Murphy. 🍷



Students work in groups to develop short films for the 48-hour film challenge.



Chemsy participating in soccer with her fellow colleagues.

Chemsy Bendadou: Fitness influencer shares tips about the industry

Story by Tredijah Rolle

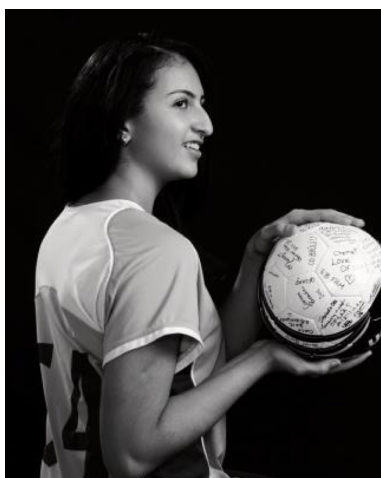
Photo Credit: Chemsy Bendadou

In the world of fitness, Chemsy Bendadou is covering all the angles. The graduate from Durham College's Health and Fitness promotion went into the course in 2014 to expand on her personal interests in sports and fitness, but came away from the program with an added bonus: "My education at Durham made me much more confident," says the lively 23-year-old.

Born in Morocco, Bendadou moved to Ajax in her early teens and grew up with a passion for fitness and exercise, with the long-term goal of becoming a physical-education teacher. As a young girl, she grew up playing soccer with her father, who also played at a professional level.

When the time came to choose a post-secondary institution, Bendadou didn't have to look very far. "I chose Durham because it was close to home and that helped me save money," says Bendadou. "And I knew Durham had a good track record in teaching and work placement."

While at Durham, Bendadou took a wide curriculum that touched on literally all the basics of the fitness world. She also came to appreciate the instructors with hands-on experience. "My injury management and communications instructors were the ones who kept me interested in class and made me want to know more about the subject."



Chemsy strikes a pose with soccer ball.

Of course, in the ever-changing world of fitness, a person has to be willing to change with the times. "For me, my field of study created new ways of training and dieting that were not present when I was in school," she says. "But the basics that I learned from the program are still present in my life today."

"To all the students currently in the program I would say take more interest in being successful during the hands-on classes and labs, that is the material you will be using frequently in the field of work"

Looking back at the two years spent at Durham College she believes that she was fully equipped with the knowledge and a grounded mindset for the working world. Her placement was at Curves International where she facilitates and help other women with weight-loss through fitness, coaching and meal planning. She was motivated to land a permanent position at Curves International; she was able to gain that opportunity.

Bendadou says, "The work in field placement provided the practical experience she needed to understand client-centered service necessary for the fitness industry." Durham labs and hands on courses helped her realized the importance of professionalism.

Chemsy believes that the industry requires distinction and efficiency. Had it not been for the experience and knowledge of the faculty of this program, she would not have felt confident to work with the varying populations that she does today. This program has given her the confidence and knowledge to change the lives of people she encounters. 🧘

Keeping it Interesting By Keeping it Real

By Matthew Akot

Photo Courtesy of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce

Samantha Wallace is keeping her eyes on the prize. The graduate of Durham College's Advertising program currently serves as a marketing and communications co-ordinator at the Whitby Chamber of Commerce. On any given day, she works with a great team of fellow Durham graduates providing communications and media promotions for its various partners and clients.

Wallace credits Durham College's Advertising program with preparing her for her current duties. "It really helped me with my creative skills, and my communication skills," she says. "And how to broadcast messages to our membership effectively."

While in her program at Durham, Wallace's responsibilities included designing and selling ads for the Durham College Chronicle. She also volunteered as a manager for the women's basketball team in 2009, her first year at Durham. Her long-term goal is finding a rewarding career in management.

After graduating from Durham in 2012, Wallace completed both the Event Marketing and Social Media programs at Seneca College. She's a firm believer in keeping top of events in your chosen field. "It's a constantly changing field," she says. "If you don't stay on top of it, you don't know what the new thing is." 🧰



Samantha Wallace joined The Whitby Chamber of Commerce in April of 2017. She was drawn by the opportunities to help the community, both the people and the local businesses.

Going Back to the Start

By Audrey Bouman



Debby Allbon, a former Public Relations program graduate (class of 1999) is now serving as the college's Director of Communications. Going into her 18th year of working at Durham, she's a perfect example of discovering the benefits of moving from graduate to employee.

In Allbon's case, she grew up in the Durham region and had a long-time interest in the communications and media field. "I was always focused on English and history in high school, so it was a natural transition to take public relations," she says.

While at Durham, Allbon fulfilled a work placement in the DC's Communications and Marketing department. Allbon has held a number of progressive positions at the college including instructional technology coordinator, business analyst, IT project manager and instructor. Upon graduation, she became the Instructional Technology Co-ordinator. Allbon's passion for learning then took her to Trent University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. She then returned home to DC in 2009 to obtain a one-year certificate in the Business Analyst program.

In 2014, Allbon took on a significant challenge when she assumed the position of IT Project Manager. She began her role as the Director of Communications in 2017. Her extensive work experience, along with her education and outgoing attitude, has served her well in her career. "For me, it's been a case of working hard, being professional, having a good work ethic and being able to apply the hard and soft skills I learned in my program. And being in the right place at the right time." 🧰

Alumni UPDATE

1996

BRIAN WICK

Business Administration - General

Brian is the President of Brooklin Bulletin Signs and lives in Whitby, Ont., with his wife Mary.

LEE HUBBELL

Electronics Engineering Technology

Lee is an IT Integration Coordinator with RBC Royal Bank and lives in Oshawa, Ont., with his wife Ann.

2000

MICHELLE KENNEDY

Sport Administration

Michelle is an Admissions Liaison Officer at Durham College and lives in Oshawa, Ont.

2010

SAMANTHA HAMAD

Advanced Law Enforcement and Investigations

Samantha is a Firearms Technician with the Edmonton Police Service and lives in St. Albert, Alta.

2000

LESLEY-ANNE LEE

Advanced Law Enforcement and Investigations

Lesley is a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer with the Township of King and lives in Peterborough, Ont.

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