

REFLECTIONS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is an exciting time of year, time for the nice weather, but time for many students to look forward to receiving their credentials at convocation and joining the more than 87 000 DC alumni.

It was amazing to see the opening of the new Centre for Collaborative Education (CFCE) and how it is already serving students, alumni, and the community during its first term at DC.

Special events have already been taking place such as the DC Global Graduate Forum, and Young Women in Science,

Technology and Trades Conference from the Global Classroom.

The DC Global Graduate Forum event showcased DC grads from three countries across the globe in real-time as part of International Development Week where they shared updates on their careers and thoughts about Sustainable Development Goals and how we can make a difference in our everyday life. Young Women in Science, Technology and Trades Conference hosted over 550 girls in Grades 7 to 9 from several regional school boards for a program of exploration and inspiration aimed at connecting young women with careers in science, technology and skilled trades.

It was also my pleasure to present the first DCAA Leaders of the Future awards of 2018/2019 to Evan McMillan at the DCAA annual winter event. The DCAA Leaders of the Future Award is a new award that is presented annually to graduating students who have demonstrated consistent and outstanding leadership both inside and

outside of the classroom.

In November, I was able to attend the Premier's Awards Gala hosted by Colleges Ontario where we celebrated Ontario's outstanding college graduates. This year our nominees were Brandon Bird (2012), Manjula Selvarajah (2014) and Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann (1988) and it was an honour to celebrate with these outstanding DC alums their success and contributions.

The Durham College Alumni Association (DCAA) is here to serve its members by listening to their voices throughout the year and I am honoured to have been elected as the incoming President. A huge thanks to Elaine Garnett, our now past president, for all her hard work, efforts and support to the DC Alumni Association and community, you have left me very large shoes to fill. I welcome our new directors to the board, Amanda Morari and Peter Wiebe and are heading into a new year with a strong and diverse board of directors.

Looking ahead, the DCAA are pleased to announce our latest partnership with Enactus Durham College and look

forward to all the exciting initiatives together

The DCAA has been hard at work, and look forward to continuing with outreach programs, 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!

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 black ink that reads "Michele Roberts".

Michele Roberts, Class of 2006 President, DC Alumni Association

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Letter from the President | 10 Chris McKee Reflects on His Music Career | 20 Law and Order | 32 A Canvas of Her Own |
| 4 Game On | 12 Finding Solace at Durham | 22 Always Be Selling | 34 Alumni Updates |
| 6 Lakeridge Sports Management Hits a Home Run | 14 Sunrise Youth Group Shines Through | 24 Not All Heroes Wear Capes | |
| 8 Dan MacInally: The Heart of Riot Radio | 16 A Place of Traditions | 26 Growing Goodness | |
| | 18 The Kids Are Alright | 28 Shifting Gears | |
| | | 30 Never Stop Learning | |



GAME ON

Durham College planning for future of eSports

By Kayla McGray

Photo Credit: Durham College

From the field to the TV, sports at Durham College (DC) will never be the same.

Bringing eSports to campus has been an exciting journey for students, faculty and leaders of the new high-tech initiative.

"Students have responded very positively, and the demand has been high to introduce this new initiative," says Marianne Marando, executive dean, School of Business, IT and Management.

For those unfamiliar with the term, eSports are a form of competitive video game play. Most commonly, eSports are organized, multiplayer video game competitions, typically between professional players. Currently, eSports is the fastest-growing industry in the gaming market, targeting non-traditional athletes.

"Students are very excited about the prospect of both the

eSports club and the varsity team," says Marando.

The eSports Gaming Arena is located in the DC Student Centre at the Oshawa campus, home of the former E.P Taylor's pub. The facility is composed of 30 computers for use by eSports club members and 20 computers in a private, contained section of the room for varsity gamers to train. Additional tables and seating are also available for viewers, as well as a separate area with TV screens to live stream the varsity games.

During the 2018-2019 season, the Durham varsity team will be competing against other colleges and universities across the province. Currently, the games that are being played include: League of Legends, Counter Strike: Global Offensive, Overwatch, Super Smash Brothers Melee, Hearth Stone, Heroes of the Storm and Rocket League.



Michael Cameron, the organizer of eSports at Durham College, oversees the progress of the construction of the Gaming Arena.

"This will attract top gaming talent to DC and push the college to the top of the leader boards," says Marando.

Regarding the future of eSports, she believes that eSports will play a big part in Durham's future and give students opportunities that never were available before.

"It will provide experiential

learning opportunities for students from several programs such as Sport Business Management," says Marando. "Also, it will provide a venue for students to relax and engage in extracurricular activities." 🎮



Rendering of the eSports Gaming Arena.

Lakeridge Sports Management Hits a Home Run

By Emily Sleep

Photo Credit: Derek Marques

When you're able to mix your passions with your education, work becomes something fun. That's exactly what Durham College (DC) graduate Derek Marques did. Integrating his passion for sports and education of web development to form his own company, Lakeridge Sports Management (LSM). LSM is a Canadian Sports Management Agency focusing on baseball with one goal in mind — the success of its players.

From a young age, Marques has had a love for all sports. He grew up playing baseball and watching Junior Hockey in Oshawa, Ont. When it came to his career Marques decided to focus on his first love, baseball.

"I figured instead of being average and focusing on multiple sports I'd rather focus on one and be great," says Marques. "I chose Baseball because it was a sport that kept on reoccurring

throughout my life. It was the first sport I ever played when I was younger and slowly in my adult life it transformed into my career."

The average day for player agent Marques includes is

"I don't like being called the CEO of the company, because I see myself more as the janitor of the company not afraid to do the day to day dirty work of LSM."

getting his clients verified on social media, negotiating contracts and advising College and High School baseball players for the upcoming MLB Draft. With a majority of his clients living in the United States, Marques spends most of his days on his cell phone texting and building relationships. However, Marques' role is more complex than it may seem.

"I mainly do day-to-

day player management," Marques laughs. "I don't like being called the CEO of the company, because I see myself more as the janitor of the company not afraid to do the day to day dirty work of LSM".

Since the launch of LSM in May 2018, Marques has taken on 43 affiliated baseball players from Rookie Ball to Triple A Baseball and 21 Independent baseball players that have been released by affiliated ball and looking to make their way back into a Major League Organization. When Marques created LSM, he decided his main focus would be on communication and equal treatment of all players, no



Derek Marques, baseball players agent.

matter what league they're in. Marques reached out to his contacts who have played or is currently still playing professional sports and he asked them what hasn't worked

with previous agents.

"I found 99 per cent of the time it's because of lack of communication," says Marques. "The players shared they never heard from their agent and did not feel supported."

“There are many ways to get to where you want to be in life, some could take the easy way and go through the front door and wait their turn to get in and others find the unconventional way of going through a side window.”

Throughout his career, he's focused on giving back to the community he was raised in. Last fall, Marques was able to speak at the annual Sports Management Conference at Durham College. During the conference, he was able to share his insights and his unconventional road into the industry.

"There are many ways to get to where you want to be

in life, some could take the easy way and go through the front door and wait their turn to get in and others find the unconventional way of going through a side window", says Marques. "It was hard and it took me time to get where I am, but I've stayed motivated the whole time because this is my goal."

Since graduation, Marques has had an alternative road into the industry, but has been able to use his education and life experience to create his own dream job. Success does not come overnight. Marques proves it takes hard work and dedication to make your dreams a reality. 🏆



Marques client, Brody Rodning of the Toronto Blue Jays Organization pitches a strike out.

Dan MacInally: The Heart Of Riot Radio

Written by Liz Morris

Photography by Liz Morris

There's more to a student's experience than the classes they take, the events they attend or their favourite spot to snack on campus.



Student volunteers are educated on operating industry standard equipment at Riot Radio which can set them apart from other candidates when entering the workforce.

It's about the people they meet along the way from peers, teachers and staff alike who play a special role throughout their college journey.

Dan MacInally, Station Manager of Durham College Student Union's (DCSI) Riot Radio, has shown a commitment to providing students with the best experience they can get. He's a graduate of DC's former Entertainment Administration program, now known as the Music Business Management program. MacInally has worked on campus for nine years in various roles with DCSI, previously known as the Student Association at DC and UOIT. He uses his knowledge of the campus to provide superior guidance to the students he interacts with.

"Dan embodies the DCSI spirit," says Charles Wilson, Administrator of the Office of the General Manager

for DCSI. "He has shown a dedication to the students. He has always shown the ability to help students, go the extra mile, to ensure they are engaged and active in our community. He's willing to do whatever it takes to engage students even if it's outside his job description. His knowledge of the campus allows him to direct students to the services available to them for any situation they may bring to him."

MacInally welcomes all who pass through the doors at DCSI's Riot Radio. Many students come to him for feedback on work or advice on projects relevant to his experiences. He was a musician early in his career and played with the band Another Dark Day (A.D.D.). His experiences both as a student and as a musician allow MacInally to provide relevant insights and advice to those who come to him. For some students,

his open-hearted attitude provides the personal support they need.

"I'm in my first year coming back to school after 17 years and I felt alienated in my classes at the start of the semester," says Jordan Grenke, a student of the Music Business Management.



Dan encourages students to persevere when learning to use the equipment in Riot Radio.

"I couldn't really find people who would let me join their initiatives. Dan made me feel like I could belong at this school."

"He has always shown the ability to help students, go the extra mile, to ensure they are engaged and active in our community."

For MacInally, working with students isn't just part of the job, it's the highlight of working on campus.

"Working at the campus, you'll come across students on a regular basis who just want someone to talk to," says MacInally. "A lot of students who I've become close with or met over the years are away from their parents for the first time or on their own for the first time. Sometimes they just need someone to talk to or they need advice. One of the best parts of this job has been getting to know some of these students, getting



Dan MacInally stands in front of the Riot Radio Doors. He oversees all operations at Riot Radio in his role of Studio Manager and is the gatekeeper for all students who wish to become involved in Riot Radio.

to help them and seeing them grow as people and as professionals. Helping students and offering advice where I can, is one of the most rewarding things about this job."

MacInally embodies the values of DCSI and strengthens the community at DC through the boundless effort he puts into the interactions he has with students. "Dan is the primary reason I was able to persevere through my struggles in those first few weeks as a mature DC student," says Grenke. 🍀

Riot Radio is a Durham College Student Inc. (DCSI) service available for all Durham College students.

Riot Radio is a visual radio station where student volunteers can gain experiences on-air and behind the scenes.

Riot Radio is located at the Oshawa campus in the Gordan Willey Building.

Chris McKee Reflects on His Music Career

Story and photos by Justin Currier

Chris McKee proves if you have a strong passion for something, anything is possible. His successful career in the music industry began well before he completed the Broadcasting Radio and Contemporary Media program in 2017.

"I started DJing in 1997, which led me to start my own record label called Jedi Records and a concert production company called A Way Of Life (AWOL)," says McKee. "AWOL is a rave company based out of London, England and we wanted to be located Toronto."

McKee got rights to use AWOL music in Canada, which helped bring DJs to Canada. While producing numerous events in Toronto, he continued to build relationships, which led him to work for an agency called Most Wanted Entertainment.

But for McKee, the best had yet to come.

"I produced concerts for dozens of Grammy and Juno award-winning bands,"

says McKee. "After working for two years at the Most Wanted Entertainment, I was approached by the biggest company in Canada called the Feldman Agency."

At the Feldman Agency, McKee's role was to set up concert dates and organize an entire tour for artists. He worked with numerous

Canadian and American artists, such as Rihanna, the Black Eyed Peas, Wu-Tang Clang and many more.

"I would call managers in Los Angeles and New York, and try to bring artists to Canada," says McKee. "I produced concert tours for some of the biggest artists in music including the first ever Canadian tours for Rihanna and the Black Eyed Peas. I also

helped develop the careers of numerous award-winning Canadian artists including the likes of Shawn Desman, Classified and many more."

"Take advantage of everything! Do Riot Radio, volunteer for the athletic department or anywhere, get your foot in the door and you'll meet people. That's what looks good on a resume."

After three successful years, McKee decided it was time to start his own agency called The McKee Agency. He continued to put concert tours together for artists like Akon, Flo-Rida, Fat Joe and Ludacris.

After accomplishing so much, so early in his career, McKee admitted to losing motivation to stay in the music industry.

"When you've accomplished everything you've set yourself up for, what's your motivation?" asks McKee. "I wanted to produce concert tours for Grammy and Juno



Chris McKee poses in front of Trebas Institute sign, where he teaches.

winning artists. I wanted to take an artist who was nothing and build them into award winners – I did all of that five or six times. So, your motivation becomes less.”

The Pickering, Ont., native attended Durham College (DC) for Broadcasting Radio and Contemporary Media program, where he focused on more than just his academics. He did play-by-play for the Durham Lords men’s and women’s volleyball and basketball varsity teams while working at Riot Radio.

“I love the sports culture at DC,” says McKee. “When I was doing play-by-play, both men’s and women’s teams were so good and amazing to watch. The energy and being around the athletes made my experience at DC so amazing. I still watch and listen to the games.”

McKee admits he tried to gravitate himself and became friends with as many people in the athletic department, highlighting Chris Cameron, Sports Information & Special Events Co-ordinator and Scott Dennis, Sports Information and Marketing Officer for the Durham Lords.



Chris working on traffic reports for Newstalk 1010.

“I became friends with everyone in the athletic department,” says McKee. “I still talk to them to this day.”

While doing play-by-play, McKee got the chance to work at Riot Radio and learned how to be better in front of the microphone.

“It allowed me to suck in private,” says McKee. “I would record myself talking for an hour straight, and I was


terrible. I realized I said, ‘umm’ 700 times. Working at Riot Radio helped me work out the kinks. I also learned how to break patterns and speak effectively.”

When asked if McKee had any advice for students, he encourages students to be more involved and proactive.

“Take advantage of everything! Do Riot Radio, volunteer for the athletic

department or anywhere, get your foot in the door and you’ll meet people. That’s what looks good on a resume.”

Currently, McKee works as social media co-ordinator and online development for TSN – Golf Talk Canada and a reporter for the Canadian Traffic Network. He is also a professor at the Trebas Institute and hopes by the end of 2019 to have his own radio show.

McKee also published a book called *Life on the road with the Wu-Tang Clan*, which reflects his 12 years producing tours and travelling on the road with them. His book is available on Amazon. 

Finding Solace at Durham

The newly opened Solace Centre helps students put their mental well-being first

Story By: Kaitlin Romain
Photos Courtesy of: Durham College

With mental health at the forefront of societal concern, there is no better time to implement new measures at Durham College to support mental wellness.

Welcome to the Solace Centre. The newly opened centre is dedicated to helping students put their well-being first. Unlike the college's health clinic, the Solace Centre looks at mental and physical health from a social justice perspective, by focusing on

building a positive culture of health and wellness at Durham."

Among other duties, Bickle oversees daily operations at the Solace Centre, co-ordinates an on-campus health and wellness ambassador program and facilitates outreach programs and workshops. A good deal of her energy is devoted to making students more aware of the Solace Centre's existence.

“There’s a big misunderstanding that nutritional counselling is about dieting or meal-planning.”

optimal nutrition, mindfulness, sexual health and harm reduction, among other issues.

“Our goal is to bring all of these supports together to help build bridges for students between these services,” says Heather Bickle, the Solace Centre’s resident health promotion co-ordinator.

“We really want to help start

“The help is there if they need it,” she says. “A lot of different departments are supporting student and staff wellness, but a lot of students are graduating sometimes not knowing about the fantastic events and services that were available to them.”

Nutritional counselling is the Solace Centre’s most popular



Students and staff enjoy time with a therapy dogs at the Solace Centre. The dogs were brought on campus to help the Durham College community cope with school stress service.

“There’s a big misunderstanding that nutritional counselling is about dieting or meal-planning,” says Bickle. “Nutritional counselling is about examining how you are nutritionally fuelling your body for success.”

The bad news: A good number of students are not exactly nutritionally aware.

“We see a lot of students surviving on caffeine but actually, starting your day off with an apple will give you more of an energy boost than a cup of coffee,” says Bickle.

In many cases, proper nutrition is the first step to optimal physical and mental wellness. Gearing students with knowledge of what their body nutritionally needs to function is fundamental to

their success and overall wellness.

At the same time, Bickle suggests there's more to mental well-being than just eating right.

"Wellness is more than kale and yoga" she says. "Not everyone can afford yoga and not everyone likes kale, so part of our role is helping students engage with areas of wellness that resonate more with them."

The Solace Centre is driven by a holistic approach to student wellness. Nutrition counselling is available to students at no cost. Emotional support animals pay weekly visits around exam time and there are allocated areas for students to unwind and focus on their mental health.

As the title suggests, The Solace Centre is all about finding... solace. 🌿



Heather Bickle is the health promotion co-ordinator at Durham College's Solace Centre.

“Wellness is more than kale and yoga.”

To Contact the Solace Centre:

T: 905-721-2000 ext. 6482

Email: solace@durhamcollege.ca

Monday- Friday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Durham College, Oshawa Campus

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Heather Bickle meets with a student at the Solace Centre to offer free wellness coaching.

Sunrise Youth Group Shines Through

Brittany McMinn loves to help people. And she's good at it too.

By: Katrina O'Neill

Brittany McMinn is a young social service worker at the amazing non-profit organization Sunrise Youth Group (Sunrise). A graduate of Durham College's (DC) Social Service Worker program (SSW), it's safe to say she has been loving how the program has prepared her for her rewarding career as a Day-and-Recreation-Program Support Staff at Sunrise.

“They develop inclusive programming that creates positive experiences for all who access it — whether it be their members, their families, or their volunteers. Sunrise promotes creativity, leadership and helps young people explore their potential.”

Her role has satisfied her love for taking care of people by allowing her to create fun programming and amazing

experiences for the Sunrise members. Whether it's a week-long camping trip, a New Year's Eve party or just a simple activity to express some creativity, she's there every step of the way.

The support she provides for her members and the passion she has for her job is unwavering. McMinn is beaming when she speaks about how much love she has for her job.

“My favourite part of my job is spending time with the members,” says McMinn.

McMinn chose DC after receiving an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from peers regarding employment opportunities post-graduation — and the claims rang true.

Currently over half of Sunrise's employees are DC alumni and were hired upon completion of their placement with the organization.

“Sunrise is an organization that has provided quality recreational and life skills

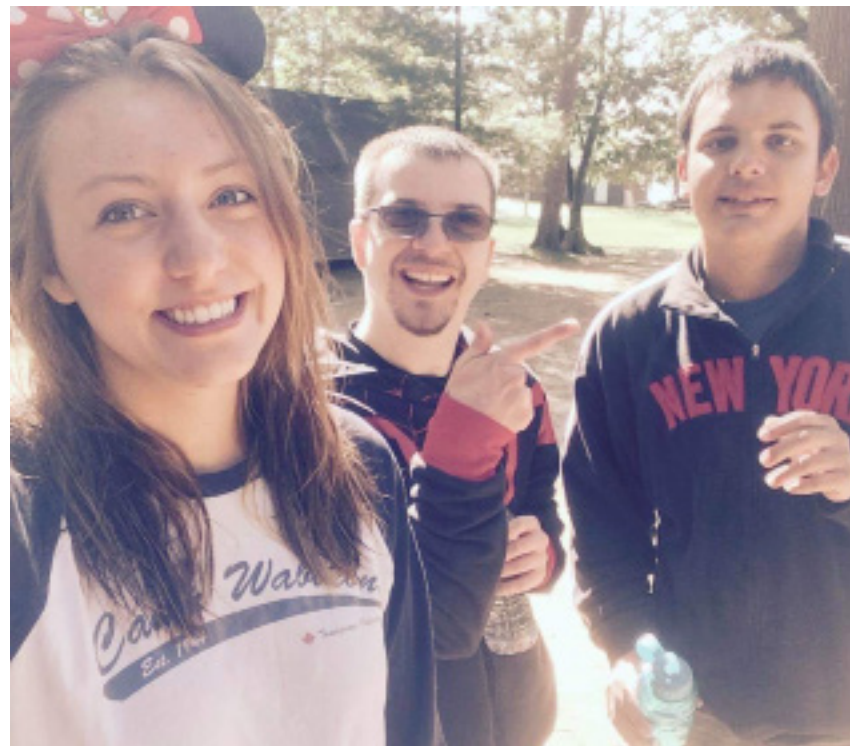


Photo Credit: Sunrise Youth Group

McMinn hiking with Sunrise members on their annual camping trip to Camp Wabikon.

programming to individuals with special needs since 1991,” according to the Sunrise website. “They develop inclusive programming that creates positive experiences for all who access it — whether it be their members, their families, or their volunteers. Sunrise promotes creativity, leadership and helps young

people explore their potential.”

Not only does McMinn attest to the employment success rate of the SSW program, but she is also no stranger to knowing how valuable the skills learned during her time at DC are when applied to her daily responsibilities.

“I apply the skills gained

from my program daily at Sunrise,” she says. “Classes in my program such as life skills, pharmacology, sociology and psychology have helped me to better understand my clients and provide the best possible programming I can.”

“My favourite part of my job is spending time with the members,”

McMinn is confident in her ability to provide programming and support for the members at Sunrise, and she credits that to her professors.

“During many of our courses we were given the opportunity to speak and be taught by professionals who had extensive experience in the field,” she says. “Our professors truly cared about making sure we had what we needed before entering the workforce.”

Would she recommend the SSW program? Yes, she would. McMinn feels this program is for anyone that has a passion for helping others and is looking for a meaningful career.

“This program provides its students with two placement



Photo Credit: Sunrise Youth Group
McMinn showing a Sunrise member some love at Camp Wabikon.

opportunities and gives you the freedom to choose based on your area of interest,” says McMinn, “There are so many populations and types of work included in the outcomes of this program. It has great flexibility for those that are a little unsure of what age group or setting they want to work in.”

As much as McMinn loves to help, she’s asking for a little help from you too. Sunrise is an organization that relies heavily on volunteers and are looking for more support in

their recreation program.

“Each member is so unique and they continue to surprise me each and every day. The relationships I have built at Sunrise will continue to inspire me each and every day.”

Volunteers at Sunrise have built many meaningful relationships throughout the years and make their recreation events possible.

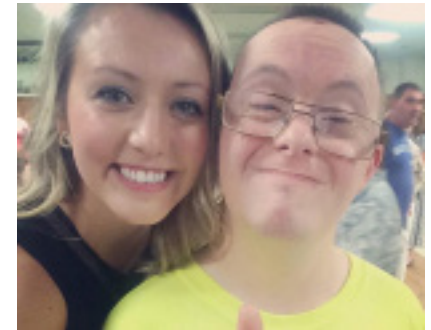


Photo Credit: Sunrise Youth Group
McMinn at various events with members.

McMinn was quick to fall in love with Sunrise and thinks you will too.

“Each member is so unique and they continue to surprise me each and every day,” says McMinn. “The relationships I have built at Sunrise will continue to inspire me each and every day.”

Any individuals interested in joining the Sunrise family can contact Amber at volunteers@sunriseyouthgroup.ca. ☎

A Place of Traditions

Story and photos by:
Lauren Crummey

In September 2018, Durham College opened its doors to the Centre for Collaborative Education (CFCE), which became the new home for the First Peoples Indigenous Centre (FPIC).

In the past, the FPIC has gone by other names at the college including the Aboriginal Student Centre, which was located in the now-demolished Simcoe Building. The new location and name are representative of a bold and ambitious effort toward creating a better future.

The First Peoples Indigenous Centre is a facility designed to provide support and advocacy for Indigenous students at Durham College. The services offered go far beyond academic assistance. The centre takes a holistic approach to help with Indigenous students' emotional, physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

The FPIC searches out services that are necessary to



The four sacred medicines: cedarwood, tobacco, sage and lemongrass inside of a Medicine Wheel representation, that can be found at the centre.

the students, like the Student Academic Learning Services (SALS) and brings them to the centre for students to access. The centre has resources available to students to give them the best support they need, in addition to crafts and games that focus on Indigenous heritage and culture.

During the grand opening of the Centre for Collaborative Education, the First Peoples Indigenous Centre helped welcome Durham College

through traditional practices. The centre brought in members from the community to conduct a prayer, deliver a land acknowledgement and perform traditional song and dance.

"It's not just about us, it's about us as a whole community," says Peggy Forbes, one of the centre's Indigenous Coaches. "We want our students to be aware of what's in the community for them. Which is not a whole lot for Indigenous things, but we're

working on that."

Forbes has been with the centre since it originally opened in 2011 and has helped shape it into its present state. Although this centre has been created for Indigenous students, its doors have always been open to all.

“It’s not about any blaming or shaming at this point. It’s about awareness and education, understanding the shared true history of Canada, and moving forward to reconciliation.”

A large part of the centre's goal involves the preservation of Indigenous culture and heritage. It creates the opportunity for learning from Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders through activities like the Cedar Tea Circle. Attendees have the opportunity to listen in a group

setting or speak privately with Elders. They can also partake in Full Moon Ceremonies, a traditional women's ceremony.

The FPIC also provides a pleasant change of scenery from its earlier location. The new room has large windows and a well-appointed kitchen, which is used to prepare Indigenous foods served at various events.

Additionally, it features an important Medicine Wheel fixture on its ceiling, which both preserves tradition and serves as a conversation starter for first-time visitors. The Medicine Wheel has been used as a guide in Indigenous culture for centuries.

The centre is also dedicated to preserving the practice of Smudging – the traditional Indigenous ceremony used for purifying or cleansing the soul of negative thoughts of a person or place. While the previous FPIC facility had a dedicated Smudge room, the new centre allows people to Smudge throughout the entire centre and as well as in the classroom across the hall.

The First Peoples Indigenous Centre is continuously having a positive impact on Durham College. Indigenous classes

have now been integrated into the Broadcasting - Radio and Contemporary Media program and are taught at the centre in a traditional way.

Outside of the college community, the centre regularly holds educational workshops and presentations

and is involved in outreach and engagement programs in the local community. Their goal is to heighten awareness and build new relationships.

“It’s not just about us, it’s about us as a whole community.”



The new Medicine Wheel light fixture that's been added to the centre.



A Durham College alumni creates a pair of moccasins during a craft session at the centre.

Fortunately, former Durham College students are helping to spread the message. Several alumni who were involved with the FPIC are now part of its Indigenous Advisory Circle. Along with programs like the Truth and Reconciliation's (TRC) Call to Action, changes are being put in place by the Canadian government to bring new awareness to important Indigenous issues nationwide.

“We need to move forward in a good way,” says Forbes. “We don’t have to stay in a negative place because it’s not about any blaming or shaming at this point. It’s about awareness and education, understanding the shared true history of Canada, and moving forward to reconciliation.”

The First Peoples Indigenous Centre is located in Room 141 in the Centre for Collaborative Education and operates weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Kids Are Alright

Child and Youth Care graduate Emma Jokinen is still following her dreams

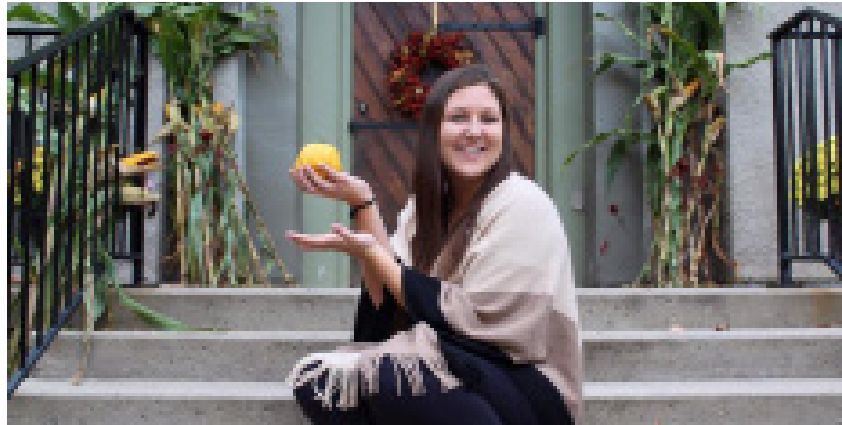
By: Alex Wilcox

Before she tackled Durham College's Child and Youth Care program, Emma Jokinen chose to explore her sense of adventure.

Four years ago, Jokinen packed up her belongings and headed to New Zealand to become an au pair for a family in the small town of Pukekohe. Looking back now, she believes that everyone should experience living in another country.

"Everybody should have the chance of getting out of their own comfort zone," she says. "Working with children has always been a passion of mine and at a young age I started babysitting. Helping children learn and watching them grow is a joy to witness."

Jokinen graduated from Durham's Child and Youth Care program in 2015 and working with children is her full-time career today. During her au pair days in New



Emma Jokinen, happy graduate from the Child and Youth Care program. (Jokinen)

“Durham College really helped prepare me for a career that I love, and where no two days are alike, I’ve never regretted the time I spent at Durham.”

Zealand, her typical day was action-packed.

"Every day, the parents would leave early and head to the city for work," she recalls. "I would wake the kids up, feed them breakfast and then drive them to the bus stop. After that, I would pick the kids up

from school and take them to their after-school activities. After we got home, I had to cook dinner for them. Every day was very busy."

After a few years in New Zealand, Jokinen began looking into college and was immediately attracted to

Durham College. The fact that Durham offered a two-year compressed program and the campus was close to home were the deciding factors

In her time at the college, Jokinen quickly learned exactly what child and youth care workers do each day (provide understanding and support for children and families) and experienced what they take away from the program (the skills to help families and children build and sustain significant relationships, as well as helping troubled youth find solutions to everyday life challenges).

Jokinen says there were two instructors at Durham who truly inspired her.

"Lori Roblind was always making assignments that incorporated real world scenarios and Tina Doyle was great at connecting with the students," she says. "The smaller class sizes made it so



While being an au pair in New Zealand Emma went on a lot of adventures. On this adventure Emma along with other au pairs went on a hike to a beautiful water fall. (Douglas)

you actually got to know the teacher and they got to know you."

During her two years at the college, Jokinen took part in four work placements.

"My placements were really awesome," she recalls. "I got to use the skills that I learned from my classes and apply each of them as I went along."

Today, Jokinen works as

an educational assistant with the Trillium Lakelands School Board at a treatment facility for children with mental-health issues. She also picks up the occasional shift at The Boys and Girls Club of Kawartha Lakes.

"Durham College really helped prepare me for a career that I love, and where no two days are alike," says Jokinen. "I've never regretted the time I

spent at Durham." 🍀

For more information about the
Child and Youth Care Program visit:
durhamcollege.ca/programs/child-and-youth-care.

Law and Order

Durham grad Bryant Wood shifted career lanes and never looked back

By Mauricio Cuellar

Photo credit: Mauricio Cuellar

Switching careers from electronics engineering to police work was the biggest decision of Bryant Wood's life.

But Wood, a 1990 graduate of Durham College's Electronics Engineering Technology program, went all in on the career shift, which eventually led to him becoming chief of police of Port Hope Police Services.

"When I was a child, I always wanted to wear a uniform, whether it was with the navy, the air force, or as a police officer," he says. "It was just one of those things that I wanted to be the cop, not the bad guy."

Wood made his bold career move shortly after he was married and had begun

“I'm proud to show students what they can accomplish if they put their minds to it.”

paying off a mortgage. His determination, hard work and positive attitude eventually paid off in April, 2015, when he was appointed chief of police in Port Hope, Ont.

Currently, Wood is in charge of more than 35 uniformed police officers and staffers working 24 hours, seven days per week, to provide a contemporary, well-equipped and well-engaged police service to the community while ensuring the safety and security of every citizen.

Among other responsibilities, he oversees criminal investigations, provides support to national and provincial initiatives, manages the budget and deals with the local media. He also performs human resources tasks, connects with stakeholders and implements the business plan that is updated every three years by the Police Services Board.



Chief Bryant Wood has more than 25 years of experience in the police services. Chief Wood is one of 54 people who currently hold the rank of chief of police in the province of Ontario.

He also plays a big role in delivering various community services, such as providing shelters for women.

"In a small town, there are usually only a few people to do the work," Wood says. "We consistently strive to break down barriers to be part of the community. That's not easy to get sometimes in our role. This makes my job very rewarding but also very challenging at the same time."

Reflecting on his time as an engineering student, he remembers the course curriculum of his first semester.

"I did a lot of technology courses," he says. "It wasn't just theoretical, but also practical. I found the application of the theory very engaging, and also going to the lab and working with actual robots. That's why I chose Durham College."

After graduation, Wood worked for a few companies in his profession, like Xerox.

"I really enjoyed those jobs, but the common factor that I wasn't really happy with was they were all basically working indoors," he says.

His next stop was the Port Hope Police Service, where he

realized DC had provided to him the right tools to succeed, particularly soft skills such as teamwork.

“As long as you are well educated, and you take your education seriously, the tools and the skills you learn will be applicable to many fields,” he says.

In 2008, Wood was recognized by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario with the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery, by the Governor General of Canada with the Star of Courage and Medal of Bravery in 2010, and the Police Exemplary Service Medal in 2013.

He feels honoured by the medal but being named recipient of the Alumni of Distinction by DC in 2018 holds a particularly special meaning for him because he’s a solid supporter of education and helping others be the best they can be.

“I’m proud to show students what they can accomplish if they put their minds to it,” he says. 🏆



Wood stands beside his Alumni of Distinction Award granted by Durham College in 2018. Recipients are selected based on professional, community and personal accomplishments, contributions to the advancement of DC, and the scope of impact for their achievements.



Wood has awarded the Star of Courage, Medal of Bravery, Police Exemplary Service Medal and Ontario Medal for Police Bravery.



Port Hope Police Station operates out of at 55 Fox Road N, Port Hope, Ont. The new building was constructed in 2015.

ALWAYS BE SELLING

DC Advertising Grad Samantha Garner is Mad About Media

Story by: Kamila Moorji

Photos by: Vinesh Beharry

'Always Be Closing' is an age-old saying when it comes to sales. In public relations, advertising or any other career in media, the motto is "Always be Selling" and that's exactly what Samantha Garner has done with her diploma in advertising to land the gig she has today.

Throughout her three years at Durham College, Garner's intention was always to go into graphic design. But after taking two media courses, she realized her true calling was in media. Choosing Durham because of the diversity in the program, as well as the prearranged internships, helped her to map out a career path and get the experience she needed before entering the work field.

"The internship alone was worth the three years I spent there," says Garner. "My

internship actually got me my first job in media. The professors were also experts and helped me make informed decisions. They shared a lot of their own experiences and helped provide information you might not normally get just

"The internship alone was worth the three years I spent there. My internship actually got me my first job in media. The professors were also experts and helped me make informed decisions."

in a classroom."

Garner's confidence grew during her years at the college, where she made both life-long friends and life-long



Durham College advertising grad Samantha Garner, out-of-home and print investment supervisor, at her workplace Dentsu Aegis Network.

connections. She found a savvy mentor in one particular professor: Dawn Salter, the Advertising program co-ordinator, who is still helping her six years later.

After graduating in 2012, Garner has been able to garner considerable experience in the world of media. In the past several years she has worked as a media planning intern and a senior media planner in different companies. Currently, she's working as an out-of-home and print investment supervisor at Dentsu Aegis Network in Toronto. Although advertising has become more digitally advanced in recent years, she continues to adapt and evolve in her chosen field.

Garner's recommendation for current Durham College Advertising students is to make the most of your time in college.

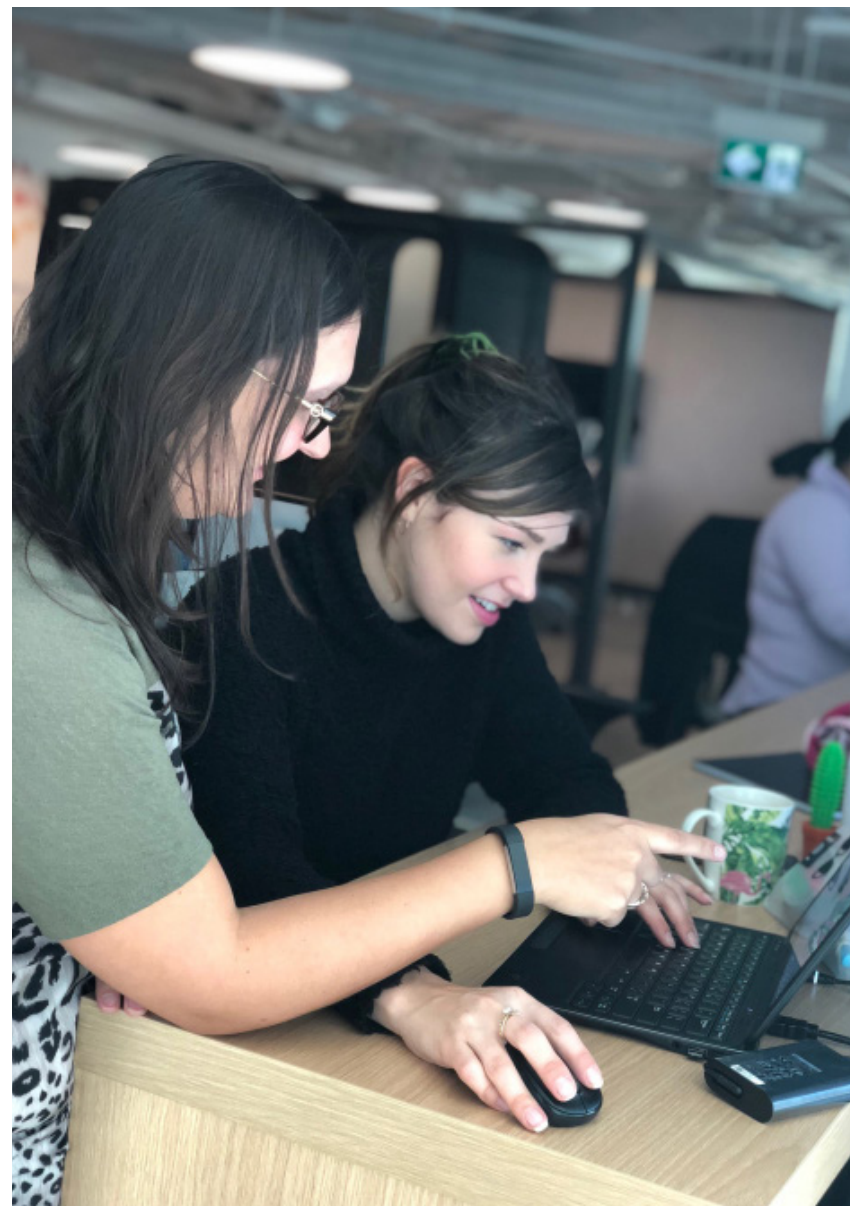
"Show up to class," she says. "College is only a few short years, so make sure you get as much out of it that you can."

Garner also suggests that students use the college experience to start building connections.

"Go to events, make friends but also be nice to your

“Go to events, make friends but also be nice to your professors. They can help set you up in your field and they know people.”

professors," she says. "They can help set you up in your field and they know people."



Durham College advertising grad Samantha Garner with colleague Katherine Krozonouski, planner, working on a project at Dentsu Aegis Network.

Not All Heroes Wear Capes

By: Diane El-Hachem

Photo credit: Diane El-Hachem

Highly challenging anxiety-provoking courses require a strong student-faculty relationship. At Durham College (DC), professors have a significant role in making sure the student experience comes first. Professor Howard Umrah provides a comfortable learning environment in efforts to alleviate as much student stress as possible.

Umrah fully demonstrates how to provide inclusiveness in his teaching methods. He makes sure all students regardless of learning style, disability or language barrier, are able to grasp the content he's teaching.

"I speak, write on the board, use social media, upload material to DC Connect with closed captions and translations, meet one-on-one, anything to help students," says Umrah. "Universal Designed for Learning (UDL) incorporates all the different ways in which we learn, acknowledging language

barriers, learning disabilities, as well as students that are hard of hearing and/or with sight loss. Through UDL, I've learned and applied the many inclusive ways to present material."

As new technology emerges, Umrah visits the Centre for Academic and Faculty Enrichment (C.A.F.E.) where he becomes a student himself. He does this to sharpen his skills and deliver an even better student experience.

As new technology emerges, Umrah visits the Centre for Academic and Faculty Enrichment (C.A.F.E.) where he becomes a student himself. He does this to sharpen his skills and deliver an even better student experience.

"As our mission statement says, my students' experience is first and foremost a priority," says Umrah. "I'm always making sure they're learning and feeling welcome to approach me for assistance whether it's about material or careers in the field."

Alumni remember their professors



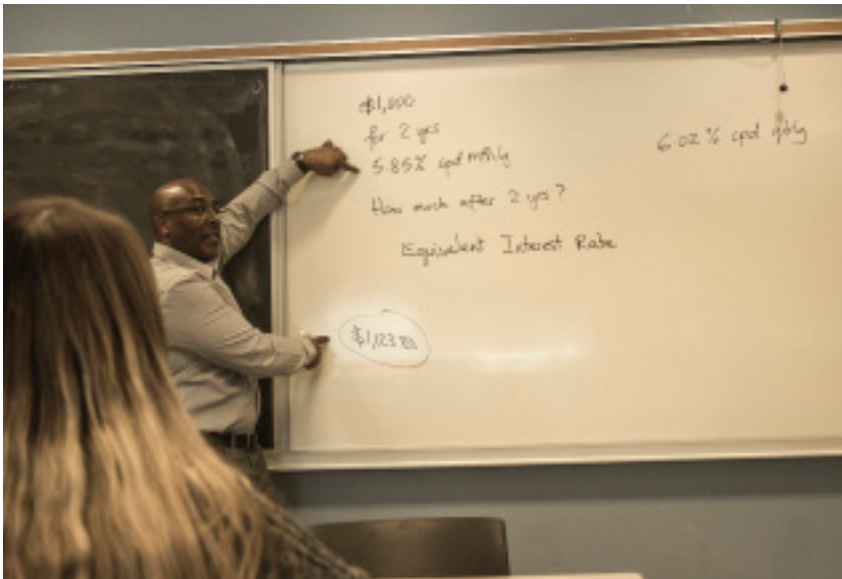
Howard Umrah teaches his Business Math class by using visuals, explanations and more.

and many stay in contact with them years after graduation.

"I think Howard is an exceptional teacher that brings a different perspective on the program," says Emily Cabral, a DC alumnus of the former Operations Management program. "He understood that my learning style was different and he never spoke a discouraging word about how difficult I thought the material was for me."

He's also a very understanding individual who is willing to help students whether it's with class assistance or with trying to help students find their career goals."

Faculty may not realize the extent to which their influence has with a student's self-confidence, motivation and academic achievement. With this in mind, professors have an important job in making



Howard Umrah explaining a Business Math equation while using visual indicators.



Students hearing Howard Umrah verbally communicate an equation on the whiteboard.

sure every student has equal opportunity for success in class, no matter what their learning style or disability may be.

“I speak, write on the board, use social media, upload material to DC Connect with closed captions and translations, meet one-on-one, anything to help students,” says Umrah.

According to Statistics Canada, 35 per cent of persons with disabilities in Canada report being avoided or excluded at school because of their disability. Additionally, 37 per cent of persons with disabilities in Canada report taking fewer courses because of their disability.

Students should be less forgiving of professors who don't embody DC's mission, vision and values. Learning is a two-way street in which professors teach and learn from their students.

“If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow,” says John Dewey, American philosopher and educator.

“As our mission statement says, my students' experience is first and foremost a priority,” says Umrah.

Main Barriers To Education For Students With Disabilities

Negative Attitudes and Stereotypes: Students with disabilities continue to face negative attitudes and stereotypes in the education system.

Accommodation Process: Accommodation is not always provided in a timely manner, is often insufficient, and sometimes not provided at all

Inadequate funding: At the post-secondary level, the funding structure is highly complex, with some programs containing eligibility requirements and restrictions that raise human rights issues.

Growing Goodness

By Madeleine Dender

Photo Credit: Durham College

Imagine being able to know where every food you consumed came from. Nowadays our grocery stores have about 90 per cent of our food coming from different areas in the world. So, do we really know what we are consuming?

The Horticulture program launched about seven years ago at Durham College (DC). It started out as a small program that not many people knew of, and has grown into a huge focal point for DC and its surrounding community.

Horticulture is the study of plants, how they are grown and propagated. However, Durham College takes the program one step further by also focusing on landscaping, design, arboriculture, agriculture and farming.

DC brings in very experienced professors related to the Horticulture field like Program Co-ordinator Shane Jones. He started working with plants at a very young age

and as he got older moved on to receive an education at University of Windsor and Humber College.

"It was a high school job," says Shane Jones, Program Co-ordinator of Horticulture at Durham College. "I grew up around farms, but I got a job at a local tropical plant greenhouse. I went off to do animation at Sheridan College and then realized that I couldn't live without plants."

A typical work day for Jones depends on the season. During the winter, he has the role of taking care of the greenhouse, ensuring the students have what they need to successfully continue their studies and design work. As soon as the spring comes, it's all about getting plants in the ground and getting them growing.

The benefits of having a program like this at DC is the development of the landscape and servicing the community. The communities like Oshawa, Ont. and Whitby, Ont., don't have a local landscape or horticulture program. The closest horticulture program



Program Coordinator, Shane Jones works with students in the greenhouse at Durham College Whitby Campus.



Horticulture students learning in one of their classes at Durham College Whitby Campus.

to the west is Humber College and our closest to the east is Algonquin College.

"There is nothing in our region and there is a lot of industry people in this area," explains Jones.

“The benefits of having a program like this at DC is the development of the landscape and servicing the community.”

"A lot of landscapers, subdivisions, nurseries and farmers. Durham is a huge horticulture area, but we don't have the program to service its needs or we didn't until this program opened."

In January 2019, DC received a \$1 million donation from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation for farming operations. The money will go directly into helping support the greenhouse and crops by giving them a post-harvest facility. At DC's Whitby campus, there isn't a "dedicated" space for the crops that have already grown to process, store, wash and clean them properly.



Fresh raspberries grown in the horticulture greenhouse at the Durham College Whitby Campus.


"We have all this food coming off and the Centre for Food is trying," says Jones. "But there is so much volume."

With both programs, Horticulture – Food and Farming and Horticulture Technician, doubling in size in the last couple of years, it also gives the college an opportunity to use the money to expand on different ideas.

The college has decided to start doing something called Aquaculture, where you grow plants with fish. This

provides the college with a chance to showcase some new and innovative ideas to both potential students and the surrounding communities.

What makes horticulture so special at DC is that students are not only working with plants and crops but with other programs as well. Culinary, events, and hospitality and horticulture students come together to work with one another. This gives them an opportunity to work with people in different fields and giving them that hands-on

experience even before they go out into the real world. 



Students work outside in the fields for class.

For more information about Durham College's Horticulture Program visit:

[durhamcollege.ca/
programs/food-and-farming](https://durhamcollege.ca/programs/food-and-farming)

OR

[durhamcollege.ca/
programs/horticulture-
technician](https://durhamcollege.ca/programs/horticulture-technician)

SHIFTING GEARS

By: Marissa Campbell

Alumni of Distinction recipient, internationally recognized and accomplished chief information officer, world traveller and lover of all things pugs, Heather Campbell is returning to her legal administration roots with the opening of the new law firm, Purcell Law, in Fernie B.C.

Campbell has had an outstanding career. As vice-president and CIO at Canadian Pacific Railway, she overhauled its IT division, including people, leadership, technology and IT

governance. As chief operating officer of the IT division of Global Retail and Commercial Banking at Barclays in London, U.K., she worked with the Group CIO to manage the 7,000-person Information Technology Division in the Global Retail and Commercial Bank and oversaw a £1.4 billion budget. She also managed the "Getting IT Right" program, an £80-million-a-year, three-year program to standardize and streamline IT services, introduce operational efficiencies and modernize the infrastructure estate.

As a vice president of IT at Rogers Communications Inc., she led the technology enablement program for Ted Rogers' Convergence strategy, including enterprise customer database and Customer Relations Management (CRM) and saved the organization \$25-million annually by standardizing operating procedures.

Campbell's path to success started in 1985 with a Legal Administration diploma from Durham College (DC). From the first day of class, the program was a match. She was fascinated by the law and admired the real-world practitioners who taught the program. She also valued the college's intern policies.

"My time at DC made me confident in my abilities. The hands-on curriculum and work-placement opportunities were invaluable," Campbell says.

A general education course in micro-computers in her final year at DC helped shape the course of her career.

"Because of that class, I knew a little more about micro-

computers than a lot of other people did at that time, and it offered me an opportunity to grow my career in ways I'd never thought of," she says.

"You can sit and do nothing and fall apart or you can get going and do something to improve your world. Giving up wasn't an option."

In addition to her diploma from Durham College, Campbell's credentials also include an MBA from Queens University, giving her a competitive edge that helped her find success and reach her career goals.

Former co-worker and long-time friend, Mea Hill, credits Campbell's drive and "laser sharp" focus for her success.

"Heather's greatest strength is her focus," Hill says. "When she puts her mind to something, there's no stopping her. Her capacity to learn, her drive to understand and her passion to succeed was something to behold."

That drive and focus helped Campbell become one of DC's first Alumni of Distinction.



Campbell takes a moment out of her day at Purcell Law.

(Marquis)

An avid traveller, Campbell has seen some spectacular views, but when she moved out west to work for Canadian Pacific Railway, she discovered Fernie, B.C. and fell in love with the quaint community tucked away in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Hoping to lay down some solid roots out west, her plans were interrupted by a devastating stroke that paralyzed the left side of her body. It's taken two years of rigorous rehab and determined recovery to get functionality back, but according to Campbell, giving up was never an option.

"You can sit and do nothing and fall apart or you can get going and do something to improve your world. Giving up wasn't an option."

Campbell started the blog AwesomeMountainGirl.com to document her recovery in the hopes of helping others on a similar journey.

"I was very fortunate. It could have been a lot worse."

That journey continues to evolve, and in September 2018, Campbell became an investor in Purcell Law, a local start-up in Fernie that caters to personal injury law. She also



Campbell hikes through the mountains at Maiden Lake in Fernie, B.C.

(Ingram)

works as the firm's Paralegal.

"I didn't want to rejoin the rat race that contributed to my stroke, but I wanted to get back in the game and make best use of my credentials"

For those just starting on their paths, Campbell suggests viewing their time at college

as a solid foundation for the future.

"Whatever you're doing at DC, it's not the end game. Consider that a starting point for wherever your dreams or ambitions take you."

For Campbell, those dreams have led her to an

accomplished career doing what she loves, living in a "little house in the mountains," with her "amazing husband" Dave and a "majestic little pug" named Roop constantly curled at her side. 🐕

NEVER STOP LEARNING

By: Sarah Abbott

Photo Credit: Durham College

When Stephen Forbes entered Durham College's Computer Programmer Analyst program in 2006, he had no idea just how much his life would change. His thirst for knowledge allowed him shine in ways he never thought possible.

"My aim is to always be learning, and to always be a student," says Forbes.

After graduating in 2009, Forbes immediately landed a job in his field. In his spare time, he became a private tutor and an educational tour guide. He was eventually given the opportunity to teach his first class in the Computer Programmer Analyst program here at the college in 2011 and hasn't looked back since. Coming from a large family of teachers, the transition from student to instructor was natural for him.

Of course, being a born leader also helps in building a career. Not only has Forbes proven himself to be a



Oshawa, Ont. – Stephen Forbes poses for a photo with Andrew Mayne, Amit Maraj, and Sam Plati at Durham College's Research Day on May 3, 2018.

determined go-getter, but as of spring 2017, he has had the pleasure of serving as co-ordinator of the Computer Programmer Analyst program.

"The transition for me was much like any other attempt at self-improvement," he says. "I did my best to learn as quickly as I could from those before me. I'm still transitioning

from that student I was when I graduated, and I'm always trying to improve."

In the past few years, Forbes has lent his expertise to several projects at Durham, including the "AI Hub." The AI Hub serves several different purposes on campus, but Forbes holds one cause

particularly close to his heart: connecting small and medium-sized businesses with developers fluent in modern AI solutions.

Forbes's involvement with the AI Hub began while he was serving as a member of the dedicated and talented team in the Office of Research Services, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. In consort with his colleagues, Forbes crafted a proposal to fund the AI Hub. After presenting their proposal to the Durham College leadership team, the AI Hub team received a green light.

Forbes says he will always be grateful to the handful of people at Durham that have steadily pushed him to be his best. In particular, he gives credit to Kevin Dougherty, who taught him how to be accountable; to Bill Marlow, for always making him feel it was okay for not always knowing all the answers; and to Julie Walker, whose kindness, he says, could reignite a burned-out light bulb.

No question that ongoing

changes in the field of IT have taught Forbes to become adaptable in the past few years. At the same time, he knows that the ongoing growth in his chosen field have opened up a whole new world of possibilities. By his own admission, he's the type

of IT pioneer who loves a good challenge.

"If you're not hitting the ground hard and getting hurt every now and then, you're probably not pushing any boundaries or getting better at your craft," he says.

His best advice: "Keep

moving and don't let yourself get bogged down. In other words, don't avoid failure."

The AI Hub has leading experts to help you and your team expand your knowledge skills. Artificial intelligence is a term that represents a system or set of business processes

that can sense its operating environment, reason, learn, and act in response to input and objectives.

An observer of the behaviour would consider the results intelligent if a human performed the action. ☞



Oshawa, Ont. – Durham College student Matthew Wierzbicki poses with the AI Hub logo at Durham College's Research Day on May 3, 2018.

A Canvas of Her Own

By Kris Lamb

Artwork by Chelesy Rogatinsky

Rebellious pirates, biker gangs and sailors are some of the first things that come to mind when people start talking about tattoos, but to an artist, it is a canvas waiting for a masterpiece.

Twenty-six-year-old inspired tattoo apprentice Chelsey Rogatinsky grew up surrounded by her grandmother's artwork hung all around her. This inspired her to try and draw a masterpiece of her own. Sketching her way through high school, she studied art while playing on any sports team she could make time for. Moving on towards post-secondary, Rogatinsky was faced with a choice between two passions she had grown a strong connection to athletics and art.

"I was accepted into art school, but neglected one passion for the other, especially when I received a soccer scholarship for Durham College," says Rogatinsky.

While on a soccer scholarship, she enrolled into a three-year Music Business

Management program at Durham College (DC), where she became the captain of the soccer team in her rookie year. However, things took a turn for the worst and she sustained multiple injuries resulting in knee surgery, which took her off the field and away from the game that she loved.

“It is not easy trying to find an apprenticeship, and it takes a lot of patience and a solid portfolio.”

"I was living in the dark after losing such a big part of my life," says Rogatinsky, "It left me confiding in the only other matter I believe I was good at, drawing."

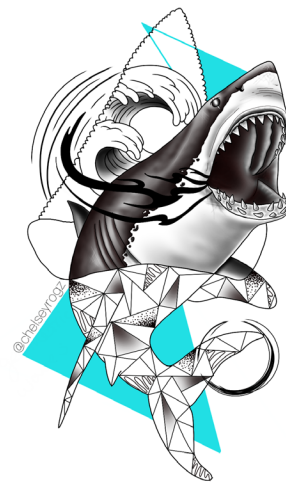
She enrolled into the Foundations in Art and Design program at DC and began a three-year journey looking for an apprenticeship. Rogatinsky was constantly turned away despite her efforts but that didn't lessen her determination. In 2018, her hard work had paid off and

Malefic Tattoos, a tattoo shop in Mississauga, Ont., agreed to take her on as an apprentice.

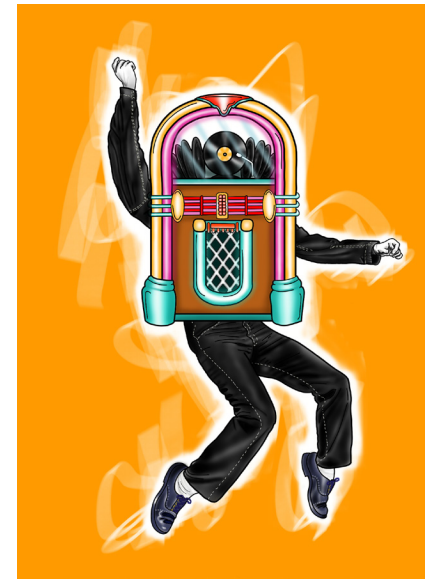
"It is not easy trying to find an apprenticeship, and it takes a lot of patience and a solid portfolio," says Rogatinsky, "I'm one year into my apprenticeship and I couldn't be happier. I've worked extremely hard to get here."

Looking back, the Foundations in Art and Design program was only a stepping stone to bringing Rogatinsky back to her roots. The program offers a diverse set of courses covering topics like digital drawing, 3D art and design, and presentation and portfolio techniques.

"I'm so grateful for having such an unreal college experience and I don't take those memories for granted," says Rogatinsky, "Although I didn't end up in the music industry, Foundations in Art and Design was a good mindset to be in to find my way into the tattoo industry." 🍀



Artwork: Top Shark Bait and bottom Flower.



Artwork: Top left Tiger, bottom left Dexter, middle Jim Carrey, top right Elvis and bottom right Popeye.

ALUMNI UPDATE

1985

Christine Reid

Dental Hygiene

Christine is a dental hygienist and lives in Oshawa, Ont. with her husband David.

2006

Monica Coddington (nee Vanderheide)

Police Foundations

Monica is a Territory manager with Suncor Energy and lives in Edmonton, Alta., with her husband John.

2015

John Wesley Phillips

Recreation and Leisure Services

John Wesley works as an Auto Dealer for Owasco Volkswagen Inc. and lives in Whitby, Ont.

2017

Eric Lacina

Environmental Technology

Eric is a project technologist for Pinchin Environmental Limited and lives in Chatham, Ont.

2017

Heidi Mitchell

Human Resource Management

Heidi works as an HR Generalist for R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd. And lives in Whitby, Ont., with her husband Robert.

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