



SPRING 2018 | VOLUME. 93

Durham College Alumni Magazine

# Reflections



**DURHAM  
COLLEGE**  
SUCCESS MATTERS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER  
MLS CUP 2017 CHAMPIONS

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## The arrival of spring signifies new beginnings

Spring has arrived and with it comes optimism and new beginnings. This is an exciting time of the year as many of you are about to graduate and walk across the stage into a new chapter of your life.

As you prepare for this new adventure, the Durham College Alumni Association has several resources to help you achieve success, including free lifetime access to Career Services, volunteer opportunities to keep you engaged with the college and a number of great social networking events. The next one is the DC Alumni Night at the Blue Jays game on July 24th and we hope to see you there!

Whether you are a current student or a new graduate, we encourage you to stay in touch with us! We offer many valuable resources after your life as a DC student, with savings and discounts through our exclusive affinity program, so be sure to take advantage of them. You can find out more on our website at [www.durhamcollege.ca/info-for/alumni](http://www.durhamcollege.ca/info-for/alumni).

For the latest news and updates, please connect with us on Twitter @Alumni\_DC, follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/durhamcollegealumni](http://www.facebook.com/durhamcollegealumni) and join us on LinkedIn Durham College Alumni (for past and present students).

From all of us at the DC Alumni Association, we wish you success in your future and we extend a heartfelt welcome into the DC Alumni community.



Best wishes,

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

Elaine Garnett, Class of 1990  
President, DC Alumni Association

### REFLECTIONS

Published by the  
Durham College Alumni Office

2000 Simcoe Street  
Oshawa, Ont., L1H 7K4

T: 905.721.3035  
F: 905.721.3134  
E: [alumni@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:alumni@durhamcollege.ca)

CIRCULATION: 27,000

### ABOUT THIS ISSUE

PUBLISHER:

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:  
Matisse Hamel-Nelis

MANAGING EDITOR:  
Laura Wilson

ART DIRECTORS: Natasha Bonke

ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR:  
Kaitlyn Farrow

COPY EDITORS: Aaron Short

PHOTO EDITOR: Tasha Jetha

COVER PHOTO: Aaron Short

Reflections is written and edited by  
Durham College second-year Public  
Relations students.

# In This Issue

- 2 A Message From The President
- 4 Backing A Winner: TFC's Anthony Cozzetto
- 5 Durham College Hearts Don Lovisa
- 6 Developing Confidence And Careers
- 7 Mike Lafleur: A Semester Around The World
- 8 Writing Your Way To The Top
- 9 The Future Of Student Affairs
- 10 Passion Play: A Path To Indie Gaming
- 11 Law Clerk Student Advances Her Own Future
- 12 Durham College: A Place For Everyone
- 13 Durham Grads Reconnect Over Coffee
- 14 The Future Is Female
- 15 Alumni Coming Full Circle
- 16 Find Your Next Adventure Through Education Abroad
- 17 The Difference Between Pie and Pi
- 18 Alumni Update



# Backing a Winner: TFC's Anthony Cozzetto

By Aaron Short

Photo Credit: Anthony Cozzetto

In the go-big-or-go-home world of professional sports, Anthony Cozzetto is at the top of his game.

Currently, the graduate of Durham College's highly regarded Sports Administration program, holds the position of Co-ordinator of Media Relations for the Toronto Football Club (TFC). Daily, he performs a diverse number of roles in order to execute various tasks in running the red-hot sports franchise. Cozzetto works closely with management, media, players and the public to represent the high quality of both TFC and its owner, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE).

**“All of my instructors had real-life experience, which I really came to appreciate”**

“Every day brings a different set of challenges when one is working with a professional sports team like TFC,” says Cozzetto. “It’s never boring.” Cozzetto enrolled in Durham’s Sports Administration program straight out of high school. He was already familiar with the program since his own father had graduated from the same course two decades before. As a life-long sports fan, Cozzetto was drawn to the program for its hands-on teaching method as executed by experienced instructors.



Anthony Cozzetto and fellow TFC staff in the championship parade.

“All of my professors had real-life experiences, which I really came to appreciate and found beneficial in my development as a student,” he says. “And the learning wasn’t just restricted to class hours; they were always available and willing to answer questions and share their own experiences that helped me a lot.”

Post-Durham, Anthony did his internship with the Toronto Maple Leafs AHL affiliate the Toronto Marlies and thereafter steadily worked his way up the MLSE ladder. To his credit, and in keeping with the sports world, Cozzetto learned quickly

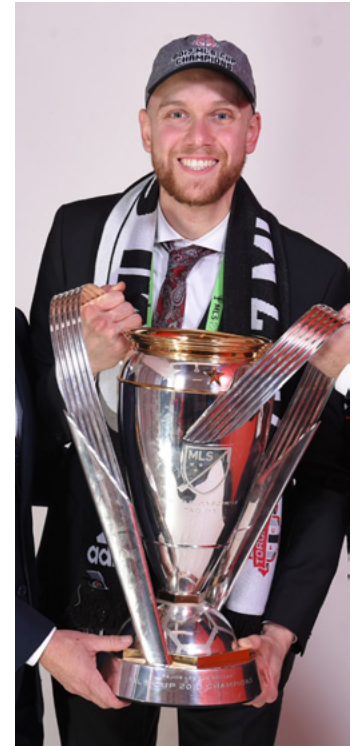
“make sure your servers towel is bigger

than your ego” and act like a gentleman. “Always be respectful, kind and work with a smile,” he says. “The sports industry is very small. You never know who you will meet or the connections they may have, so treat everyone you meet with the golden rule.”

Another smart Cozzetto tip for those looking to dive into the sports field: Go easy when on Twitter. “The majority of employers out there will check on your social media activity, so keep it professional at all times,” he suggests.

**“The majority of employers out there will check on your social media activity, so keep it professional at all times”**

And talk about backing a winner: TFC recently won its first MLS Cup, and season tickets for home games at BMO Field are a much-desired commodity. Luckily for TFC, they have a real team player in their lineup. “My job is different every day,” says Cozzetto. “I always make myself available to help anyone from media, players or team staff and management as much as possible. Working on a variety of projects within the club has allowed me to see different aspects of the team and the business side. This has made things very interesting and enjoyable.”



Cozzetto takes his turn holding the MLS Cup.

# Durham College Hearts Don Lovisa

By Kayleigh Scott

Photo Credit: Durham College

From winning awards to inspiring an entire college community, Durham College (DC) president Don Lovisa has had an impressive career. He shows his true passion for the college every day through his dedication and school pride, and is always willing to listen to alumni, staff and students on ways to improve the student experience.

“Don is a great leader who truly loves what he does,” says Holly Stringer, Lovisa’s executive assistant. “He is able to still laugh and have fun even though his role is very demanding and busy. He often takes time out of his busy day to walk around the campus and talk to students and employees.”

During his 10 years as president, he’s offered a lot to DC thanks to his implementation of regulations and strategies that have resulted in the college’s growth and positive reputation. From the day he started, Lovisa has helped grow the student population to more than 30,000, while launching a new vision and plan for the college.

With his love for DC and dedication for students’ academic success, he strives to ensure the college provides students with the best support and education possible. As the college’s motto says, success matters, and for Lovisa, that success can be seen through the alumni he encounters.



Don Lovisa talking to students about what’s up and coming at Durham College.

“It is very inspiring because you get to see that the alumni are bright and ready to take on the world, they have a good education because of the college,” said Lovisa. “You hear a lot of things through alumni events, through the alumni magazine, you get to see people who are around the world with a Durham College credential. Everywhere I go where I hear these success stories. People who graduated in the ’70s and ’80s come up and tell me their stories of how their children are coming to Durham College. There are lots of good stories.”

One of the events where Lovisa hears those stories is during the Oshawa General Alumni Hockey Game. He loves seeing alumni come together with their DC gear on, showing their school spirit. He thinks it’s a fun event, plus getting to drop the puck at centre ice along with some alumni isn’t too shabby either. Attending alumni events is just one of the ways Lovisa has seen graduates participate — they are also giving back to their alma mater.



Don Lovisa (Left) with two Durham College Alumni dropping the puck at the 2017 Oshawa Generals Alumni Hockey Game.

“Alumni are involved in the dinners for students and they’re always at the college or promoting it as well. Our alumni do a good job for us,”

He believes alumni coming out and helping the current students just makes the school community a more welcoming place. As Durham College continues to grow, seeing the next generation of students become alumni makes Lovisa proud.

“I wish nothing but the best for alumni,” says Lovisa. “I wish good health, happiness and success in their careers.”



# Developing Confidence And Careers

Story and photos by Nicole Hann

**S**troll into Durham College's Career Development Office and be one step closer to the career of your dreams.

"It's a non-judgemental service," says Devon Turcotte, Outreach Co-ordinator in the Career Development Office. "With career stuff, it can be scary to talk to someone that you don't really know and there is a fear of judgement. We are all human, we all have goals that maybe did or didn't work out. I know what it's like to set goals and not reach them. My job is to see if you are equipped to go where you want to go. I think that's the biggest thing. We're open-minded and as kind as we can be to help you get where you want to go."

Located in the Student Services Building at the college's Oshawa, Ont. campus, or in Room 180 at the Whitby campus, the Career Development Office's doors are open for any current student or alumni who wish to use their services. For those interested in making an appointment, and who may have a far commute or be working with a busy schedule, the office offers the opportunity to do over-the-phone or Skype meetings.

**“My job is to see if you are equipped to go where you want to go. I think that's the biggest thing. We're open-minded and as kind as we can be to help you get where you want to go.”**

The office offers services and resources like resumé and cover letter building, interview preparation, access to the Hired Portal to view various job postings, educational and informational workshops, along with networking opportunities for students and alumni to take part in.

"I would recommend the Career Development Office at Durham College to everyone," says Janice Donaldson, a graduate of the Contemporary Web Design program. "Visiting the office was a very enlightening experience for me. The staff were extremely helpful and gave me a new outlook on how to improve my resumé. Now that I know the services are available to alumni, I will definitely be visiting the office again for my future career needs."

Turcotte would like to see more alumni taking advantage of the services and resources available in the office.



*Devon Turcotte stands proudly in the Career Development Office, a safe haven for students and alumni to visit for their career needs.*

"Very few alumni come to us," says Turcotte. "If they do, it tends to be shortly after graduation and within the first few months. That being said, we have had alumni come in who graduated in the '80s or '90s who are going through a career change. Our alumni numbers are not that big right now, but they should know that they have access to this service forever; as long as the building still stands."

The office offers students and alumni an opportunity to build on both their confidence and their careers by giving them the tools, techniques and resources needed to be successful. It is clear that the Career Development Office is equipped with a team who has a love for helping people reach their goals. No individual is left without a place to go for their career needs when at Durham College. Success truly does matter. 🍀

# Mike Lafleur: A Semester Around The World

By Tredijah Rolle

Photo credit: Durham College

**W**ant to study or teach abroad but are unsure how to go about it? Fewer than three per cent of all post-secondary students in Canada study abroad, with an even smaller percentage of Durham College (DC) students taking advantage of these types of experiences.

"I have travelled to over 60 countries in the world," says Mike Lafleur, the International Education Abroad Assistant at Durham College. "Education abroad allows you to expand personal and professional growth and skill. It allows you to take yourself out of your comfort zone, so you are able to learn more about yourself and challenge yourself to grow. You gain cross-cultural insights and perspectives."

Durham College International Projects allow students and teachers the opportunity to learn globally through international exchanges, work-integrated learning, short-term studies abroad, and field schools. The International Office is proud to lead international education at DC and is grateful to those who make it possible.

**"Together with our partners on-campus and beyond," says Lafleur. "We provide global experiences that are unforgettable for our college community."**


Studying abroad allows participants to embrace new cultures, develop new language skills, become more independent, and so much more! Being in a new environment allows you to build and expand on your qualities that will make you stand out as a student or teacher. Everything about spending a semester abroad is a learning experience. It's all about being willing to embrace challenges and learning to see things in a new way.



Students take a quick photo to celebrate their experiences abroad

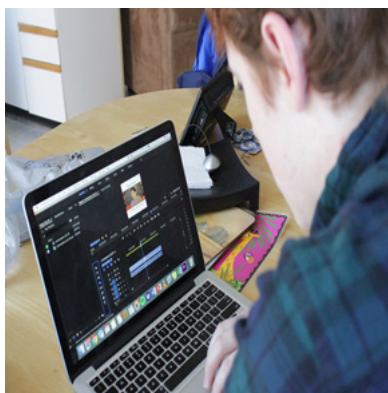
**"Education abroad allows you to expand personal and professional growth and skill. It allows you to take yourself out of your comfort zone, so you are able to learn more about yourself and challenge yourself to grow. You gain cross-cultural insights and perspectives."**

"You learn how to adapt in different cultures," says Lafleur. "Many of the students, and even teachers, felt their experiences abroad created an awareness they didn't have previously. They appreciated the amount of uncomfortableness they experienced, and it helped them grow in ways they would not have if they were home."

Anyone looking for more information can email [educationabroad@dc.com](mailto:educationabroad@dc.com), or follow Durham College International on Instagram at [@DurhamCollegeInternational](https://www.instagram.com/DurhamCollegeInternational). 



Students abroad in Kenya.



Left: An article Debets wrote while interning at The Hockey News magazine. Center: Debets editing a video for theScore. Right: A story Debets wrote for the Durham College and UOIT newspaper, The Chronicle

# Writing Your Way To The Top

Story and photos by Tasha Jetha

Durham College (DC) graduate Alex Debets has been fortunate enough to combine his two great passions, writing and sports. During his time in DC's Journalism: Broadcast and Electronic Media program, Debets has become the writer he has always aspired to be.

After completing the Media Fundamentals program at Sheridan College, Debets decided it was time he followed his dreams of studying journalism. Choosing on Durham College seemed like the obvious choice, not only was it close to home, but the reputation for the program was unmatched to any other.

"I was drawn to journalism because I wanted to tell stories," says Debets. "Durham created real-world situations in the classroom that helped me land in a career shortly after leaving school."

Over his two years at DC, Debets studies helped prepare him for life in the journalism world. The most beneficial experience came while working on a weekly production for the school's radio station, Riot Radio, which gave him the hands-on skills he continues to use at his job today.

Shortly after completing the program, Debets landed a job as Junior Content Creator at theScore, creating online content for their Esports department. He attributes his success not only to the program, but also to his professors.

"All of my professors at DC pushed me to be the best journalist I could be," says Debets. "They all left a mark on me. The entire faculty cares about students. Even after graduating, they continue to support their students."

The skills Debets gained during his time at Durham College are now transferred to the work he does everyday. A typical day

**“The best piece of advice I can give is to take every opportunity given to you. You really never know where your career will take you, the skills you are learning in the classroom can land you a job you never thought possible down the line.”**

involves extensive research for current stories he is producing, writing scripts for hosts, and gathering and assembling B-roll footage to be used in various online segments. The most useful skills Debets learned during his time at DC was how to use the software from Adobe Suite — something he uses every day at theScore.

"The best piece of advice I can give is to take every opportunity given to you," says Debets. "You really never know where your career will take you, the skills you are learning in the classroom can land you a job you never thought possible down the line." 🏆

# The Future of Student Affairs

By Tishana Bissoon

Photos by Abigail Bell and Tishana Bissoon

Have you reached out to Student Affairs? Many students finish their education at Durham College without ever taking advantage of the valuable assistance of student services. "In my experience, many students don't know about the services that are available to them," says Angie Paisley, executive assistant to the vice-president in the Student Affairs Office.

**“My advice to them is to take advantage of all the services we have to offer and get involved. We are here to help make their college experiences a positive one.”**

Durham College just celebrated their 50-year anniversary, marking a half-century of hard work, productive educational experiences and unparalleled academic success. With a new student union and ever-expanding student services, Durham College is moving into the future with confidence.

Paisley has worked hand in hand with Meri Kim Oliver, the vice-president of Student Affairs at Durham College since 2013. Working in Student Affairs offers Paisley a variety of personalities to interact with each day and provides a unique focus on the student experience at Durham College.



Student Affairs annual holiday party.



Angie Paisley, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs

Student Affairs has many current goals for the future, such as providing overall health and wellness support for students, continuing to provide accessibility supports and accommodations, expanding athletic and recreational spaces, growing co-operative education program opportunities and increasing student leadership among students.

# Passion Play:

## A Path to Indie Gaming

Story and photos by Matthew Akot

According to Ryan Miller, one of the great things about being an independent (indie) developer is the freedom to develop original games. As the co-owner and programmer of *Reptoid Games* in Toronto, Miller has the freedom to run the business the way that suits him and is best for his company as a whole. As an artistic kid with a love of video games and drawing, he turned his passion into his job and now works to create top quality indie games.

"I like indie games," says Miller. "There's a lot to like - the passion and the scrappiness is appealing to me. Indie developers can choose to create whatever game they want because they're not constrained."

Miller graduated from the Computer Animation program at Durham College (DC) in 2007, with a paid internship adding to the mix. After Miller graduated, he continued working in the animation field. He would fill the roles of a background painter and a digital compositor for various animated television shows such as *Disney's Fish Hooks* and *Jake and the Neverland Pirates*. He would later go from student to teacher as an instructor in the animation and game development courses, a role he filled from 2012 to 2015.

Miller went on to start *Reptoid Games* in 2015 and partnered with Simon Paquette, an accomplished animation director in his own right, in an effort to leave their mark on the indie game world. Their big break came during the Ubisoft Indie Series, a game development competition, in February of 2017, where they took home the Grand Prize.

"It was really exciting working with *Ubisoft*, and getting their mentorship and bouncing ideas off each other," says Miller. "I was blown away by the friendliness and generosity of *Ubisoft* Toronto. Their support and guidance have and will continue to be invaluable to us."

*Reptoid Games* is focused on creating a good work environment that's comfortable for everyone. This is possible thanks to the desire to treat all of their employees fairly. Miller and *Reptoid Games* believe in the good treatment of the people who work for them. In fact, it's this philosophy that brought Miller and Paquette together as co-owners. They have both seen employees in the industry treated unfairly and vowed to make a difference.

"The idea of valuing the people you are working with is something we both felt really strongly about," says Paquette. "To



Ryan Miller co-founded *Reptoid Games* in 2015 and released *Fossil Hunters*, their first full-release game, in February. He is pictured here promoting the game at the Enthusiast Gaming Live Expo (EGLX) in Toronto.

this day, I feel it's one of the strongest points of our partnership and our company."

Miller's key piece of advice for anyone trying to break into the field is to get out there and network. He urges students to go downtown and check out the various industry events and meet people already working in the field.

"Making yourself known, making those connections, and being sociable goes a long way," says Miller. "At the end of the day, a big part of getting a job is who you know."

Miller sees *Reptoid Games* remaining independent for the foreseeable future. His company is more comfortable in an indie space and prefers the freedom indie development provides. The future looks bright for *Reptoid Games*. Don't be surprised to hear that name more often in the gaming industry.

*Reptoid Games* recently released their first full-length game, *Fossil Hunters*. *Fossil Hunters* is an all-ages action-adventure game about digging up fossils and assembling your own dinosaurs. The game is currently available now on Steam and on all major consoles this summer. 🦕

# Law-Clerk Student Advances Her Own Future

Story and photos by Alexandra Mcpeake

There are many responsibilities that accompany being a student. With busier schedules, bills to pay, and deadlines to meet, most students find this time of their life to be one of the most stressful. For Jocelyn Lee, alumni of the Advanced Law-Clerk program at Durham College who graduated with honors in 2007, she experienced even greater obstacles being a single mom enrolled in a full-time program and working part-time.

After attending Trent University for a bachelors degree in psychology, Lee decided to take a chance on a thorough program, with an eight-month placement, and a job availability that ensured a bright future for herself and her daughter.

"I faced every challenge head on," says Lee. "I had to act fast when challenges came my way because I was not only dealing with working on a career for myself, I was working towards supporting my family."

The obstacles of entering school with a newborn, juggling child care, completing assignments in on time, and working part-time, provided more than enough difficulties. However, it was these hurdles that offered Lee a chance to develop better time and money management skills, and a stronger drive and determination to achieve her goals.

**“I had to act fast when challenges came my way because I was not only dealing with working on my career for myself, I was working towards supporting my family.”**

While Lee struggled during her time as a student, she used the resources that Durham College offered, such as daycare, to help her attend classes and stay on track. The biggest support system, though, was her family.

"My family was a very helpful resource," says Lee. "Having a close family, my parents were always willing to help me as much as they could, that way I could go to the

library at UOIT and study and do assignments."

Thanks to her hard work, she gained immediate employment following the completion of a very successful placement at Lerner LLP, three months prior to finishing school. After graduation in 2007, Lee worked for Lerner LLP for over four years. She then chose to pursue another opportunity, and joined Blouin Dunn LLP, where she worked for three years, and developed even more experience.

Lee is now a Legal Administrative Assistant and Technology Adoption Champion in McMillan's Municipal Law Group in Toronto, and just had her three-year anniversary. After 10 years in the legal industry, she's very happy with her career choice and achievements. Lee now works on training various team members on programs as they are updated and introduced.

After working at three law firms throughout her career, Lee expresses the importance of going with your gut and being happy in your work environment.

"If you're not happy with your job, it's really hard to be happy in your life." 🍷



Recent photo of Jocelyn Lee in her Toronto office at McMillan LLP.

# DURHAM COLLEGE:

## A PLACE FOR EVERYONE



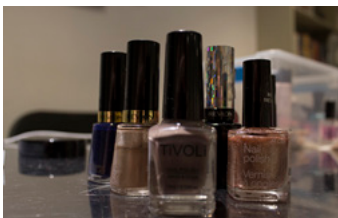
An artist rendering of the anticipated design for Durham's future spa opens to the public in September 2018.

By Natasha Bonke

Photo credit: Durham College and Natasha Bonke

Durham College has always provided students with a wide range of courses to choose from. Programs such as Accounting and Payroll to Music Business Management and even Welding Engineering Technician are available for students to enroll in. But that doesn't stop Durham College from adding new and exciting programs to the list. In fact, in September 2018, the School of Business, IT and Management will be introducing a program to add to the already long and diverse list of programs.

"This program is directly in response to industry request and so by allowing students to come into the state-of-the-art facility, brand new program with expert faculty



Students will learn manicure and pedicure techniques among other important procedures during this four semester course.

designing the program, these students will be empowered to grow themselves in discipline but they're also going to get the underlying theme of entrepreneurship in business aptitudes," says Michelle Hutt, Associate Dean of Business, IT and Management. "So they are going to come out ahead of other graduates in the industry. They will also have the pathway to an advanced diploma."

Esthetician – Spa Management will be one of seven new programs in 2018. The Esthetician – Spa Management program will introduce students to the world of nail and hair care. Students will learn how to give manicures, pedicures, different waxing techniques and even make-up corrective techniques and body treatments. With a holistic approach to teaching, students will graduate with

the confidence to take on any client and provide them with fantastic services. "We have a growing economy in the Durham Region, especially Oshawa," says Hutt. "Lots of people having been asking for a program like this one. With the new Centre for Collaborative Education opening we had the opportunity to build a spa."

At the end of the four semester program students will have opportunities to be the owner of a salon or spa, work as a manicurist or pedicurist, become a skincare specialist and even have the skills to work as a hair care and removal specialist.

The two-year program will also provide students with hands on, real life work experience as they work and practice the skills taught in classes at Durham's very own DC Spa which will be open to the public. Along with their very own spa workspace.

**"This program is directly in response to industry request and so by allowing students to come into the state-of-the-art facility, brand new program with expert faculty designing the program."**

"With the new Centre for Collaborative Education opening we had the opportunity to build a spa," says Hutt. "Students will be required to do a field placement which can help them land a job."

This is the perfect program for anyone who enjoys working with people, is outgoing and loves to boost other's self-esteem.

Overall, this is a great way to promote Durham College's "Success Matters" branding and will bring more students into business. There really is something here for everyone. 📱

# Durham Grads Reconnect Over Coffee

By Caitlin Moorcroft

Photo Credit: Durham College

How do you mark a half-century of Durham College? By getting together with established Durham alumni and sharing memories.

In recognition of Durham College's 50th Anniversary, the Durham College Office of Development and Alumni Affairs visited 50 workplaces across Ontario and beyond in order to reconnect with graduates. The DC Brewing Memories Coffee Tour was an opportunity to share a coffee with alumni and hear about their careers since leaving Durham College.

Senior alumni development officer Lisa McNerney was along for the ride and learned the value of Durham College alumni reconnecting with their alma mater. "It's very important to reconnect with our alumni, learn more about them and where they are at in their careers and share with them what is going on at Durham College," says McNerney.



Durham College Alumni reconnect at an event at the Hockey Hall of Fame in September.

The first stop on the tour took place in February 2017 when the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs visited Durham College's Whitby and Oshawa campuses. Roughly 70 alumni from a wide range of disciplines who now work at the college turned out for the casual coffee klatch, during which they reflected on their Durham College education and how it prepared them for their lives in the real world.

And have Durham grads gone on to bigger and better things all over the world? Of course they have.

One of the more memorable coffee get-togethers took place at the Oshawa campus in September, 2017, which showcased Durham College grads now employed in Turkey, Romania, Japan and London.

Hosted by Durham College president Don Lovisa and professor Lon Appleby, the event took place in-class and online and connected participants with Durham College alumni who shared updates on their careers and fond memories from their school days. And yes, coffee was served.



DC's Brewing Memories Tour stopped at Ontario Power Generation to visit with Alumni.

"The alumni loved the tour," says McNerney. "I think they really appreciated the fact that their college reconnected with them and came to their workplace to visit."

The tour also stopped in Ottawa in late 2017, where an estimated 300 Durham graduates are currently employed at a wide range of workplaces. Among them: Durham Regional Police Service, Lakeridge Health (all five locations), Hockey Hall of Fame and Ontario Power Generation. Needless to say, steaming hot coffee, tea and baked goods were enjoyed by all at each stop.

And really, is there anything more Canadian than old school friends getting together to reminisce about their respective college experiences? Over the course of the tour, the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs reconnected with more than

**“It's very important to reconnect with our alumni, learn more about them and where they are at in their careers and share with them what is going on at Durham College.”**

480 happy and successful Durham College alumni in the Durham region, Toronto, Ottawa and from all points on the globe. Both the grads and Office of Development and Alumni Affairs are currently considering other opportunities to connect with graduates over coffee.

To stay connected with Durham College and fellow alumni, visit [www.durhamcollege.ca/info-for/alumni](http://www.durhamcollege.ca/info-for/alumni).

# The Future is Female

By Audrey Bouman

Photos by Clarice Bouman

Durham College (DC) is known for its extensive range of emergency services programs available for those looking to get into the field. For an individual seeking to enroll in the policing program or obtain their graduate certificate in victimology, the college provides the training necessary to kick-start any emergency services career. That's why for Clarice Bouman, a first-year student in the Protection, Security, and Investigation (PSI) program at DC, it was a natural choice.

"My interest in emergency services first started with wanting to be a 911 operator," says Bouman. "After participating in the Youth in Policing Incentive (YIPI) program while in high school, I discovered I wanted to become a police officer. I did my research and discovered that Durham College was the best option with its PSI program. It would provide me with opportunities to bridge into many different aspects of policing down the road."

Now in her second semester, Bouman has discovered a new trend within the program; there's a larger enrollment of female students in her classes. In recent years, significant strides have been made in the realm for female empowerment across the globe, in part thanks to the #MeToo movement sweeping across Hollywood and the efforts being put into fighting for women's equal pay rights. It is clear the women of the world are coming forward and taking a stand. It's also why it comes as no surprise to Bouman that young women are showing more interest in taking on previously more male-dominated roles and careers.

"I would say my classes are about 55 per cent male and 45 per cent female," says Bouman. "The program has students from many different emergency service programs in the classes, so it changes with each class. But the ladies are beginning to take over and make themselves known."

Bouman noted out of seven professors this semester, five are female, with some still completing work for the police force and others now retired. The surge in young women enrolling in these types of programs seems to be a great response to the female empowerment movement.

In 2016, the National Post published an article discussing the Toronto Police Service and how it is still seen as the 'old boys club'.

**"With the number of female students in the program, I feel it's going to have a very positive effect in shattering the 'old boys club' stigma attached to not only the police force, but also the many different areas of emergency services, "**

"Being a current PSI student, I feel we will be seeing a surge in female first responders in the years to come, which is just one

example of how police officers are changing and adapting with the way our society is changing," Bouman stated.

The efforts being made by the Toronto Police Service to have a more diverse and educated police force are ongoing. The changes Bouman sees in the emergency services programs throughout Ontario are sure to have a positive impact on those efforts and initiatives.

"After graduation, I will continue my volunteering and hopefully secure a job that will help me when trying to join the Toronto Police Service," says Bouman. "No matter what aspect of policing

or emergency service I end up in, I will continue to encourage young women to become involved in emergency services and to stand up for themselves, proving we will be able to shatter that 'old boys club' stigma that is attached to the police force."



Image of Toronto Mounted officers at a drill practice in Toronto.

# Alumni Coming Full Circle

By Laura Wilson

Photo credit: Natasha Jetha

Each year, Durham College (DC) students are provided with a unique and valuable opportunity guaranteed to inspire.

The Alumni in the Pit event is a proud DC tradition that provides an opportunity for students to learn from those who have been in their position. The event allows for an open discussion between alumni, faculty and students, both in person and in the classroom via live streaming. By gaining insight into career possibilities and opportunities post-graduation, students are equipped with a better understanding of what their desired industry has to offer.

"There are many lessons I hope students can take away from these events," says Lisa McNerney, Senior Development Officer at DC, who organizes this yearly event.

"One of the lessons would be that there are many different paths to a successful career. It is OK to experience hurdles after graduating, and you will overcome them if you are passionate and work hard."



Featured alumni Brandon Nolan (left) and Manjula Selvarajah (right) speak at DC's Alumni in the Pit event.

Every year, DC's Alumni Development Office selects two notable alumni to be featured as a way to highlight different insights into industry possibilities and what could possibly await after graduation. Students can become so overwhelmed with courses, they often forget about life after graduation. Alumni in the Pit provides them with the opportunity to begin thinking beyond the classroom.

**“It is important to connect students with grads because alumni are relatable and have walked in the shoes of the students not that long ago. They can offer valuable insight, advice and share lessons they have learned along the way.”**



Staff and students gather to listen to featured alumni share insider information and tips for success after graduation.

As the transition occurs from student to alumni, many opportunities are made available to stay involved. From networking to campus events, alumni are offered a unique chance to connect with each other, and also with students who will someday be in their position. DC also offers the opportunity for alumni to be featured by the college, with notable alumni selected yearly based on faculty and staff input from around the college.

## 2018 Featured Alumni

### Brandon Nolan – Marketing - Business Administration

Former NHL player Brandon Nolan suffered a career-ending injury causing him to re-evaluate his path in life. After graduating from Durham College in 2013, he has seen many successful endeavors including a clothing line, 3N Clothing Apparel, and the Ted Nolan Foundation. Nolan is also a co-founder of 3INOLANS First Nation Hockey School, benefiting over 1,000 First Nations youths through the joys of hockey since it opened in 2013.

### Manjula Selvarajah – Journalism – Mass Media

Manjula Selvarajah began her career as vice-president of marketing for a Toronto based startup, Eloqua. She then made a career change and headed to DC to pursue her journalistic desires. Now, you can find Selvarajah producing and contributing to CBC Radio shows like Metro Morning and Live and Learn on CBC's Fresh Air to name a few. Selvarajah has interviewed Canadian heavy-hitters like Toronto Mayor John Tory and entrepreneur Jim Balsillie. Selvarajah is the co-founder of volunteer-run organization Tamil Women Rising.

"We look for alumni from all different career backgrounds who are doing notable things in their career," says McNerney. "Our goal is people who are at a stage in their career where students can relate to them, but who can also offer valuable insight and advice to students." 🍷

# Find Your Next Adventure Through Education Abroad

By Kaitlyn Farrow

Photo credit: Kyle Stiliadis

Are you seeking more excitement and adventure? Through Durham College (DC), you can transform your life and your education by participating in specific studies abroad that incorporates culture, study, travel and a new experience all in one. As recent graduate or long-time alumni, you may be thinking that your educational career at DC is over. However, the opportunities available to you are endless. If you want to differentiate yourself from other graduates while advancing your diploma to degree, then Pathways may be right for you. This program allows alumni to further their diploma while getting an experience of a lifetime. Whether they recently graduated or have been an alumnus for some time, it's never too late for this experience.

At DC, there are agreements made through partnering institutions that recognize the credits graduates have earned throughout their college career. This allows graduates to turn their diplomas into degrees over a one or two year period at an institution within Canada or overseas. A perk of being DC alumni is that you can always participate in this program without restrictions. Why further your education abroad and not locally? It is all about timing.

"When you are young, you are not tied down with mortgages and a family," says Mike Lafleur, International Education Abroad Assistant at Durham College. "This is the time you can explore the world. If you are looking for that cultural immersion, this is something that gives you inner cultural effectiveness and global competence. It will allow you to articulate that at a job interview — that's what's going to make you to stand out from the others."

Whether you work, travel or volunteer abroad, you have opportunities for personal and professional growth. Studying abroad allows students to push themselves outside of their comfort zone. It allows them to get a global perspective and gain cultural experience that can translate into the workforce. DC grad

**“My mind was opened to how others live, and it has broadened my chain of thinking and my decision-making skills have expanded. Going to school in Europe was the best decision I could have made.”**

Kyle Stiliadis lived the life of a European for a year as he received his bachelor's of business degree from IT Carlow in Carlow, Ireland through the Pathways program.

"My international experience changed my life forever," says Stiliadis. "My mind was opened to how others live, and it has broadened my chain of thinking and my decision-making skills have expanded. My resumé is loaded with easy conversation pieces from international experiences, which is beneficial to my career development. Going to school in Europe was the best decision I could have made."

The Pathways program is a great way for Durham College alumni to set themselves apart from the others. While gaining more education, they also become more adaptable to new situations while coping with being away from home, being independent and at the same time being able to find themselves. This is an opportunity to gain personal insight and figure out what you want in life. For more information on the Pathways program here at DC, please visit [www.durhamcollege.ca/pathways](http://www.durhamcollege.ca/pathways).



Pathways student, Kyle Stiliadis got the opportunity to further his education in Ireland. Pictured above is the Cliffs of Dover.

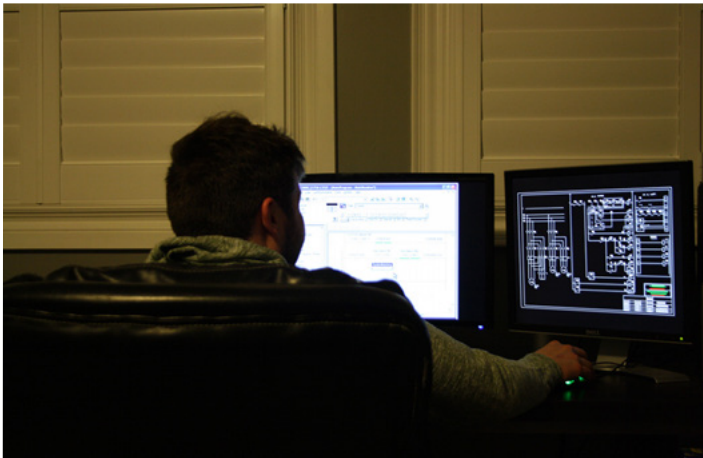
# The Difference Between Pie and Pi

Story and photos by Victoria Kelly

The benefit of a Durham College education became clear to Richard Kelly on his first day of work.

When graduating high school, Kelly still wasn't sure what he wanted to further in schooling. He decided that since Durham College had the field placement and it was close to home, that it would be a perfect fit.

As far as the program goes, Kelly always found he took things apart and put them back together. He liked to understand how gadgets worked, and then explaining it to others. Kelly has been described as industrious because of how hard working he is. "I was very confident on my first day of being a PLC programmer and controls technician," says the graduate of Electronics Engineering Technology. "My time at DC provided me with the confidence and knowledge in my field."



*Rick Kelly at his desk designing electrical control systems and electrical panels for waste water treatment systems.*

Kelly graduated in 2015 and settled easily into his new position at Oshawa Bearing Co., which was at first his field placement in the Electronics Engineering program. He applied to DC because of its proximity to his home in Whitby, Ont., but once he started the program he was immediately drawn to the practical learning method. He was particularly drawn to the instrumentation and control classes, which taught him the basics in his chosen profession.

**“I was very confident on my first day of being a PLC programmer and controls technician, my time at Durham instilled me with confidence and knowledge in my field.”**

Other than the classes, Kelly was drawn to the fact that

his program had a field placement in his fifth semester. This allowed Kelly to try different jobs and see what he liked and didn't like. In his field placement at Oshawa Bearing, Kelly went to different job sites each day to do various jobs. He enjoyed the fact that he wasn't doing the same thing every day. One day he would be installing a garage door opener on a house and the next he would be putting lights into a corporate building.



*Rick Kelly outside of FRC Systems Canada located at 10 Sunray Street in Whitby, Ont..*

"DC is known for its hands-on teaching," says Kelly. "And the instructors were really helpful when it came to answering questions and grading our assignments."

Several instructors impressed Kelly during his three-year stint at DC - in particular, he points to Rao Subbarao, who taught the instrumentation and control program and made learning fun. "He brought pie for the whole class one time," recalls Kelly. "He was a really good teacher and many of the things he taught us I still use to this day."

"I encourage anyone interested in Electronics Engineering Technology to choose Durham College, the professors are all knowledgeable in the field and are always there to help you when you need it." Says Kelly, "Also, Durham offers study programs such as SALS to give you further help if necessary."

# Alumni UPDATE

1991

DEBORA COWIE

Practical Nursing

Lives in Bowmanville, Ont. She is an RPN at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health.

2002

KEVIN BURTON

Web Developer

Lives in Woodstock, Ont. He is an Engineering Lead and Development Manager for Kik Interactive Inc.

1993

CRAIG ADAMS

Civil Engineering Technology

Lives in Douro, Ont., with his wife, Julia. He is a Capital Planning Analyst with the City of Peterborough.

2005

EMMA CANTIN

Dental Assisting II

Lives in Oshawa, Ont. She is a Dental Hygienist and Clinical Coordinator at MCO Orthodontics.

1995

CLAIRE-ANN MCKIERNAN

Law and Security Administration

Lives in Stayner, Ont., and is an Administrator for the Department of National Defense.

2007

RACHAEL WRAITH

Public Relations

Lives in Toronto, Ont. She is a Senior Communications Officer for the Town of Ajax.

1998

DAVID JEWELL

Information Systems

Lives in Ajax, Ont., and is an IT Architect for IBM Canada Limited.

2008

DAVID MCQUIGGE

Electronics Engineering Technology

Lives in Winnipeg, Man. He is an Instrumentation Technologist at Magellan Aerospace Corporation.

1999

LESLEY HATT

FOOD

Lives in Oshawa, Ont., and is the Research and Development Quality Manager at Purdue Pharma (Canada).

JORDAN RITCHIE

Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training

Lives in Bowmanville, Ont. He is a Firefighter with Pickering Fire Services.

2000

MICHELLE KENNEDY

Sport Management

Lives in Oshawa, Ont. She is an Admissions Liaison Officer at Durham College.

2011

SAMANTHA HAMAD

Advanced Law Enforcement and Investigations

Lives in St. Albert, Alta. She is a Firearms Technician with the Edmonton Police Service.

# Alumni UPDATE

2013

MARK ANTAYA

Advertising

Lives in Oshawa, Ont. He is an Ad Operations Specialist for GroupM-Catalyst.

2014

LUCIANO LAVOIE

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Techniques

Lives in Oshawa, Ont., with his wife Tori-Anita. He is a Senior Installer with Reliance Home Comfort.

2015

MICHELLE BURNHAM

Public Relations

Lives in Uxbridge, Ont. She is the Corporate Communications Co-ordinator at General Motors of Canada Limited.

LEIGH MURRAY

Human Resource Management

Lives in Oshawa, Ont. She is a Human Resources Supervisor with AGS Automotive Systems Inc.

2016

MELISSA REID

Registered Nurse – Critical Care Nursing

Lives in Whitby, Ont. She is a Nephrology Clerk with Lakeridge Health.

2017

DAVID MCWILLIAMS

Social Service Worker

Lives in Courtice, Ont. He is an Addiction Counsellor with Renascent Treatment Centre.

## Let us know what you're up to!

Contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at [alumni@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:alumni@durhamcollege.ca) to share your news.

## Are you following us?

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/durhamcollegealumni](https://facebook.com/durhamcollegealumni)

Twitter:  
[@Alumni\\_DC](https://twitter.com/Alumni_DC)

Instagram:  
[@Alumni\\_DC](https://www.instagram.com/Alumni_DC)

LinkedIn:  
Durham College Alumni



Take advantage of your alumni privileges.

Get preferred rates and coverage that fits your needs.

You could **save big\*** when  
you combine your alumni  
preferred rates and bundle  
your home and car insurance.

Recommended by



### Supporting you... and Durham College.

As a Durham College graduate, you have access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program. This means you can get preferred insurance rates on a wide range of home and car coverage that can be customized for your needs.

For over 65 years, TD Insurance has been helping Canadians find quality home and car insurance solutions.

Feel confident your home and car coverage fits your needs.  
Get a quote now.

HOME | CAR | TRAVEL

Get a quote and see how much you could save!  
Call 1-888-589-5656  
Or, go to [tdinsurance.com/durhamcollege](https://tdinsurance.com/durhamcollege)



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. It is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. in Quebec, by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in Ontario, and by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. in the rest of Canada. Our address: 50 Place Cremazie, 12th Floor, Montreal, Quebec H2P 1B6. Due to provincial legislation, our car and recreational insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. \*Nationally, 90% of all clients who belong to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us and who insure a home (excluding rentals and condos) and a car on July 31, 2017, saved \$550 when compared to the premiums they would have paid without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile. Savings vary in each province and may be higher or lower than \$550. Wide Horizons Solution® Travel Insurance is underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada and distributed in some provinces by RSA Travel Insurance Inc., operating as RSA Travel Insurance Agency in British Columbia. All trade marks are the property of their respective owners. © The TD logo and other TD trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.