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REFLECTIONS
DURHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
SPRING 06 / VOL. 57

NEW LEADERSHIP AT DURHAM COLLEGE
Leah Myers thrilled to take on presidency.

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF
Gary Polonsky retires after 18 incredible years at Durham College.

SPRING CONVOCATION COMES HOME
Durham College holds its first spring convocation outdoors on campus.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear fellow members:

What an exciting time to be involved with our college! From a new president of Durham College, to three amazing winners of the 2006 Alumnus of Distinction Award, to fantastic new programming being launched, we can see all around that alumni are a vital part of the success of Durham College.

As representatives of the college, each of us has our own story to tell about our experiences here. Three stories that are truly inspirational are those of our Alumnus of Distinction winners for 2006. From various programs in the college they have each gone out into the world to achieve great levels of success in a variety of fields, both professional and personal. What binds each of them together is the knowledge that our college provided them with a strong start for their success in life.

In the months ahead we will be busy planning celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Durham College in 2007. I look forward to having many of you involved in celebrating the success of this remarkable institution.

Sincerely,

Laurie Beaton, ‘75
President,
Durham College Alumni Association
DURHAM WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

by AMY TERMINESI AND LEA WATTERSON

Durham College welcomed its fourth college president on April 4.

With over 20 years in the public service, including key roles in the education sector, Leah Myers has her fingers on the pulse of current post-secondary education issues in Ontario. “I was overcome with excitement and absolutely thrilled,” says Myers. “When Lorraine (Sunstrum-Mann) called me and offered me the position. I was on top of the world and honoured to be chosen.”

She comes to the college from her previous position as executive lead for Research and Innovation, a new ministry implementation of the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. “It was very important for me to start working with staff to meet the educational needs of over 6,000 full-time and more than 23,000 part-time students. She will also work closely with the Board of Governors. A married mother of two, and a U of T Political Science graduate, Myers was chosen out of a field of 83 potential candidates. She is Durham’s fourth president and the first female to head the college.

Since beginning her position in April, Myers has been working alongside former Durham College President Gary Polonsky as he counts down his days to retirement. “Before making a final decision, we had to look ahead 10 years to figure out where we wanted the college to be,” says Sunstrum-Mann. “The entire campus community was involved in the decision-making process. However, it was an honour as the chair, to bring forth Leah to this educational community; it really has been the highlight of my six years volunteering for the board.”

The new president says she will dedicate herself to the student experience. “I want to explore with the students what makes a good college experience and what we can do to make it better.”

LIGHTING THE NIGHT

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS RAISE MONEY FOR LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA by NICOLE MANDZIUK

Many students on campus volunteer in the Terry Fox Run and Run for the Cure annually. The Canadian Cancer Society has its annual special events and Racing Against Cancer is having its ninth-banquet fundraiser.

“I think throughout the college we do a lot of work for charities,” says Bev Balenko. “I am so happy to be part of this. As for Lymphoma, 6,000 Canadians will be diagnosed, and 3,000 will die. These are serious blood cancers that need to be thoroughly researched. Currently, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada is working with the Canadian research and medical communities to find treatments for those battling the diseases. Almost 60 years of research and more than $474 million have been invested in finding treatments and cures for blood cancers. Last year, over 500 participants joined the walk in Oshawa and raised over $73,000. The seven Canadian Light The Night events raised more than $560,000. This year’s Light The Night walk event will be held in Oshawa at Memorial Park on September 9.”

Balenko, Vice-president, Academic at Durham College, prepares for this year’s Light The Night walk event. “I think throughout the college we do a lot of work for charities,” says Bev Balenko. “I am so happy to be part of this. As for Lymphoma, 6,000 Canadians will be diagnosed, and 3,000 will die. These are serious blood cancers that need to be thoroughly researched. Currently, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada is working with the Canadian research and medical communities to find treatments for those battling the diseases. Almost 60 years of research and more than $474 million have been invested in finding treatments and cures for blood cancers. Last year, over 500 participants joined the walk in Oshawa and raised over $73,000. The seven Canadian Light The Night events raised more than $560,000. This year’s Light The Night walk event will be held in Oshawa at Memorial Park on September 9.”

BEV BALENKO, VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AT DURHAM, PREPARES FOR THIS YEAR’S LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK EVENT, TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER.
Athletic Association showed that the year track record in the Ontario Colleges showmanship is about to end at the process, making it an easy one.”

involved in the application fuelled the enthusiasm of the students and people overhwhelming support, excitement and still got accepted into the OUA,” says Babcock delivered UOIT’s varsity application at the OUA winter meetings in Hamilton by Jamila Kyari.

Three long years with no athletic showmanship is about to end at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). By this fall, the school will have its own varsity program. Ontario University Athletics accepted UOIT as its 19th member earlier this year. The application process was lengthy and the school needed to jump through many hoops to meet OUA criteria. Although it was a tedious procedure, a lot of people pitched in to make it happen.

“IT says a lot that we are in only our third year as a full-fledged university and still got accepted into the OUA,” says Ken Babcock, director, Athletics. “The overwhelming support, excitement and enthusiasm of the students and people involved in the application fueled the process, making it an easy one.”

Also, the Durham Lords successful 35-year track record in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association showed that the Athletic Department had the right stuff to create competitive varsity teams. The entire process, led by Babcock, took two years. The OUA gave UOIT 10 conditions for membership. It took in-depth research to meet all membership guidelines, which included showing academic eligibility, finances, gender equity, codes of conduct, availability of suitable facilities as well as qualified technical officials.

Ontario university athletics accepted UOIT as its 19th member earlier this year.

In addition, the OUA membership review committee visited the school in early January. OUA president David Dubois and other members of the committee toured campus to see the new arena, tennis centre, athletic facilities and academic buildings to ensure key components were in place for the varsity program prior to the OUA meeting in Hamilton. At that meeting in early January, Babcock presented UOIT’s membership application to the OUA. It was unanimously approved.

Now, preparation for the fall varsity season in rowing and tennis (both men’s and women’s) is well underway. The university also plans to launch its men’s and women’s hockey teams in the fall of 2007.

Preparation for the fall varsity season in rowing and tennis (both men and women) is well underway.

“Our goal is philosophy driven to be the best athletic program offered for first class in our approach and the place to come to for intercollegiate and varsity athletics in Canada,” says Babcock.

Beware when you visit the Durham Region, that you are now entering Ridgebacks territory. Extreme caution should be taken.”

This was Athletic Director Ken Babcock’s warning at the public unveiling of the UOIT Ridgebacks.

Glenn Coady, a professor at the Whitby Skills Training Centre, came up with the name Ridgebacks, and Durham College Graphic Designer Students, David Johnston and Lenna Panor designed the logo. “They’re great dogs,” said Coady, who rescued his dog from the pound. “But when they get excited they can be quite intimidating. An example is if you stand over one and they look up, there’s a lot of white in their eyes. It is intimidating.”

Coady came up with the idea of the Ridgebacks when he was thinking about the criteria of the contest. His vision was based not only on his dog, but on the geography of the area, with the Oak Ridges Moraine. The moraine, a significant landform, was developed 12,000 years ago by advancing and retreating glaciers and is prominent in Durham Region just 10 kilometres north of campus.

The ridgeback, also known as the African lion hound, is a large, strong hunting dog legendary for taking down lions, as well as excelling at small game hunting. The dog has great stamina, speed, and intelligence. These are all traits needed to excel in sports and university.

This fall, UOIT will field inaugural teams in both men’s and women’s tennis and rowing. Men’s and women’s varsity hockey will start in the 2007/2008 season.

There are also plans to expand into sports such as lacrosse, rugby, swimming and water polo. All of the announced coaches have impressive resumes within their respective sports.

Rob Millkin, the rowing coach, knows the sport inside and out. He has 35 years of experience, including 10 years officiating at Canadian national regattas. He was a founding member of the Durham Rowing Club and has achieved both provincial and national recognition.

With over 20 years experience, Ken Crosina is the varsity tennis coach and pro at the Campus Tennis Centre. In his career, Crosina has been a provincial singles champion, provincial doubles champion, national doubles champion, fifth ranked player in Canada for singles, and attended Florida State on a tennis scholarship.

Gary Pitcher will be coaching women’s hockey. Pitcher is the campus director for Student Rights and Responsibilities. He has 15 years of coaching experience under his belt and is a retired Toronto police officer. Pitcher was also the head coach of the first women’s hockey team to represent Durham College.

On the men’s side, Marlin Muylaert, whose dog Logan was with him at the opening ceremony, will be holding the reins and is no stranger to success. Muylaert coached 11 seasons at the University of Guilph, winning eight division titles, and winning the Canadian university national championship in 1997. After the University of Guilph, Muylaert coached at Wisconsin-Eau Clair in the United States. He was named the 3M Ontario Coach of the Year in 1989 and was the head coach of Canada’s hockey team for the 1999 World University Games. Currently, he is the head coach of the Port Perry Mojacks.
BOOK BY BOOK

SUSAN BARCLAY-PEREIRA BUILDS A CAREER AND THE CAMPUS LIBRARY by ERIN FARQUHARSON

The $21 million dollar Campus Library. The latest academic programs. The Innovation Centre and laptop program. All are examples of Susan Barclay-Pereira's contributions to DC and UOIT. She has enjoyed, so far, a 30-year career, spanning from the days of microfiche and card catalogues to today's high-speed Internet.

Barclay-Pereira began her career at the library, my whole focus shifted and the other parts of my portfolio were distributed,” says Barclay-Pereira, now director of Program Development. “It's a unique situation because our library serves two cohorts—the college students and the university students. In addition to the components of a traditional library, our patrons are encouraged to make use of the wireless network and to access the majority of resources available electronically, from anywhere they like. That is a library of the 21st century.”

“Once it became clear that the university was going to be a reality and that they needed to have an excellent library, my whole focus shifted and the other parts of my portfolio were distributed,” says Barclay-Pereira, now director of Program Development. “It's a unique situation because our library serves two cohorts—the college students and the university students. In addition to the components of a traditional library, our patrons are encouraged to make use of the wireless network and to access the majority of resources available electronically, from anywhere they like. That is a library of the 21st century.”

Her master's degree in Library Science at the University of Western Ontario proved invaluable in planning the new library. She learned how to research the needs of different libraries, and about systems of circulation, reference, cataloguing and ordering. Above all, she learned the importance of meeting clients' needs. But libraries have changed dramatically over the years, and Barclay-Pereira has learned along the way how much easier it is to tap resources through the Internet.

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When I did that degree, there was no Internet. Computers were just starting to appear and they were those giant mainframe computers. So we typed up the three by five catalogue cards, and we also learned how to research, but it was paper-based research. It wasn't as fast and efficient as it is today.”

Carol Mittlestead, associate librarian, says, “The ability to find information is very important to librarians. We are information seekers — that is our nature.”

A long-time colleague of Barclay-Pereira, she says, “Susan works very collaboratively — another way to gather information — learning from the experiences of others and, simultaneously, engaging and empowering them.” Libraries and reading have always been important to Barclay-Pereira. She recalls holding a part-time job in high school, in the children’s department of a library. There, she learned to shelve books, look after the fish tank and read stories to children. She still enjoys reading, although without a lot of leisure time, she escapes to light reading and biographies.

Recently, after 30 years with the library, Barclay-Pereira relocated to the Office of Program Development. There, she can exploit her researching expertise to help expand the program offerings at DC. It is a lengthy 18-month process from start to ministry approval. Mittlestead has however, described her as highly organized and politically astute. In other words, Barclay-Pereira is able to remain focused and meet necessary objectives. She is also involved in program review, ensuring that programs already offered are still meaningful and continue to give the graduates what they need to get excellent jobs in their fields.

“I believe this is the first year in many years that we've had eight new programs on the books,” says Barclay-Pereira. “It's challenging work, but we can say to students 'come and take this two-year diploma and you will be prepared to get a satisfying and meaningful job that will contribute to society.' That is what's exciting for me.”
DR. POLONSKY’S OPUS

by COSETTE KAZARIAN

It’s been said that he doesn’t sleep. Rumour has it that you won’t see him without a cup of coffee in his hand. People have even joked that he’s likely cloned, because no one person could accomplish that much work in one day—or one lifetime.

The truth is, Dr. Gary Polonsky does sleep, even if it is only a couple of hours a night. He gave up coffee about eight years ago and he hasn’t looked back. As for being a clone, he jokingly admits a lot of people do mistake him for George Clooney.

Before Polonsky arrived at Durham College 18 years ago, several focus groups were created and staff were consulted to determine the qualities the college was looking for in its next president.

“We wanted an open leader. Someone willing to hear new ideas and follow through with them,” said Judy Moretton, recently retired, vice-president, Academic Excellence and Innovation. “We were looking for someone who could get out into the community and create relationships. We wanted an excellent communicator, who could advise us of the big picture and keep us informed. Frankly, we couldn’t have found a better match.”

Along with his communication and interpersonal skills, Polonsky brought talents that many people weren’t aware of. His sense of humour, the way he puts people at ease, his willingness to take risks and allow others to take risks as well, are chief among his attributes.

“His philosophy is ‘say yes’,” says Moretton. “He’s not afraid of risks, and allows the staff to take risks as well. Unless there’s a really good reason, we let people try new ideas.”

At a fundraising event during his first year at the college, Polonsky showed his willingness to take risks by performing a song that he wrote.

“No one knew he could do this,” says Moretton. “No one had heard him sing before. You could’ve heard a pin drop, the audience was so quiet. There was a standing ovation at the end of his song.”

Polonsky says he doesn’t know where the music comes from, but he does know when. Sometimes when he’s driving, a song will pop into his head and he’ll record it. He writes it out when he gets home, and the whole process takes him about 10 minutes. He doesn’t sit at a piano for hours and he says he’s never tried to write a song. It just happens.

“I figure Leonard Cohen can’t sing, Bob Dylan can’t sing, and they’re giants in the music industry. So if they can’t sing, still do, why shouldn’t I be able to?”

Polonsky has released two CDs of his songs and donated the proceeds to campus bursaries and scholarships. Though he’s never taken formal voice lessons, he did take piano lessons for two or three years while in public school. He confesses to being a terrible music student. He never practised and drove his teacher crazy until he finally quit.

Durham’s third president brought his music to the college in 1988 from Red River Community College in Winnipeg. Under his leadership, Durham has seen the creation of the Skills Training Centre in Whitby, and the Integrated Manufacturing Centre in Oshawa along with the additions of South Wing, and the Justice, Tennis and Student Centres. The Campus Ice Centre and three residences have been built, and the college has expanded into Pickering, Uxbridge, Beaverton, Port Hope and Port Perry, all under his watch. Enrolment at the college has more than doubled under Polonsky’s leadership, increasing from just over 2,500 to almost 6,000. After 18 years at the helm, Polonsky retired in April as president of Durham College.

The only Canadian to be president of a college and university concurrently, Polonsky considers his biggest accomplishment the creation of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT).

“Our team has achieved many things at Durham College,” he says. “But it’s not every day that one gets to found a university. It’s not even once in a generation. That’s the icing on the cake.”

For Polonsky, holding the unique position of president of both the college and university has underscored an important premise in post-secondary education. Although the college and the university streams are different, they are equal in his eyes. Neither is more sophisticated or more important than the other.

He subscribes to the theories of emotional and multiple intelligences, where, as he says, both an architect and a carpenter are smart in their own way. These theories represent the premise of the entire campus.

Polonsky found it inspiring to be leader of both schools, but he had to make choices. Over the last couple of years, he found he could no longer attend all the events that he once did. He found the position challenging, but he never felt torn between the college and university. In fact, he considers it “a splendid partnership.”

That philosophy is apparent in the growth he achieved on campus. While working to get UOIT off the ground, he completed his doctorate in Education, citing students as his primary motivators. He believes the college and university are students’ passports to the Canadian middle class. To enable students to aspire legitimately to that lifestyle is a tremendous motivator for him.

“It’s not just the disposable income,” says Polonsky. “It’s enabling their growth holistically and contributing to their capacity to give back.”

He points to the religious fair that took place on campus in January as an example. All the faiths on campus, representing religions from around the world, came together for the event. Polonsky feels enabling that kind of growth is an amazing calling and it’s what makes him get up in the morning and not miss a day of work.

That commitment to students was immediately noticeable after he arrived. There used to be designated parking for staff and administrators on campus—including the president. One of the first things he did was to eliminate those special designations. That meant he would be driving around the parking lot looking for a spot just like the students.

Many offices were renovated during the first few years. The college President’s office used to be located at the end of “Mahogany Row” with other administrative offices. “That meant that a student couldn’t get to the President’s office without being stopped,” says Ann Mars, executive assistant to Dr. Polonsky. “When our offices were renovated, we moved to our current location. The goal was to get the office out into the public, to make it visible and accessible.”
Moving the office wasn’t just a symbolic gesture. As college president Polonsky’s door was always open. He constantly followed up new opportunities or challenges, usually within 24 hours. Nothing was too small to escape his notice.

“He leads by example,” says Cathy Pitcher, executive assistant to the Board of Governors. “It’s not unusual to see him picking up the garbage he comes across on school property.”

As involved as he has been in all aspects of life on campus, celebrations are what stand out in Polonsky’s mind when he thinks about the highlights of his time here. He remembers being at the top of a tall ladder in a ribbon cutting ceremony, to make the opening of the Student Centre, accompanied by the student president on another ladder. Polonsky is afraid of heights, and tried not to show it.

That particular event went smoothly, but other celebrations didn’t work out quite as planned. When then Minister of Colleges and Universities, Dianne Cunningham, was on campus for the sod-turning ceremony of the new university, a symbolic gesture was planned. A bucket of concrete was going to be brought down using a crane.

“I somehow blew it,” says Polonsky. “I tipped the bucket and concrete came down everywhere. The minister had to dive out of the way to escape. Frankly, she was lucky not to be buried under all that concrete.”

Although he continues to enjoy his work here — his contract with UOIT expires in December, Polonsky promised his wife Lois that once he hit his 65th year, he would cut his hours down from 20 to 12 a day, hence his retirement.

“He’ll be missed,” says Robin Pereira, dean of the Schools of Design and Communication Arts. “There’s a lot of Gary in this place. The campus is a testament to him having been here. In many ways, this place is Gary.”

Despite his pending departure, Polonsky continues to have great vision for the Oshawa campus. He feels there are a lot of exciting developments ahead. Given his work ethic, it is perhaps appropriate that two presidents were hired to replace him, one for the college and one for the university.

“Oshawa has benefited tremendously from the lifelong achievements of two great civic pioneers,” says John Gray, the city’s mayor.

“In the 20th Century, Oshawa prospered under the trail-blazing efforts and unparalleled vision of Colonel Sam McLaughlin. In the 21st Century, the same will be said for Dr. Gary Polonsky.”

Students, staff and faculty at Durham College’s Oshawa campus have become used to construction dust and sounds involved in the expanding campus. The outcome of all the development is beautiful landscaping and buildings, which now grace the school’s grounds. Now, after the dust has settled, the college is ready to host its first outdoor spring convocation.

Durham College and UOIT share the Oshawa campus. UOIT held its first convocation outdoors last year. This year Durham will follow suit. In previous years graduation was held at the Oshawa Civic Auditorium. Prior to that it was held in the college’s gymnasium.

“We want this to be as enjoyable and memorable as possible. Graduation is the final step for our students. As such, it is a celebration of their accomplishments,” says Paul Bishop, registrar for Durham College.

“The college has held convocation at the Oshawa Civic Auditorium for many years. In 2005, the City of Oshawa announced the construction of a new arena. In light of the change, Durham’s former registrar decided to change the location of the spring convocation.

“It’s not ideal to have convocation off campus, because grads like to graduate where they actually went to school,” says Lauren Barker, public relations officer for Durham College.

Last year a total of about 1,725 students attended three spring convocation ceremonies held at the Civic. On average, each graduate brings two or three guests.

“The number one concern about hosting the ceremony outside is the weather. If it rains on the day of the ceremonies, staff will have ponchos and umbrellas available. “Convocation is a happy day for graduates, their families, and the campus community. If the weather does not co-operate, it will be unlikely to dampen the spirits of guests,” says Barker.

Spring convocation will be held on June 16 in three ceremonies: 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.
A TEXT WORTH READING

by JENNIFER MCCALLUM

This spring will mark a special milestone for one Durham College professor. In fact, you might say that it will be one for the book—textbook that is.

Graphic Design Professor Reid Anderson will finally achieve his goal of making reading a textbook more interesting for his students when his textbook on pre-press is published later this spring.

“I felt that the textbooks on the market were very dry and my students always complained,” says Anderson. “So I thought it would be nice to write a book that is easy to follow, easy to understand and that is fun too. I don’t think pre-press has to be boring — it’s kind of like math. Math doesn’t have to be boring — it’s all about how you approach it.”

After writing a proposal outlining his intentions and having it turned down by a number of publishers, Anderson, a professor at Durham for nine years, teamed up with Delmar Learning in the U.S. to publish the 12-chapter textbook covering all aspects of prepress — the various printing-related services performed before ink is put on the printing press. The book will cover everything from operating systems and colour management to making use of the Athletic Centre, she is always seen with a smile, and a passion for life.

Brimbecom is not only known around campus, she is known in the community for her hard work. Last fall she received a call from the president of Victoria College, at the University of Toronto, to tell her she was being awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree for her pioneering work in parish nursing.

“It was very surprising. In order to receive a Doctor of Divinity you need to be nominated,” says Brimbecom. “I had no clue about it until I got the phone call. It’s rewarding to know that your work and efforts are appreciated.”

She received her honorary degree on May 11 at the spring convocation for Emmanuel College, a divinity school of the United Church of Canada.

For now, the book will only be published in English, but later it may be translated into other languages, depending on the market. It will be available for purchase on all online bookstores as well as in bookstores across Canada and the U.S.

“It’s a good feeling — I think it’s nice to accomplish something like that,” says Anderson. “And I didn’t write the book so much for myself — I wrote it because I felt there was a need for it. My main focus was on the students.”

After spending two years searching for someone to publish his book, Anderson says he hopes it will be successful. Eventually he would like to see it used in Graphic Design courses across Canada and the United States.

TAKING NURSING TO A HIGHER ORDER

by SARA BECKFORD

A gale is a strong force of wind, and just like the homonym to her name, Gail Brimbecom is taking the world of parish nursing by storm.

A retired nursing professor who taught at Durham College from 1981 to 1998, Brimbecom can still be seen around campus. Whether it’s touring the constantly evolving Nursing program or making use of the Athletic Centre, she is always seen with a smile, and a passion for life.

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Prior to having her two children, Brimbecom worked as a nurse, and afterwards returned to school in order to be able to teach. She came to Durham in 1981 and focused her attention on teaching until 1995 when she was approached with a concept of nursing that was new to North America.

InterChurch Health Ministries contacted Brimbecom to conduct a pilot parish nursing program at Westminster United Church in Whitby. The program was to last a year, and took place at four other churches: Claremont United in Claremont, Peace Lutheran in Pickering, and St. Andrew’s United Church and St. Mark’s Anglican Church, both in Oshawa. At the end of the year, the congregation for all five churches voted to make parish nursing a permanent part of their ministries.

During the first year Brimbecom worked with more than 95 individual parishioners, and within 10 years this grew to 491. As well, over 1,700 people participated in health promotion events and special health and healing services last year. These services took place in both the church and the community.

“I think these numbers speak to the reception the church has given to the ministry. It simply continues to grow and expand because there is so much interest and need for health and healing in our population,” says Brimbecom.

For the first three years, she taught full time and worked as a parish nurse. Over time, the hours began piling up, and after a life threatening illness she decided to devote herself to parish nursing.

Brimbecom still works hand-in-hand with Westminster United Church. She helps people to make healthy life choices, and addresses their spiritual needs. She is there through the struggles of her congregation. She wipes tears from eyes, and offers a shoulder to lean on when a person is down. She is there to offer support to those who are dying, and a smile for those who get better.

“The most rewarding thing about parish nursing is seeing individuals find the strength, and support they need to return to health,” says Brimbecom. “To be at the birth of a new baby, or to be present when someone dies. You can’t describe how powerful those emotions are.”
NO LIMITS

BUSINESS GRAD, IAN BALL, CONTINUALLY AIMS FOR A GOLD STANDARD WHEN IT COMES TO HIS ACHIEVEMENTS by TIFFANY WRY

At 22 he graduated top of his university class, at 23 he became a vice-president of an international corporation, and he also works for one of Canada’s most distinguished philanthropists. Rob McEwen. Business Administration graduate Ian Ball is no stranger to achievement.

Currently Ball has a dream job working in investor relations, assessing the potential of companies in different fields, and building the success of those companies. He’s also the vice-president of corporate development at Lexam Explorations, which is 50 per cent owned by McEwen Capital.

A testament to Ball’s professional achievements is the size of the numbers he describes as he talks about his job. Over a six-month period at McEwen Capital, he helped increase Lexam’s market capitalization from $2.5 million to $25 million, and U.S. Gold Inc. from $8 million to $300 million, a 1,600 per cent improvement. Also, they recently raised $25 million to $300 million, a 1,200 per cent improvement.

An underlying message in everything he talks about is that there are no limits to what people can accomplish if they work hard. He describes himself as driven, someone who can always do better than what you perceive to be your best. You need someone there who’s going to force you to keep challenging the mould, and that conventional wisdom doesn’t work,” he says.

Ball graduated from Durham in 2002, and received his Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree from Ryerson University in 2004. At Ryerson, he graduated first in his class – a class of over 1,200 students. Shortly after graduation, he landed the job at McEwen Capital, one of the most successful holding companies in North America.

Initially, Ball entered college just to fill time, with the understanding that he would go to work for his parents catering company after graduating. But after seeing his friend Keith Binns go the university route, he also decided he would put himself up for the challenge to prove he too could go the distance.

“I continued my education at university because it was a challenge. A good friend of mine went off to university during my second year, and even though going to university had never occurred to me, I thought if he could do it so could I. No one had ever thought I had the university potential,” says Ball. Even though corporate life is treating him well, he says he enjoyed his time at the college, especially the people he met and the relationships he forged. Looking back, he just wishes he had the opportunity to do more presentations in class because he now understands that even though you might have great ideas for someone, it’s a waste of effort if you don’t know how to sell those ideas.

Looking ahead, Ball emphasizes the importance of giving back to the community sooner than later, noting it’s necessary to recognize the people who put him where he is today. And his involvement at Durham proves that. Ball has established a college scholarship to recognize dramatic improvements in students’ academic performance. More than anything else, Ball says he will continue to push the envelope and strive to fulfill his potential in whatever he chooses to pursue.

For most students, college is a stepping stone to a career and independence from their families. Not for recent Marketing grad Keith Binns. He has had extraordinary success doing what many could not – working every day with his family as the director of Marketing at the head office of Binns Kitchen & Bath Design in Pickering.

“I had it in the back of my head that there was an opportunity, and I never felt like I was pushed into it,” he says.

After graduating first in his class from Durham in 2001, he went on to earn a Political Science degree from McMaster in Hamilton, where he found that there is a connection between business and politics. The internal politics, for instance, of working with your family. Normally, conflicts will arise when family members cannot separate the private from the professional. That’s not the case at Binns Kitchen & Bath Design. Working side-by-side with family can be unique and sometimes difficult, but it can also be used to open avenues of communication between employees. They have an open-door policy and respect each other’s opinions, which leads to a more relaxed atmosphere and increased production, he says.

Binns Kitchen & Bath Design, which started in 1963, has won numerous national and international design awards. They have been featured in Toronto Life, Woman’s Day, and House & Home magazines as well as on HGTV. The company has tapped into a high-end, exclusive market and boasts a broad reach – working in areas from Winnipeg to Halifax, as well as in the northeastern part of the United States. People often come to them for their in-house designs and products. Keith says their wide consumer base has been steadily growing due to the quality name that Binns Kitchen & Bath Design has created over four decades.

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“I think the reason for our success is that everyone is willing to pitch in,” he says. No one ever demanded they work for the company, which could explain the enthusiasm and ardor that the Binns family shows for their business. He jokingly says that they should change their last name to kitchen, as he cannot imagine his family without being involved in them.

The security of his job inspired him to “sail away from the safe harbour and explore.” He recently travelled to Europe equipped with only a backpack and a compass, visiting exotic locales in England, Scotland, Belgium, Monaco, Paris, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, and Vatican City.

The most exciting part of the trip was meeting a variety of people who became your best friend one day and were gone the next, he says. He believes everyone should get away like that, if they get the chance.

The road to success was not always so easy for Keith. He struggled in school when he was younger and barely got by. That changed when he attended Durham.

“I stopped making excuses for my poor academic performance,” he says, “and started setting goals and realized you can do anything once you put your mind to it.”

Binns has done what most only dream about, he has college and university degrees, a golden opportunity professionally, and he has taken the trip to end all trips. So what is in store for the future? He is taking a leisurely swim in the river of time, he says. The future holds what the future holds and he will take the opportunities as they come.

For more about the company, visit www.binns.net.

COOKING UP BUSINESS by MATTHEW SMITH

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When Joanne Burghardt was a Journalism student she became the editor of The Chronicle in her final year. Today she's the award-winning editor-in-chief of the Metroland papers Clarington This Week, Oshawa This Week, Port Perry Star, Whitby This Week, Ajax & Pickering News Advertiser, Brooklin Citizen, Northumberland News, The Canadian Statesman, Durham Parent, Uxbridge Times-Journal, and The Durham Business Times. Burghardt was named 2006 Editor of the Year for non-daily newspapers by the Suburban Newspapers of America. The SNA, a non-profit trade association, represents approximately 2,000 newspapers. She won the award for her outstanding editorial work. Being a leader to a staff of 34 employees located in five different offices, publishing over 100 papers a month and helping editorial departments win awards are all in a day's work for her.

"Professionally being named SNA's Editor of the Year is as good as it gets," says Burghardt. Her job entails a lot of strategic planning with other departments, and administration. She is in the community and has meetings with the public, talking to other organizations and finding out what they need. What makes her a successful editor is her willingness to embrace change if there is a problem. She will spend hours figuring out how to solve it.

“When we had the big power outage it was the most fun I ever had in this business. It was 36 hours of just working like crazy in the dark. We couldn't talk to each other and had no cell phones. It was just a lot of fun," says Burghardt.

“We had to hope the staff was trained well enough to know that, just because the power went out, that doesn’t mean we are not working.”

Burghardt likes to make an early start at 7:30 a.m., but her job never really ends. Always willing to work extra hours, she carries a camera at all times—just in case.

“I remember not too long ago when I was driving on the 401 near Courtice and I could see smoke in the sky somewhere to the west of Whitby and the smoke was still black, which means drive fast because the fire is still burning,” says Burghardt. “It always looks closer than it is. I got as far a Ajax, but I couldn’t get any closer because of traffic. Stuff like that always happens.”

North to Nunavut was one of her ideas. A photographer and a reporter went to Nunavut to do a series on the area. The eight-part series ran every Friday in July and August last summer. A 24-page newspaper for kids from Grades 4 to 6 went to all the schools in Durham Region.

“Reporter and Durham College Journalism grad, Crystal Crimi, recently travelled Africa with the Canadian International Development Agency to report on development projects in eight-part series now running in our papers, she adds. Burghardt has kept connected with Durham College. Since 2002 she has sat on the Board of Governors for the college and UOIT. She was also on the Journalism Advisory Committee from 1995-2001.

In 1997 Burghardt chaired the alumni portion of the college’s first fundraising campaign which raised $12 million for state-of-the-art equipment and bursaries.

All her hard work as an editor and for the college has not gone unnoticed. In 1996 she received the college’s Alumnus of Distinction Award.

Burghardt has remained loyal to the college by taking co-op students over the years and giving students the same chance she was given. Many of the staff of Oshawa This Week are Durham graduates.

“The placement Journalism students are ready to take on the world. Durham has a real reputation for getting students ready with marketable skills and ready for the workforce,” says Burghardt.

Twenty-five years ago she was a placement student at Oshawa This Week, but not for long.

“The editor called me in and said, “Do you want a full-time job? You can have it,” says Burghardt. “I’m what they call a Metroland lifer.”

There’s a huge future for community newspapers at this time. Metroland is in transition, exploring how best to deliver the news with so many options: video, online, blogs, podcasts, and webcasting. Who knows what Burghardt will think up next.
SPRING 2006

REFLECTIONS

1974
BRAD DAY (Mechanical Engineering Technology) resides in Woodstock, Ontario with his wife Debra, 25-year-old daughter Amy and 23-year-old daughter Katie. Brad is in robot sales with Panasonic Factory Solutions.

1979
ANGELO CIERCO (Aviation Transport and Industrial Engineering Technology) resides in Snyrna, Georgia. Angelo is a manager of heavy maintenance for AirTran Airways.

1980
PAMELA TIMPANO (Business Administration) resides in Barrie, Ontario. Paul is the owner of Timpano Formalwear. He was also the Durham College Athlete of the Year in 1980.

1981
CATHY MCLELLAND (Legal Administration) resides in Northampton, England with her husband Gary. She has a 25-year-old daughter Sandra, 24-year-old daughter Nicholas and a 19-year-old daughter Alyssan. She has two granddaughters, nine-year-old Jyessy and four-year-old Elynn. Annette is an occupational safety systems assistant manager for Unilever UK Ltd. She is currently taking a master’s program in Safety and Risk Management as well as Bathroom and Latin dance at a competitive level.

1982
ANNETTE HURST (Legal Administration) resides in Newmarket, Ontario and her husband David. Alyssan is a single mother with two children, a 19-year-old daughter Alannah and 16-year-old son Andrew. Dave and Patrick are a team of two Lothario.

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GREGOR ROGERS (Sports Administration) resides in Calgary, Alberta with her husband Richard Osborne and seven-month-old son Spencer. Ginger is an educator with the Calgary Board of Education.

1986
LINDA MARCO (Public Relations) resides in Oshawa, Ontario with her twin children, 14-year-old Shelby and 12-year-old Jake. Linda is the national manager of Communication and Development for The Children’s Wish Foundation.

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1988
BRADFORD WRIGHT (Sports Administration) resides in Whitby, Ontario with his wife Sherri and their two-month-old daughter Mya. Brad is an assistant general manager for the Oshawa Generals of the OHL.

1989
DAVID LAWSON (Design Arts - Graphics) resides in Egle Heights, Australia with his wife Laura, 15- year-old son Drew, 10-year-old son Matthew and eight-year-old son Callum. David is a director for Guidepost Consulting Pty Ltd.

1990
JEFF WELLS (Nursing) resides in Durham Region with his wife Sylvia, 10-year-old son John, and nine-year-old son Andrew.

1991
LUANNA CIVICI (Journalism) resides in Pickering, Ontario with her one-year-old son Curtis. Linda is the director of Global Alliance for AAL.

1992
ANNE KREUZER (Legal Administration) resides in Northampton, England with her husband David. Alyssan is a single mother with two children, a 19-year-old daughter Alannah and 16-year-old son Andrew. Dave and Patrick are a team of two Lothario.

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DAVID NEWMAN (Law and Security Administration) resides in Thornhill, Ontario with his wife Adriana. David is a subway operator for the Toronto Transit Commission.

1995
MELANIE FLOOD (Registered Nursing) resides in Haliburton, Ontario with her husband Brent, eight- year-old son Owen, and six-year-old son Nolan. Melanie is a registered emergency nurse for Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

1996
DEREK HORNBY (Nursing) resides in Bowmanville, Ontario with his wife Brenda, three-year-old daughter Mackenzie and one-year-old son Cameron. Derek is the executive director of Kingways Arms.

1997
ERIC HESS (Advertising Administration) resides in Maple, Ontario. Eric is a senior marketer for Lowe Health Sciences Inc.

1998
HEATHER SANDS (Business Administration) resides in Pembroke, Ontario with her husband Chris and two-month-old son Aiden. Heather is a manager for Movie Gallery.

1999
STEFANIE ZIEBER (Human Services Counsellor) resides in Caesarea, Ontario with her husband Paul. Stefan is a job developer and employment counsellor for Durham College.

2000
DANIE MONIZ (Journalism and Advertising) resides in Oshawa, Ontario with her 11-month- old son Marcus. Cathie is an assistant manager of Leapers ‘N Creepers Childcare.

2001
KAREN BROOKS (Public Relations) resides in Rosswau, Ontario. Karen is a network administrator for Netapp of Canada.

2002
DENISE FORTUNE (Human Services Counsellor) resides in Pembroke, Ontario with her husband Dave, six- year-old daughter Cassandra, and two-year-old son Justin. Patricia is an esthetician in Mississauga.

2003
MAUREEN REID (Human Services Counsellor) resides in Pembroke, Ontario with her husband Dave, six- year-old daughter Cassandra, and two-year-old son Justin. Patricia is an esthetician in Mississauga.

2004
LESLIE PAVLAVISH (Legal Administration) resides in Toronto, Ontario. Leslie works in Corporate Communications for Cott Corporation.

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ALUMNI UPDATE

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PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1.0 NAME
2.0 MISSION STATEMENT
3.0 MEMBERSHIP
4.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5.0 DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE
6.0 SELECTION
7.0 VACANCIES ON ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
8.0 THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
9.0 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
10.0 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article 3.0 Membership
3.2 An Associate Member shall be any past or present registered Post-Secondary or Access and Skills programs Durham College student. These members shall be entitled to the privileges as indicated for full members but will be excluded from holding a Board position (‘and from voting’ is removed from the original document allowing this position to vote).

Article 4.0 Board of Directors
4.2 The Board shall consist of the following:
4.2.1 President
4.2.2 Vice President
4.2.3 Treasurer
4.2.4 Up to nine directors
4.2.5 One representative as appointed by Durham College to be given ex-officio status.
4.2.6 Student – a current student enrolled in a 2nd or subsequent year of a Durham College program (Changes made: separate vice president and treasurer into two positions, 4.2.6 is new and allows for student representation on the board.)
4.3.2 President must have served at least one year on the board (NEW)

5.1 DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE (President)
5.18 Conduct meetings in a parliamentary fashion (NEW)
5.2 Vice President: (sections 2 and 3 have been removed to reflect the split of the vice president and treasurer positions)
5.3 Treasurer
5.3.1 Shall prepare and present to the Board a report on the general financial condition of the Association and on the financial outcome of specific programs undertaken by the Association.
5.3.2 Shall, along with the President and one other member of the Board, have co-signing authority for all financial and legal matters. (NEW)

6.0 SELECTION
6.4 Membership voting will be restricted to positions on the Board only. President, Vice-President and Treasurer positions will be elected by the Board.

Article 9 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
9.3 Meetings of the Board shall be open to the membership as defined by Article 4.0 but may be closed if the board is dealing with...
A) items that are subject to solicitor/client privilege
B) items where disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm a security or disciplinary matter
C) items where disclosure could harm the financial or economic interests of the college or alumni association
D) items relating to management of personnel or the administration of the college that have yet to be implemented or made public
E) items where disclosure may be harmful to an individual or the public
F) items where protection of a third-party’s personal information and privacy is involved
G) Materials for distribution to the board for in-camera meetings are confidential and in-camera discussions of the board are confidential unless the board formally decides otherwise.
H) The president may invite staff and other persons to attend in-camera sessions of the board. (Previous constitution allowed board to hold in-camera meetings at its discretion. Article 9.3 is very clear on what items the board can deal with in private session.)

ALUMNI RECORD

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

LAST NAME UPON GRADUATION (IF DIFFERENT)

STUDENT NO.

BIRTH DATE

☑ MALE

☑ FEMALE

PROGRAM

YEAR GRADUATED

NO. AND STREET NAME

CITY/PROVINCE/COUNTRY

POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (ATTACH A BUSINESS CARD IF APPLICABLE)

COMPANY NAME

POSITION/TITLE

OTHER POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

DATE OF GRADUATION

PROGRAM/DEGREE

OTHER INFORMATION

SPOUSE’S NAME (INCLUDE MAIDEN NAME IF RELEVANT)

MARITAL STATUS

SPOUSE IS A DURHAM COLLEGE GRADUATE

☑ YES

☑ NO

CHILDREN

☑ M

☑ F

NAME/AGE

☑ M

☑ F

NAME/AGE

PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OR NOTES REGARDING SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, BIRTHS, MARRIAGES

☑ PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION ON THE ALUMN UPDATE SECTION ON REFLECTIONS

WE RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY: DURHAM COLLEGE RESPECTS YOUR PRIVACY. FROM TIME TO TIME THE ALUMNI OFFICE OR THEIR PARTNERS MAY CONTACT YOU WITH REGARD TO UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS OR EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON THE NEEDS OF OUR GRADUATES. IF YOU WOULD RATHER NOT RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION FROM US OR ANY OF OUR PARTNERS, PLEASE CALL THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT 905.721.3035.