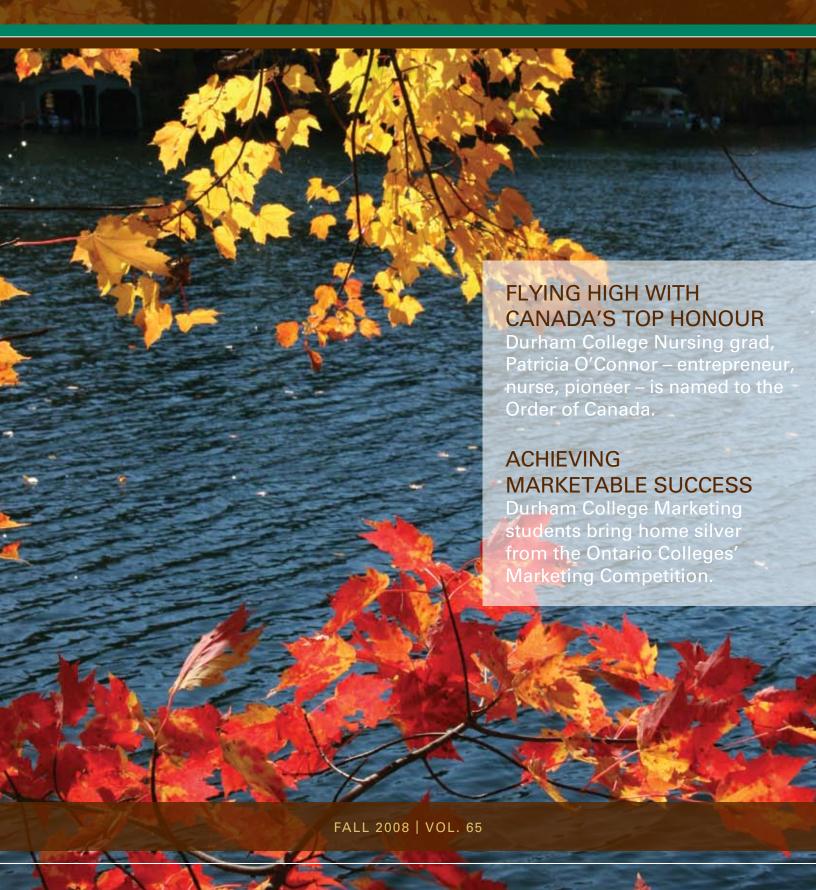


reflections DURHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we celebrate and congratulate our newest alumni, the Class of 2008, at our fall convocation ceremony, I continue to be so impressed by the many remarkable graduate success stories that we hear about on almost a daily

basis. In turning the pages of this issue of Reflections, I believe you will be as truly amazed as I am at the kinds of phenomenal impacts – large and small, work-related and personal – that Durham College graduates make on the world around them.

These stories underline Durham College's reputation for continuing to offer a winning combination of market-driven programs and exceptional faculty and staff who do a wonderful job of providing our students with everything they need to succeed.

The success of our alumni is evident

in so many ways. For example, Jeffrey and Julia Boyce have made a marked difference in the business world and their Alberta community since graduating in 1980 from the General Business - Marketing program. I invite you to turn to page 15 to read about their story and their remarkable gift to Durham College that will establish the Jeffrey and Julia Boyce Endowment Fund, which will have a positive financial impact on students for years to come. Our grads also make positive and lasting impressions at the furthermost corners of our country. Witness the achievements of Patricia O'Connor (Nursing 1976), who was recently awarded Canada's highest civilian honour, the Order of Canada. As the article on page 6 notes, this award recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the country. Like so many of our alumni, O'Connor has enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this nation.

Our grads' achievements and successes manifest themselves in so many different forms – as happy families who find ways to contribute to their communities; as entrepreneurs who start businesses and watch them grow, contributing to a healthy economy; as leaders within organizations large and small, providing expertise and knowledge that benefit colleagues and clients alike; and as wonderful role models such as the Boyces and O'Connor. I hope you enjoy this edition of your alumni magazine; I know you will see yourself reflected somewhere within its covers.

Sincerely,

Soul S

Don Lovisa President, Durham College

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



As I celebrate my one-year anniversary as president of the Durham College Alumni Association, I am looking forward to another year that will continue to build on the great success of our 40th anniversary

celebrations. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to meet so many of our alumni during our festivities and I look forward to keeping in touch.

Whether you have remained engaged with Durham College or would like to reconnect with us and your past classmates, we have made it much easier with our online community at alumni.durhamcollege.ca. I

encourage you to take some time to explore the website, and use the new features to share career and/or family news by posting a class note, or even creating a home page complete with your own photo gallery.

Our services don't end there. As a Durham College alumni there are many benefits and programs available to save you money. Our newest addition is Concierge Connection, an online portal at www.conciergeconnection.com that offers savings on tickets to concerts, amusement parks, movies, sports and much more. To become a member, contact the Alumni Association office to receive your membership ID code and then you can register through the Concierge Connection website.

I would also like to thank you for your

continuing generous support for our scholarship and bursary programs. Your invaluable assistance means so much to our students' success and as alumni you know what it takes to reach for the stars.

Please stay in touch! You are an important part of an extended Durham College family of more than 45,000 alumni and I look forward to learning about your amazing contributions and achievements with your career, family, and continuing commitment to your alma mater.

Cheers,

heen Jeday

Lillian Jacoby President.

Durham College Alumni Association

FALL 2008 CONTENTS



Proud Ontario College Marketing Competition winners Ashley Richardson and Jake Simmons.

- 4 CREATING A FORUM FOR THE ARTS
- 5 CHILDREN'S SUPERVISOR CLIMBS THE LEARNING LADDER
- 6 FLYING HIGH WITH CANADA'S TOP HONOUR
- 8 PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PHILLIPS FAMILY SETS BENCHMARKS
- 10 FROM ENTERTAINING TO EDUCATING
- 11 DESIGNING YOUR WORLD
- 12 PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE
- 13 THE BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE
- 14 URGENT CALL FOR TWO-YEAR PROGRAM
- 15 DURHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI SUPPORT STUDENTS IN NEED
- 16 THE FUTURE OF CLEAN WATER NOW IN STUDENT HANDS
- 17 GOT THE SKILLS? GET THE IMAGE
- 18 ACHIEVING MARKETABLE SUCCESS
- 20 BATTLING PLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT: IT'S IN THE BAG
- 21 ALUMNI UPDATE
- 22 ALUMNI RECORD

Dear alumni,

As we continually try to meet your needs, please note that the Winter 2009 edition of Reflections will only be available electronically. You will still be able to enjoy all of the Durham College success stories, milestones, updates and other news that you've come to expect with Reflections, however the electronic delivery will make them easier than ever to access! To ensure you are on the distribution list for the Winter edition, please send your updated e-mail address to alumni@durhamcollege.ca.

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CREATING A FORUM FOR THE ARTS

by Erin Boshart

Living in a region that's under the shadow of a world-renowned, artistic capital city like Toronto, art lovers sometimes have to fight for a way to express their passion. But for part-time Durham College professor John Arkelian, creativity is no stranger.

What sets him apart is not his love for the arts, but the new ways he finds to express and share it with others, both regionally and internationally.

Arkelian teaches Law and the Media to Journalism students at the college three times a week, and nothing could be more suitable. It is an opportunity for him to combine his knowledge and experience in law with his passion for the media. In class, he covers subjects like copyright laws, defamation, contempt of court, privacy policies and freedom of information, all of which are crucial topics for Journalism students. This course is their only exposure to law as a part of their program. But Arkelian's time spent teaching is not enough to satisfy his passion for law and the arts. For that he has other outlets.

In 2000 Arkelian created ArtsForum, a locally produced and internationally read magazine that highlights arts of all kinds. The 40-page magazine features articles from both established writers and new-found talent, including writers and photographers from Durham College



A student reads part-time professor John Arkelian's magazine, ArtsForum, in the campus courtyard.

and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT).

When Arkelian first created ArtsForum, he knew nothing about using the computer software required to design a magazine. Eight years later, with an award recognizing it as the best arts magazine in Ontario and subscriptions reaching as far as Europe, the magazine is going strong.

ArtsForum is an arts-focused publication, but it also features an idea section with articles on such topics as international relations, human rights, ethics and political affairs.

"The objective has always been – whether it's in the idea section or it's about a book or a film – for the magazine to be a catalyst to help encourage people to think critically about issues," said Arkelian.

ArtsForum spans topics that are as broad as Arkelian's academic and professional experience. Before teaching law at Durham College, he worked as a Crown attorney, performing criminal prosecutions in downtown Toronto. Before that, his work had taken him abroad, where he worked in cultural relations and political, consular, and security affairs. Now that he is teaching, he still finds time to do freelance writing on subjects as varied as

international affairs and film criticism.

On top of teaching at Durham and maintaining ArtsForum, Arkelian also hosts a bimonthly group for film lovers called CineChats. He shows festival-quality films and afterwards hosts discussions.

Recently, CineChats has enjoyed recordbreaking attendance numbers, which has Arkelian potentially looking for a larger, more appropriate facility to present his globally acquired films.

"What we really need is a free-standing film theatre that's made for showing film," he said. "It's a shame that in all of Durham Region there's no such facility, or for that matter, a regional arts centre. Over the years I have been active in lobbying for the creation of a regional centre for the performing and visual arts, where symphonies, bands, choral groups, little theatre groups, and film societies would have a place to perform."

Arkelian said the college campus would be an ideal place for a facility that would support the arts within the college, university, and the whole regional community.



CHILDREN'S SUPERVISOR CLIMBS THE LEARNING LADDER

by Caitlin Shaughnessy

In 2002, a dream of bringing joy to children's learning led Darlene Landry to a three-year career overseas, when the 1992 Early Childhood Education (ECE) grad travelled to Singapore to teach a new program to children and parents at a child-care centre called the Learning Ladder.

Since youngsters don't start elementary school in Singapore until the age of seven, the child-care centre gave kids a head start. Founded by a Hong Kong man who received his university education in Canada, the centre offers a reading program that starts with toddlers and works its way up. It has become quite successful.

"I am proud to say that my students have won the English award at their local elementary school over there," said Landry.

In Singapore, children are mainly taught to memorize information and write answers on worksheets. Landry concentrated on teaching parents and their pre-school children the Learning Through Play philosophy used in Canada. The program consists of activity centres such as creatives, block play, and language and literacy, which provide children with an effective learning experience while they play.

Landry was also responsible for teaching the five- and six-year-olds by following Ontario's Grade 1 curriculum. In addition, she presented workshops for local university and college students to promote Learning Through Play and also invited the students into the centre to see the philosophy in action.

During her travels she visited an orphanage for children whose parents are dying, or have died of HIV, and for those who have been abused and forced into prostitution. She also joined a group of teachers who helped build houses in the forests

of Cambodia. As well, Landry visited such places as Hong Kong, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand and had the chance to see Angkor Wat, an ancient temple in Cambodia.

"I was at one of those places in my life when I thought I should try something new," said Landry. "While there I did a lot of travelling to a lot of countries and experienced many different cultures. And I still keep in contact with some of the families."

With 10 years' experience working at The Northern Lights Daycare Centre in Keene, Ontario, where she moved her way up the administrative ladder, Landry was up for the challenge. She said her education in Durham's ECE program gave her the necessary tools to provide a high-quality educational program overseas. Her path

to the Learning Ladder started in 2002 with an ad in a Toronto newspaper. From there, she contacted recruiters and was offered the supervisory role.

Landry is now working in Toronto as a supervisor at the Birchmount Place Centre For Early Learning. She oversees the centre and staff, mingles with parents and much more. She would love to return to Singapore but says she will continue on the path that is given to her.

"I am hoping to continue what I am doing now," said Landry. "Hoping for growth, but to stay current in the field. I am always looking forward to any opportunities that may come my way."

5



Darlene Landry, a child-care supervisor, travelled to Singapore to teach the learning through play philosophy.

WWW.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA REFLECTIONS | FALL 2008

FLYING HIGH WITH CANADA'S TOP HONOUR

by Debbie Slinn

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Any or all of these descriptions are usually what one thinks of when picturing a super hero.

Well, even though this hero doesn't have the strength of 1,000 men or women, she flies and has the power to save lives, and has recently been honoured for doing just that.

A 1976 Nursing grad, Patricia O'Connor has seen it all. From the delights of motherhood to owning her very own company in the Great White North, O'Connor's many accomplishments have been well worth the ride. But her latest accomplishment has been to receive Canada's highest honour: being named to the Order of Canada.

"It was a very big surprise to hear I had been awarded the Order of Canada," said O'Connor from her home in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. "I am a nurse, like many others, just working and doing the best that I can. I never would have thought that I would receive such an honour."

The Order of Canada is the centrepiece of our nation's honour system and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement,

dedication to the community and service to the country. It acknowledges the contributions made by those who have enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this nation.

O'Connor fits that description. Modest about all the attention she's received, this Nunavut flight nurse is being rewarded for her expertise in the field of health care, as well as her dedication and generosity of spirit to the people she works with every day.

"She's the one responsible for me still being around," said Sid Glawson, deputy mayor of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. In an article by Northern News Services, Glawson credits O'Connor with saving his life after a heart attack on November 15, 1999. "She is the exact sort of person who deserves the Order of Canada."

According to O'Connor, some of that success is thanks to the excellent foundation provided by her studies at Durham College. While most of her classmates moved to the United States to find work after graduation, O'Connor stayed in Oshawa and found a position as an ambulance officer. Loving the pre-hospital work, she was fortunate enough to be selected to train as a critical care paramedic for the new air ambulance service in Toronto. Unfortunately, the demands of that job came with an even more

demanding schedule. After four years, O'Connor left the air and transferred to the emergency room in the former Oshawa General Hospital.

But this bird wasn't grounded for long. Accepting a position as a flight nurse in Alberta, she got her first taste of the northern Canada experience. After receiving her nursing diploma, O'Connor then developed an air ambulance service for St. John Ambulance in Yellowknife that led to starting her own medical evacuation (medivac) company, Medflight, in 1991.

During that time, she organized medivacs and repatriation of patients from Edmonton, worked in the city as a full-time emergency nurse in Sturgeon General Hospital and also did part-time nursing for events at Northlands Park until March 1992. That same year, Medflight started working with Adlair Aviation to develop an air ambulance program, facilitating medivacs in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut.

Three years later, O'Connor's company was awarded a contract to provide air ambulance service to the Yellowknife region. She ran the business and actively worked as a flight nurse in both bases. The company grew to employ seven nurses and a paramedic. In 1998, Medflight was asked to look after medivacs in the Baffin Region, based out of the city of Iqaluit, which lasted until the following April.

In August 2007, Medflight let the contract in Yellowknife go and now continues to look after the Kitikmeot region, where this business owner's passion is still tending to the needs of others.

"Patty's always wanted to be a nurse since before I can remember," said O'Connor's mother, Audrey Rozell, who lives in Oshawa. "She does the work she does to help people, and not because of any award. She goes about her work but doesn't want any special attention for it. That's just the type of person she is."

So, what does the future hold for the recent inductee? Hopefully some much-needed rest. With her flight contract now only covering a small region of Nunavut, O'Connor would like to spend more time with her husband and daughter. She's also hoping to travel, which is exactly what she will do when she heads to the Governor General's house in Ottawa to collect her award in Spring 2009.



Owner of Yellowknife-based Medflight, Patricia O'Connor provides flight nurse and paramedic services to the Northwest Territories.



Nursing grad Patricia O'Connor celebrates being named to the Order of Canada with husband Jim, a graduate of Durham's Business program.

WWW.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA REFLECTIONS | FALL 2008

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE – PHILLIPS FAMILY SETS BENCHMARKS

by John Eykenboom



Electronics Engineering Technology grad Andrew Phillips works as a nuclear operator at Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Darlington nuclear station. He comes from a long line of accomplished innovators.

Durham College Electronics Engineering
Technology grad Andrew Phillips is a
great-great nephew of RMS Titanic radio
operator, Jack Phillips. Phillips, a British
wireless telegraphist, contributed to saving
the lives of 705 people when he transmitted
the distress calls to RMS Carpathia, the
ship that came to the rescue of the sinking
passenger liner. He also issued the SOS
maritime distress call, making the Titanic
one of the first vessels in history to use it.



Water has played a pivotal role in inspiring several members of Andrew Phillips' family over the years.

On April 14, 1912, Jack Phillips was the wireless radio operator on the passenger liner RMS Titanic who contributed to saving the lives of 705 people when he transmitted distress calls to the RMS Carpathia – the ship that came to the rescue when the Titanic sank. He also issued the SOS distress calls, making the Titanic one of the first vessels in history to use them. Jack was the great-great uncle of Durham College grad Andrew Phillips, whose great-great grandfather was the inventor of the fire sprinkler system.

Phillips has his own success story as the highest-ranking Durham College three-year program graduate in 2004. His studies in the Electronics Engineering Technology program led him to his current position as a nuclear operator at Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Darlington nuclear generating station. Born in England, Phillips is also an inventor who currently holds 12 patents. One invention the father of two is currently working towards is a patent on a water purification system that will supply pure water to virtually everywhere, from individual households to an entire city.

Others are highly technical patents and include processes and devices that affect chemical conversion and breaking chemical bonds. Some were filed while he was attending college.

Phillips first enrolled at Durham in the 1980s, but a college strike derailed his plans. In the meantime, he accepted an offer to work for a research company.

After 14 years with the company he decided he needed a change. To do that, he needed his diploma, so he returned to Durham to take the Electronics Engineering Technology program.

Returning in 2002, with industry experience and knowledge and a family at home, Phillips knew the importance of dedication and excelling in school, and excel he did. In 2004 he was the highest-ranking Durham College graduate in any three-year postsecondary program. All of his grades were 90 per cent or higher. Typically he would come home from school, spend time with family and then when the kids went to bed he would do homework until 2 a.m.

"I refuse to study any subject within 24 hours of an exam. The reason is tests and exams are an evaluation of what I've learned so far. I want the feedback from tests to determine if I'm going in the right direction," said Phillips. "Fortunately, while in college you are expected to make errors. It is the best place to make

mistakes because you can evaluate and get direction to correct them."

Phillips began applying for jobs in second year. Two weeks before graduation he received an invitation from OPG to take a series of timed tests designed to allow the company to determine an applicant's problem-solving skills, and how he or she thinks a problem through to completion. Phillips' four hours of tests took place on the Sunday before final exams. "It was my grades that got me into the testing," Phillips said. On August 19, 2002, he was offered a position with OPG.

get direction to correct it."

2002, he was offered a position with OPG.

First, Phillips went through 18 months of basic training to begin his career as a nuclear operator, with lifelong learning being part of the job. Phillips likes the continuous training offered by OPG and the reassurance that if he wants to take further training, the organization will help finance it.

Eventually he wants to get a university degree in electronic engineering.

When others hear where he works, they often ask about the safety of the plant and radiation issues. His response is that everyone gets some naturally occurring radiation from such places as the sun, the ground and building materials.

"The extra I get in a typical year of working at Darlington is about half of that amount," he said, adding many other professions pose a much greater risk.

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Communications grad George Hood speaks at a National Association of Career Colleges event.

FROM ENTERTAINING TO EDUCATING

by Bobby Mercer

Although most teenage musicians dream of having a career in the music industry, many give up when they realize it's not as simple or as profitable as it seems. George Hood, a Communication Arts graduate in 1973, is an exception.

Now the president of Herzing College in Toronto, Hood was working in a completely different field before entering the career college sector. Although he is not working in the music industry anymore, the former owner and operator of Entertainment Centre, one of the most successful entertainment agencies in Canada, says music is still a big part of his life.

For several years after graduating from Durham, Hood toured Canada in a band performing in nightclubs and small concert halls

"Being on the road was a bit like a carnival, travelling from one town to the next," he said. "Eventually the novelty of travelling wore off and I decided to start an entertainment agency."

While he was the director of a music business-based college in the mid-1990s, Hood arranged a partnership with the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) whose lead patron was Sir Paul McCartney. As a result, several Ontario students flew to Liverpool, England and earned their degree at LIPA.

Hood still enjoys live music, but now it's more of a spectator sport for him. Recently he visited Las Vegas to attend the premiere showing of The Beatles' song Love, as performed by Cirque Du Soleil at the Mirage Hotel and Casino.

Hood's work with the music business college led him to the career college sector, and Herzing. He says his passion for the career college industry comes from the intrinsic reward he gets from changing people's lives for the better, and helping them achieve their goals. In addition to being president of Herzing College, he has served on the Ontario Association of Career Colleges (OACC) board for the past 10 years as director, vice-president, president and past president. He has also served on several educational sector committees, including the Minister's Working Group, International Committee and Training Completion Assurance Fund. Hood is also the current president of the National Association of Career Colleges.

It was during his studies at Durham that he met his wife Jean. He recalls asking her to be the subject of a psychology paper that he had been assigned to write and by the end of it, the two were inseparable.

"Here it is 35 years later and we are still together and happily married," he said.

While attending college, Hood played the drums and was lead singer of a rock band that, besides being a lot of fun, also helped to pay the rent. He fondly recalls the afternoon his band, Maiden Kanada, set up in the main cafeteria and performed two sets of material.

"We played everything from Led Zeppelin to The Guess Who, Alice Cooper, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and originals," said Hood.

These days he often attends student orientations at Herzing College and tells the students how much he enjoyed his time spent as a student at Durham, in hopes that they will graduate from Herzing with the same fond memories.



DESIGNING YOUR WORLD

Genevieve Beharry, a 2005 Graphic Design grad, is now a Zig Communications designer.

by Nicholas C. Denis

When she isn't camping with her husband, Adam, or on the edge of her sofa watching an episode of Lost, 2005 Graphic Design grad Genevieve Beharry works on ads like those that might have convinced you to purchase your latest Virgin Mobile phone or acquire your new Ikea table lamp.

In between a tall skinny caramel latte from Starbucks and always-amusing celebrity gossip, Beharry keeps up with her work at Zig, a leading communications company in Toronto. There she might be found working on print campaigns, logos and package designs. The World Wildlife Fund's Good Life online community is also on her agenda. The program allows members to sign up and enters them in challenges to be more environmentally friendly.

Since co-founders Andy Macaulay, Elspeth Lynn and Lorraine Tao launched the company in May 1999, Zig has grown into an important player in the advertising industry, with 70 employees in Toronto and Chicago. Clients such as Molson Canada, Unilever, Best Buy and Lavalife, just to name a few, trust Zig with their accounts.

The amount of pressure means that time management is crucial, and Beharry's weeks are planned in advance, with smaller assignments completed as quickly as possible to get ahead in case any surprises come knocking. When they do, it can make things

hectic. She said school prepared her for juggling multiple assignments at once.

"At times it seemed very stressful," said Beharry. "It was a competitive environment, which benefited us all, but all of the assignments and deadlines at times seemed a bit overwhelming. However, after working in the ad industry, it was very apparent that the deadlines were perfectly reasonable compared to some of the ones I deal with now. Also, the assignments and projects we got in school were really fun and really allowed us to be creative. We still get to be creative now, but you have limitations with clients."

Before starting at Zig in 2006, Beharry worked as an intern designing for Reactor Art and Design. Aware of the competitiveness of the industry, she applied to well-known Cossette Communications and started her second internship. Well-informed and focused, Beharry knew that to land a job, networking is crucial. Once her placement ended, she proved herself valuable enough to be hired. She then applied to Evergreen, one of Zig's clients, and finally joined Zig.

The recently married Beharry is now focusing on building her career and participating in projects that will solidify her experience. She said some day she would like to be able to add senior designer to her resumé.

WWW.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA REFLECTIONS | FALL 2008 11

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

by Zoë Fitt

Most of us are oblivious to the complexity and science behind the cellphones we talk on and the trains we ride to work each day. Fortunately for some, this complexity and science is a passion and a rewarding career.

In the case of Arnulfo Agustin, a native of the Philippines, an interest in technology led him to a promising future in a highdemand profession.

"I had always been fascinated with machines and how they work," said Agustin. "Growing up, I found that I was naturally good at working with my hands, and I had the patience and persistence to work on a project right down to the tiniest detail."

Upon his move from the Philippines, Agustin learned that his Mechanical Engineering degree was not recognized in Canada, and found himself back at the drawing board. After doing some research, he stumbled across a magazine article that mentioned the shortage of non-destructive technicians. Considering his background, Agustin was able to find his niche in the Mechanical Engineering Technician – Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) program at Durham.

The two-year program with the option to participate in co-op placements with various

businesses and industries appealed to him.

During his years at the college, Agustin managed to win an in-course scholarship, make the honour roll each semester with a cumulative grade point average of 4.53, and complete two co-op terms, all while working full time to support his family. In addition, Agustin was the recipient of the Canadian Institute for NDE's Ontario Student Chapter Award, which rewarded his excellent academic standing, attendance, volunteer efforts and leadership skills.

"I gave it my best shot to be competitive in this program," explained Agustin. "Now, I am rewarded with a steady source of employment, the opportunity to qualify as a professional engineer in Ontario, and the satisfaction of knowing that evaluating the safety of building structures, machinery and equipment makes Canada a safer place for others."

Currently working as a non-destructive testing (NDT) technician and engineer-in-training at the Acuren Group Inc., Agustin is applying the NDT inspection methods he learned in the program and continuing to follow his theory of success.

"As long as you take on a profession with a full heart and a love for what you're doing, you will find happiness."



Professor Katy Zaidman of the Mechanical Engineering Technician – Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) program, congratulates Arnulfo Agustin, winner of a provincial NDE student award.

THE BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE

by Ashley LoGiacco

Imagine taking a newly built, world-class passenger vessel and purposely cutting it up into 16 pieces in order to reassemble it all over again. That's exactly what happened with the Maid of the Mist - the Niagara Falls tour boat that takes passengers on a ride near the edge of one of the natural wonders of the world. Playing a leading role in its reassembly was John Vickery.

Vickery has become so well known in the business community that not only was he offered an opportunity to teach at Durham College, but he was also hand-picked to visit a university in Indonesia to share his electrical expertise. The owner of Vickery Electric, a successful electrical contracting company, Vickery taught Electrical Techniques and Systems on campus and is also a Durham College alumnus (Construction and Maintenance Electrician, 2002).

In 1999, the Maid of the Mist Steamboat Corporation hired his company to install the electrical system on the Maid of the Mist VII after the company was impressed by Vickery Electric's three generations of ship-building electrical experience.

In order for them to wire the vessel, 16 wire harnesses had to be shipped from Belleville to Niagara Falls. With the Whirlpool Rapids on one end of the gorge, and the Falls at the other end, it was impossible for the vessel to enter the base of the waterfall. That meant each piece of the ship had to be individually shipped, only to be reassembled again. Today, tourists climb aboard the Maid of the Mist VII and enjoy the cruise around and under the falls, oblivious to the hard work and hours Vickery spent installing the electrical system.

"The Maid of the Mist Corporation demanded significant quality and safety was always the key factor," said Vickery.

Vickery's grandfather, John Sr., established the company in Whitby, Ontario



John Vickery, surrounded by students from the University of Indonesia.

in 1939. A third-generation electrician in the family. Vickery is now CEO of the company. During the early years, Vickery Electric was recognized as not only a leader in the industry, but also a company that gave back to the community. As the country emerged from the Great Depression, Vickery Electric provided many jobs to those who were directly affected by the difficulties of the era. With the town requesting services for many developments, such as the original street lighting system in downtown Whitby, Vickery provided jobs for a large number of unemployed workers.

Over the years the company diversified into marine specialization, network installation, fire alarm installation and verification. electrical diagnostic study, and fire suppression systems. Vickery credits a large portion of the company's success to the highly skilled employees he has hired over the years, many of whom came from

Durham College's apprenticeship programs.

Another of Vickery's business endeavours took place in 2003 when he was invited to visit an Indonesian university to help educate the students on technological advances in electricity. Indonesia's electrical systems are not as modern as those used in Canada, and Vickery's insight proved to be invaluable at the university.

In November 2007, Vickery garnered his latest in a long list of accolades, the Whitby Chamber of Commerce's Peter Perry Award for skills development and training. These awards honour Whitby's outstanding citizens of the year, and recognize their commitment to the community.

"This is my latest honour, which is yet another memory from my rewarding career that I will forever cherish," he said.

URGENT CALL FOR TWO-YEAR PROGRAM

by Danielle Lee



Whether it's to report a kitchen fire, a car accident, or a break-in, who are you going to call? Most of us would immediately dial 911.

From dispatching emergency services in times of crisis to handling stressful situations, the 911 Emergency and Call Centre Communications program prepares students for the high-pressure world of real-life, urgent situations. To prepare them even more, the previous one-year certificate program is now a two-year diploma offering that started in September.

The program's new name reflects both emergency and non-emergency career opportunities. While the former certificate program was intended to provide an overview of careers in emergency communications, the two-year diploma will thoroughly cover emergency service communication careers.

The program also includes training for non-emergency communication professions such as customer service, roadside assistance, transportation providers and utility service calls. Works, parks and

recreation, hydro and gas also have call centres to co-ordinate emergency and nonemergency service calls. The extended curriculum includes courses in law, emergency management and general education.

"They will be learning a lot more than what was offered through the certificate program," says Professor Margot Murray, program co-ordinator. "Rather than a general overview of emergency and nonemergency workplace skills, students will receive in-depth instruction."

Once they've completed the two-year program, students will have developed skills in the areas of critical thinking and problem-solving, non-emergency communications, interpersonal communications and diversity awareness, and information and resource management. Students who began the new program this fall will know the standards and develop the competency skills required of emergency response telecommunicators, which include multitasking, crisis management, and oral and written communications.

MAJOR GIFT FROM DURHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI WILL SUPPORT STUDENTS IN NEED

Durham College alumni Jeffrey and Julia Boyce have made a remarkable gift that will support students for years to come.

A \$125,000 donation to Durham College will establish the Jeffrey and Julia Boyce Endowment Fund, which will provide five annual awards of \$2,000 to second- and third-year Durham College Business students in financial need and with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. The donation, which is the largest to date from Durham College graduates, qualifies for the provincial government's Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) matching program, creating a permanent endowment of \$250,000.

In addition, the Boyces also donated \$125,000 to establish the Jeffrey S. Boyce Engineering Award at UOIT and are directing a further \$250,000 toward the purchase of laboratory teaching equipment at UOIT. In their honour, UOIT recently dedicated the newly named Boyce Alternative Energy Systems Laboratory.

"Julia and I have always had a strong commitment to supporting the community, and there is no better way of showing that commitment than through supporting your alma mater," said Jeffrey Boyce, who was honoured in 2006 with a Durham College Alumnus of Distinction Award and a prestigious Ontario Premier's Award.

Jeffrey Boyce is president, chief executive officer and director of Calgary-based Sure Energy Inc., and a staunch supporter of community involvement, including serving on the Significant Gifts Committee of the United Way of Calgary and Area.

Julia Boyce's philanthropic work includes involvement with the grants committee for the Calgary Foundation, which supports charities of all sizes working in the arts, community development, education, health, human services and recreation.



Jeffrey and Julia Boyce are presented with a campus photo by Lynne Sutherland, second-year Durham College Business – Marketing student and Matt Cannon, president of the UOIT Engineering Society.

WWW.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA REFLECTIONS | FALL 2008 15

THE FUTURE OF CLEAN WATER NOW IN STUDENT HANDS

by Megan Boniface



We cook with it, clean with it, wash with it, drink it and trust that it's pure and won't harm us. That's why Durham College has launched a two-year Water Quality Technician diploma program.

The program, introduced in September 2006, has already made a name for itself. In September 2007, enrolment was up 62 per cent from the previous year, and had more applicants than available spots. The college and Regional Municipality of Durham Works Department were also honoured in February 2007 by the Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) for collaborating on the development of the innovative program.

Incidents such as the water contamination that killed seven residents of Walkerton, Ontario in May 2000 have drawn public attention to water quality issues and created a higher demand for specially trained operators to work in water and wastewater treatment plants. This demand is also why Durham College developed the Water Quality Technician program.

A large portion of the success can be attributed to the school's faculty and staff, including program co-ordinator Maureen Calhoun, lead professor Corrie Stender, and Marj Rempel, dean of the Durham College School of Applied Sciences, Apprenticeship, Skilled Trades & Technology, which oversees the program.

The full-time, four-semester program trains students in the areas of water and wastewater treatment, water distribution and collection, and observing and monitoring water in the environment. Students take courses like microbiology, and learn laboratory techniques, data interpretation, problem-solving, and communication skills to help them in their careers. In the third and fourth semesters, students put their new skills to the test in a program-related field placement of their choice.

"The Water Quality Technician program has started off wonderfully," said Rempel. "We doubled our enrolment in the first year and are very excited by the prospects ahead."



Image consultant Leslie Morris of Leslie Morris Designs emphasizes the importance of a first impression.

GOT THE SKILLS? NOW GET THE IMAGE

by Angela Brown

"You can have anything you want in life if you dress for it."

- Edith Head, Oscar-winning costume designer

While most people tend to put plenty of effort into developing their skills and credentials for their resumés, many ignore a critical component to success – their image.

Addressing an audience of graduating students at Durham College, Leslie Morris of Leslie Morris Designs in Ajax, Ontario, explained the importance of "dressing for where you are going, not for where you are."

Morris' presentation touched on several topics, including the five-minute interview. She explained the importance of the first few seconds of a meeting with a potential employer.

"Ninety-three per cent of your first impression is based on wardrobe and behaviour; only seven per cent is what you say," Morris explained. "Within the first five minutes of your interview the interviewers have already passed judgment on you. They have judged you on your wardrobe choice, your behaviour, the eye contact you have or have not made, and your body language."

Morris also explained the importance of communicating what you are trying to

become, whether the goal is fitting into a new corporate culture or moving up the corporate ladder. She stressed that the interview was only the first of many steps in landing a job. According to Morris, once you have made it to the interview, you need to realize that the potential employer has already seen your resumé; in fact, it got you the interview. The interview is what gets you the job.

"Your wardrobe communicates your mood, level of taste, habits and your education level. Being dressed for success doesn't necessarily mean wearing a business suit. You need to dress for the culture you want to be hired into," Morris said. "You wouldn't want to show up at a non-profit event wearing your Rolex watch or carrying your Gucci purse. They might think they can't afford you, or that you really don't need the job."

The handshake gives the employer the first behavioural impression of you. Morris said handshakes should be firm and solid with two pumps. "Don't over-shake," she said, "or you'll come across as very nervous."

Other common sense rules include no gum chewing, turning off your cellphone and not bringing your coffee into the interview. She also emphasized the importance of keeping eye contact in check. Morris suggests finding a spot on

the person's face and focusing on it without staring.

Another tip revealed was to ensure your body language makes you look open and interested, not closed off. Even if you have been in the interview for two minutes and decided the job isn't for you, remain focused and give the occasional nod to show you are interested in what the person has to say.

Morris says it's the job of the interviewee to research the company and determine what they're looking for. Then, she said, you can walk into the interview fitting the profile of their ideal candidate. Companies can train you on the information you need to know to do your job, but they can't train you on your image and behaviour.

Leslie Morris Designs provides image workshops that can tell you what you need to know to make a great first impression. She also offers one-on-one consultations that include colour and body type analysis, personal shopping, makeup consulting, and even eyeglass wear. In addition, her agency offers follow-up care to ensure that your image continues to portray the person you want to be. Discounts are available to graduates, in addition to other group rate specials.

STUDENTS ACHIEVE

by Amanda Chambers

What happens when you take one jar of Sweetpea Baby Food, two spoonfuls of marketing skill and a dash of business savvy? You get a winning recipe. That's how two Durham College students showed off their business know-how and scored silver at the 2007 Ontario Colleges' Marketing Competition (OCMC) hosted by Fanshawe College in London, Ontario.

After months of hard work and preparation, Ashley Richardson and Jake Simmons, third-year Business - Marketing students, competed in the entrepreneurship category against 14 other college teams and were awarded high marks and a second-place standing at the event, held in November 2007.

Every year in November, Ontario's top college marketing students face off in a set of events designed to test students on the practical, under-the-gun skills they've learned.

"It's not an opportunity students get every day," said Peter Stasiuk, professor in the School of Business and Information Technology. "The OCMC is a very competitive environment, but for students who are willing to make a commitment, they are able to develop their skills, and experience first-hand what it takes to be a marketing professional. It is certainly a real-world experience."

The competition consists of 11 events, eight of which are marketing cases. Pairs of students are given half an hour to read, analyze, and prepare a presentation on a brief case. They then present before a panel of judges, drawn from industries relevant to the competition. Each team is allotted 15 minutes to demonstrate,



Proud Ontario College Marketing Competition winners Ashley Richardson and Jake Simmons, centre, with two competition judges.

with five minutes for questioning by the judges. The case events were marketing, integrated marketing communications, marketing research, retailing, entrepreneurship, direct marketing, sales management and international marketing.

Richardson and Simmons were successful in the entrepreneurship case study segment.

One of the six people on the panel judging their presentation was the owner of Sweetpea Baby Food, a line of organic baby meals and the topic of the case study. Together, Richardson and Simmons were asked to create ideas to improve brand recognition, product differentiation and increase sales in current retail locations to help the company compete with national brands.

"Presenting your ideas to a set of industry judges is something that actually happens in the marketing field. I feel the hard work, experiences and feedback the OCMC provides students gives us a chance to see what companies are seeking in their employees," said Simmons. "However, placing at an event like the OCMC can't happen on hard work alone. You also need to have creativity and passion. Above all, I had a great partner and the support of Durham's faculty behind me."

After a round of auditions held by a group of Marketing faculty and consisting of brief five-minute presentations on a marketing-related topic, Durham College took nine students to the competition in 2007 and entered teams in eight events, placing well in all. In addition to the silver medal, two other teams secured spots in the top five, just points away from winning a medal of their own. Rachel Carlson and Alexandra Herman finished fourth and Jake Simmons and Stephanie Mackenzie were fifth in their respective categories.

"When auditioning students to represent Durham at the OCMC we look for presenters who have content, a certain comfort level as public speakers, a degree of professionalism, and a little bit of charisma certainly doesn't hurt," said Stasiuk. "This winning pair brought different skills to the presentation, which complemented

each other well in the competition. Ashley is very smooth, professional and confident in her approach. Whereas, Jake adds energy, volume and overall entertainment value to the presentation. Together they were a great combination."

The first-ever college marketing competition took place in 1980, at Sarnia, Ontario's Lambton College of Applied Arts and Technology. Twenty-eight years later, the OCMC continues to bring together hundreds of highly motivated graduate-level business students and dynamic faculty to showcase their business talents and earn top awards for teamwork and strategic thinking. The competition is hosted annually by an individual college and is driven as a student-centred event organized by volunteer faculty. The OCMC provides students with an extremely valuable learning experience and is funded annually by corporate sponsors, the host college, and registration fees.

OCMC is not the only marketing competition where Durham students can showcase their talents. The School of Business, IT & Management organizes the annual Durham College Marketing Competition (DCMC), which all marketing students can enter. The competition takes place every spring and invites all marketing students to enter as part of four- to five-member teams. They each receive a case study one week prior to the competition, giving them a chance to prepare an impressive presentation. The all-day competition is spent with students presenting to local judges (marketing professionals in the area) and discussing their approaches.

"This format allows students to receive additional feedback in a less stressful environment, in comparison to the OCMC," Stasiuk explained. "The DCMC is an experience exclusive to Durham students, giving an additional opportunity to participate in a real-world situation, while initiating friendly competition between peers."

WWW.DURHAMCOLLEGE.CA REFLECTIONS | FALL 2008 19

BATTLING PLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT: IT'S IN THE BAG

by Kristen Rowley

A new continent was discovered recently in the Pacific Ocean that is about the size of Africa – over 10 million square miles. This continent is called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and it's where plastics have been breaking down and collecting for the past 50 years. News like this is starting to raise questions like why are plastics still being used and manufactured, and what are the alternatives?

While there has been little change in plastic production, shoppers are starting to reduce their appetite for plastic, especially at the grocery store where they can buy inexpensive reusable bags. Now, many stores are joining this trend. Biodegradable bags are also appearing, to be used to hold purchases or dispose of garbage.

Other than the large mass in the middle of the Pacific, plastic bags are harmful because they can take between 15 and 1,000 years to break down in the environment, as opposed to glass, which takes significantly less time. The environmental website Planet Ark states that plastics are killing at least 100,000 birds, whales, seals, and turtles every year. Afterwards, their bodies decompose, and the plastics resurface, killing other animals again. As well, 47 per cent of wind-borne litter escaping from landfills is plastic.





Plastic bags are gradually being replaced by the underdog: reusable bags.

Many people believe plastic bags should be banned forever. While the plastic industry opposes a ban, according to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) report, some countries are finding alternatives to decrease the use of plastics. In Ireland, plastic use has decreased more than 90 per cent, thanks to an imposed tax of 15 cents per bag. As a result of this new fee, the country raised \$18 million in extra revenue for environmental projects in the first year alone.

While Canadians are turning to reusable bags, Ireland is still way ahead of us in reducing plastic bag use, in part because few Canadian retailers charge a fee for them.

"They should charge more and people should think twice about using them," said John White, an environmental professor in the School of Applied Sciences, Apprenticeship, Skilled Trades & Technology.

You can find recycling bins in hallways and classrooms throughout Durham College. And the campus bookstore is attempting to lower the use of plastic bags by first asking customers if they need one, instead of automatically handing them out.

To help shrink that new continent of garbage, save animals' lives, and reduce the strain on our landfills, shoppers could stash their purchases in reusable bags, and shop owners could also offer biodegradable products. Ask yourself why you would contribute to the growth of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch when there are better options right at your fingertips?

The next time you want to use plastic, think about how you are contributing to pollution, and consider using reusable bags.

ALUMNI UPDATE

1970

JOHN RUITER (Mechanical Technology) currently resides in Lindsay, Ontario with his wife Julia. He is employed with PPG as an assistant processing technician. He has seven children and 10 grandchildren.

1978

CARL PEARCE (General Business) currently resides in Scugog, Ontario with his wife Diane. Carl was employed by IBM Canada Limited for 30 years, and is currently retired.

1979

STEPHEN BAIRD (Electronics Engineering Technology) resides in Thornhill, Ontario. Stephen currently works at IBM Global Services as an executive project manager.

1980

GREG HILDEBRAND (Food and Drug Technology) resides in Mississauga, Ontario with his wife Marion and two children: Jamie, 27, and Meghan, 24. Greg currently works as the head of Façade Engineering at Trow Associates Inc.

JEFF TURNER (Chemical Engineering Technology) resides in Pickering, Ontario with his wife Jeanette. After graduation Jeff worked in various jobs such as pharmaceuticals, nuclear and finally the beer industry. Jeff's chemistry career evolved into supply chain management first at the Toronto Brewery and more currently into a national role. At this time he is employed by Molson Canada as a manager in supply chain.

LYNDA VANDEN KROONENBERG (nee

McKnight) (Nursing) resides in Oshawa, Ontario with her husband Greg and their three children: Ben, 21, Luke, 20, and Alanna, 17. Lynda graduated from the Nursing Assistant program in 1980 and completed the Nursing diploma in 2001. She also graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and has just completed her Master's degree in Nursing at Ryerson. Currently, Lynda works as a sessional professor in the Durham College Practical Nursing program. She is also proud to say that both of her sons are currently attending Durham College.

1982

JOHN-PAUL DUNN (Business - Marketing) resides in Oshawa, Ontario with his wife Nella, and his 19-year-old son, Daniel.

JEANETTE TURNER (nee Magic) (Graphic Design) resides in Pickering, Ontario with her husband Jeff, who is also a graduate of Durham College. Jeanette is currently working as an accounts payable accountant for Quest Software.

1987

ROBERT SCOTT (Journalism) currently resides in London, Ontario with his four children: Bianca, 15, Calvin, 13, Jacob, 11, and Caitlin, nine. Robert is currently employed as an administrator by Oneida of the Thames.

1988

ROBERT TRAILL (Business - Data Processing) resides in Georgetown, Ontario with his wife Lisa, and their two children: Madison, 12, and Grant, six. Robert currently works as an IT specialist at ADP in Mississauga, Ontario.

1996

NANCY HUGHES (nee Heckbert) (Human Services Counsellor) currently lives in Hay River, Northwest Territories. Nancy is presently working as the manager of community health, managing public health, home care and rehabilitation services at the Hay River Health and Social Services.

1997

JACQUELINE COVELL-BENCIC (Graphic Design) currently resides in Lombardy, Ontario with her husband and son Anthony, four. Jacqueline is presently employed as a designer by Impression Printing.

2000

LAURA KENNEDY (Business – General) currently resides in Bowmanville, Ontario. At present, Laura is working as a health records assistant at the Central East Community Care Access Centre.

TARAS RENCO (Sports Administration) is currently living in Oshawa, Ontario with his wife Maureen and their one-year-old daughter Samantha. Taras is presently working as a lineman apprentice at Toronto Hydro.

WAYNE ZYBALA (Public Relations) resides in Napanee, Ontario. Wayne currently works in Membership Services at the Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce.

2001

JENNIFER MULLIGAN (Entertainment Administration) is currently living in Etobicoke, Ontario. In 2006, Jennifer continued her education in marketing and sales at Loyalist College. Jennifer is presently working as a music licensing coordinator at Sony BMG Music Canada Inc.

JASON NOBLE (Business Administration -Accounting) currently resides in Oshawa, Ontario with his wife Christie. He is employed by the Ministry of Revenue as an investigator.

2005

TARA BETTERLEY (nee Lougheed) (Office Administration - Legal) currently lives in Bowmanville, Ontario with her husband Kurt, and her two children: Travis, eight, and Selena, six. Tara is presently employed by Durham College as a quality assurance officer.

2006

TIFFANY FAROLAN (Human Resources graduate certificate) is currently residing in Pickering, Ontario. She is presently a human resources administrator at NRT Technology Corp.

ALEXANDER RIDDELL (Electronic Engineering Technology) currently resides in Stratford, Ontario. Alexander has a position involving controls and automation at D and D Automation in Stratford.

In memoriam

John Bisset, professor, Durham College School of Applied Sciences, Apprenticeship, Skilled Trades and Technology, passed away peacefully at Lakeridge Health Oshawa, on September 9, 2008, at the age of 55. John leaves behind his wife, Ann, and two children, JoAnn and Allan. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues at Durham College.

Keep the alumni association up-to-date on where you are living and working.

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