



FREAK OUT!  
CAMPUS HIP-HOP-TROUPE,  
THE GEEKFREAKS, WINS  
PROVINCIAL TITLE

A NOD FROM ABROAD:  
ANIMATION STUDENTS'  
WORK ATTRACTS  
INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, DURHAM COLLEGE

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Where does the time go? It seemed like just yesterday we were at the start of another academic year, and here we are, celebrating spring convocation and the successes of our 2011 graduating class.

As I read the pages of this issue of Reflections, I can't help but be proud of our students' and alumni's accomplishments. This issue is bursting with the successes of our students and graduates in areas like athletics, technology, creative arts, as well as their achievements in their specific fields of work.

Reading about the athletic triumphs of twin sisters Erin and Erica Dewey, the Lady Lords' fastball team and the golf team, I can't help but be pleased with our varsity sports coaches and staff who have mentored and encouraged these students to push themselves and see what they can accomplish both on and off the field.

The hip hop dance group GeekFreaks and the awards they have garnered, along with the hard work and recognition achieved by our Animation students for their DVD artwork, speak to the talent and dedication of our students and encouragement and guidance of our faculty and staff members. Together we are proving that the student experience comes first at Durham College.

Of course the Durham College family is proud of all our alumni, now more than 55,000 strong. Whether you're just starting your career, or have already established yourself in the working world, keep in touch, drop by for a visit and let us know how you're doing. Who knows – your success story could be the next one to appear in the pages of Reflections!

Sincerely,

Don Lovisa

President, Durham College

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Summer is just around the corner and with temperatures rising, flowers are blooming, the grass is green and people are spending more time outdoors. It's hard not to get excited about the change in seasons, especially when

it brings with it my favourite time of year at the college – convocation!

Convocation always gives me a great sense of satisfaction as I watch new graduates cross the stage to accept their diplomas or certificates. This spring brings even more excitement as the college recently celebrated the grand opening of its new Student Services building, as well as Phase 2 of the Whitby campus expansion.

Durham College is now home to one of the most comprehensive and all-encompassing student

services buildings in the province. The new Student Services building supports students in their education efforts while fostering lifelong learning. It also serves as a vital first point of access for potential applicants, current students and graduates, establishing a familiar resource over the life of an individual's relationship with the college.

Phase 2 with its expanded shop area and additional student space and programs focused on building trades and technology and two houses – one older home with dated technology and wiring and a newer home being built this summer – will give students a sense of the many changes happening in the construction and building trades.

Work is now beginning on Phase 3 of the expansion focused on hospitality and tourism that will be located at the west side of the Whitby campus.

Recognizing the importance of this three-phase expansion project and its creation of a unique

teaching and learning environment for post-secondary students in Durham Region, the alumni Board of Directors was pleased to approve the Alumni Association's pledge of \$50,000 to Durham College's Building for our Future campaign.

If you haven't had a chance to visit both the Oshawa and Whitby campuses recently, I encourage you to do so. Both campuses are growing to meet the needs of students and the community and we are excited to share the changes with you.

Cheers,

Lillian Jacoby

Legal Administration, class of 1976

President, Durham College Alumni Association

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REFLECTIONS IS WRITTEN AND EDITED BY DURHAM COLLEGE PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENTS  
PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NO. 40064655  
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE CARRASCO

Members of Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)'s GeekFreaks dance crew accept their first place award at OUCH 2010.

# DANCING TO THE TOP

by Sarah Taylor

IMAGINE STANDING ON STAGE IN front of thousands of people, scared, nervous, but most of all feeling a rush of excitement more powerful than anything you've ever felt before. As the lights go up, you're left with two things – a feeling of complete concentration and of course, the beat.

Three years ago Wayne Carrasco, Mark Razo and Majoire Santos created the dance crew GeekFreaks in order to tell their side of hip hop while attending Durham College. Carrasco is now in his third year of Advertising, Razo is a graduate of the Mechanical Electronics Engineering Technology program and Santos was in his second year of the Business – General program. Any member of the GeekFreaks can now tell you what it takes to be a successful dancer.

"After winning our first competition, I knew we were onto something," said Carrasco. "There were a lot of people out there who didn't think we had what it takes to dance at a competitive level. Today, I can tell you we were the opening act for Summer Jam, danced at Youth Day

in front of 15,000 people, and appeared in several music videos. As the three-year mark of GeekFreaks approaches, and the awards keep coming in, I think we've turned most of the non-believers into fans."

At Summer Jam, a concert held in Kitchener, Ont., the GeekFreaks opened for well-known hip hop artists T-Pain, Rick Ross, Fabulous and Busta Rhymes. The music videos they've appeared in include Milkshakes and Razorblades by Kardinal and illScarlett, as well as Ups and Downs by Najjah Calibur. They were invited to the MuchMusic Video Awards and also danced at the Durham College's annual CampusFest concert.

The group's most recent accomplishment was winning the Ontario University Competition for Hip Hop (OUCH) 2010, Canada's biggest college/university hip hop dance competition.

"I had no idea we were going to take first," said Cindy Hau Lam, a GeekFreaks crew member. "On stage waiting for the awards my heart was beating so hard and fast. When they announced third and

second place, I knew we didn't make it, but it was okay, because our whole team wasn't even in it for the win. We just wanted to have fun and represent Durham College and UOIT. When they announced that we had won first place, I was in shock, speechless and so happy I wanted to cry!"

Most dancers wait years to gain the amount of success and exposure GeekFreaks has attained in three short years. By the end of 2011, GeekFreaks will have appeared at the Junos and Canadian Music Week in Toronto, Ont. and Youth Day 2011 in Montreal, Que. among other events.

"Winning put Oshawa on the radar for their up-and-coming talent within Ontario universities and colleges. Looking back at what started with three individuals with a shared passion of dancing, I am extremely proud of what has become of the GeekFreaks," said Razo. "The success of a dance group is the dream of any dancer, and I can say that my dreams have come true."



Pictured on the left, GeekFreaks crew members perform at Youth Day Toronto, and on the right, GeekFreaks Cindy Hau Lam and Majoire Santos ham it up for a promotional photo.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WAYNE CARRASCO



Left, GeekFreaks crew performs at Kollaboration 11. Right and above, crew members have some fun during their photo shoots.



# THE SIGHTS

by Joshua Zarobiak



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FLOWERS OF HELL

Durham College Professor Greg Jarvis, centre, poses with his multi-instrumental band, The Flowers of Hell. Composed of members from Toronto, Ontario and London, England, the band has played many shows on both sides of the At-

IT'S A CRAMPED, STERILE, BEIGE office at the end of a dark hall, with a couple of desks, chairs, a bookcase and a single piece of art – a print of Elvis Presley – hanging on a concrete-block wall, the last place you'd expect to find a creative type.

This small space is the office of Greg Jarvis, a professor in Durham College's Music Business Administration – Music Business Management (MBA-MBM) program. It's his main workstation when he's not teaching, spending time with friends or jet-setting across the Atlantic Ocean as the lead guitarist and founder of the experimental space-rock band, The Flowers of Hell.

For Toronto born Jarvis, returning to Canada to work at Durham College in 2006 was a welcome change, having spent the previous 13 years living overseas in Prague, Czech Republic; Moscow, Russia; Warsaw, Poland; and London, England.

Prior to returning to Canada, the long-time ex-patriot worked as a record executive for BMG Music, Universal International, the BBC's Top of the Pops television program and then spent four years as a professor at London Metropolitan University (London Met).

"I had moved to Europe when I was 21, and to London when I was 26," said Jarvis. "Although living abroad seems like such an amazing experience – and in most ways it

is – there are things you miss. My family lives in Canada, and I was sick of living out of a suitcase, so I returned to Ontario to put down roots."

While Jarvis decided to move home to Canada, coming to Durham College wasn't planned. If not for two Durham College students working at Canadian Music Week, he may have gone back to his life as a record executive. Instead, Jarvis was impressed by the skill and professionalism of the two MBA-MBM students working at the program booth. After talking with the students, and discussing their program, Jarvis decided to approach the school about a teaching position. The rest, as they say, is history.

# AND SOUNDS OF SUCCESS

During his time away from the Durham College community, Jarvis is the lead guitarist and primary composer of the 16-piece band The Flowers of Hell. The band operates in much the same way as an orchestra, with members stationed in both the United Kingdom and in Toronto, practising their parts before coming together for performances and recording sessions. While all members of the band help write the music, the final tone of the piece is ultimately decided by Jarvis.

His musical ability is guided in large part by a condition known as synesthesia, a neurological disorder where the brain is cross-wired so the senses overlap. Although there are many types of synesthesia, Jarvis is a timbre-to-shape synesthete. This means he hears sounds in the same way as everyone else, but a vision of a unique, abstract shape accompanies each individual sound Jarvis hears. For example, the sound of a chair scraping on the floor is accompanied by a visual of craggy lines for Jarvis.

"It's just how life is for me, and roughly one to three per cent of the population. I didn't know I was different from anyone else until it was brought to my attention," Jarvis said. "With synesthetes, we don't necessarily have words for what we experience, so we don't know we have the condition until we hear someone else explain what their experience is. I realized



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FLOWERS OF HELL

**Music Business Management Professor Greg Jarvis plays keyboards during a Flowers of Hell performance.**

I was a synesthete five years ago while marking a student's paper at London Met."

Synesthesia plays an important role in the creation of Jarvis' music. He describes the creation of a song as a process similar to sculpting. He starts with a block of sound and he carves each instrument's part out of the shapes he sees, accompanying the music that is played.

Guided by Jarvis' unique vision, The Flowers of Hell have released three full-length albums and a live DVD, with another album and a shorter extended play (EP)

album due out soon. Jarvis finds juggling work and life a delicate balancing act. Although finding time for personal interests, recording, composing, promoting and teaching is challenging, Jarvis wouldn't change anything.

"At the end of the day, it's all about creating. I want to be as creative as possible," said Jarvis. "I see music as a way to release creative vibes into the universe. I'm thankful for being able to do what I love."

# STUDENTS' WORK EARNs A NOD FROM ABROAD

by Michelle Chappell



Still image from Opus 66 animated music video



Still image from Opus 66 animated music video

"DELVE A LITTLE DEEPER INTO THE DVD AND you'll find an animated video for previous single Opus 66 by the Flowers of Hell. It is based on the works of Art Nouveau pioneer Aubrey Beardsley and designed and created by students at Durham College and is a striking piece of animation that does enormous justice to both its creators and musical accomplices," posted Drowned in Sound (DiS), a well-respected music website based in the United Kingdom.

Students from the Animation-Digital Arts/Digital Production programs were commended for their work by DiS for their animation skills on the music video. The students couldn't have been more thrilled to receive such positive feedback from a source other than their teachers, especially when that source is known for its harsh critiques.

"It was fantastic reading the reviews for the video. It left us all with a great sense of satisfaction and pride in our work," said Linzi Dubeau, a student from the Animation-Digital Arts program. "I found it extremely gratifying to see our artwork come to life. I drew several of the backgrounds that we used and spent many hours drawing hundreds of leaves."

The animated video focuses on highly stylized artwork in black and white, as well as colour, and appears on The Flowers of Hell DVD Live at the Music Gallery. This Art Nouveau-inspired video was the vision of Greg Jarvis, lead guitarist of the band and a Durham College professor in the Music Business Administration – Music Business Management program. The students worked hard to make Jarvis' vision come to life, while using the skills they learned.

"Working on the Opus 66 video was a great experience. Greg has great vision, and it was fun to be able to brainstorm as a team to truly bring his story to life. Of course there were a few challenges," said Dubeau. "Our animation course load is extremely intensive, meaning there were a lot of all-nighters spent drawing backgrounds and assets for the video. Also, a few of the students had limited experience with the software used to create the music video, leading us to work closer as a team to communicate and overcome the technical issues."

The Flowers of Hell are a trans-Atlantic space-rock orchestra made up of 16 experimental, independent musicians based in London, England and Toronto, Ont. Their sound is a mix of classical music, post-rock, shoegaze, space-rock and drone music. They have been described as an orchestral extension of The Velvet Underground, an American rock band.

Jarvis gave the students a chance to work alongside The Flowers of Hell and the students ran with the idea. The video can be viewed on YouTube or on The Flowers of Hell MySpace page.

"Being offered the opportunity to gain experience working alongside a talented musician has opened doors for all of us in the future and I am thankful to the college and Greg for the opportunity," said Dubeau.

# TWINS SCORE RECOGNITION

by Laryssa Halcio



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

Sisters Erin and Erica Dewey show off the issue of Sports Illustrated in which they were featured. The pair had impressive three-year careers with the Durham College women's fastball team.

BEING FEATURED IN THE NEWS IS pretty exciting for any athlete, but for Erica and Erin Dewey, it was even more exciting when they appeared in the November 11, 2010 issue of Sports Illustrated after illustrious three-year fastball careers at Durham College.

The twin sisters are in their final year of the Sports Management program at the college and have been playing for the Durham Lords fastball team since they enrolled. This past fall, their team brought home a gold medal from the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) championships, which was held on the college's diamond, setting a new record for Durham College, as it won its 15th OCAA title in fastball.

"Winning on our home diamond with all our fans supporting us really added to the atmosphere and made the tournament that much more exciting," explained Erica, centre-fielder for the Durham Lords. "After losing to St. Clair (College) in the finals for the past two years it feels really great to actually win. This year, we had an awesome team. Not just on the field, but off the field as well."

She and her sister were also featured as two of Sports Illustrated's (SI) Faces in the Crowd through their successes and

accomplishments during the last three seasons at the college. Faces in the Crowd first appeared in the magazine on January 1956, and is intended to highlight amateur athletes.

"It's pretty cool and exciting to be in a world-renowned magazine, especially with Erica," said Erin, shortstop for the Durham Lords. "I never thought I would be in SI. I am honoured to be featured in it and represent the Durham Lords and the sport of fastball."

This is the second time in the fastball programs' history that an athlete has appeared in SI. The first was fastball/volleyball player Erin Smith, who appeared in the October 2004 issue.

"It's a great accomplishment for both Erin and Erica to be recognized by such a well-known sports magazine," said women's fastball coach Jim Nemish. "To be featured in SI is every pro athlete's dream of making it, as they say, and to be able to do this at the collegiate level is a tribute to their talents, hard work and dedication to a sport they love."

The Deweys started playing T-ball at age four. Growing up with two older brothers sparked their interest in baseball, as they were always travelling to the ballpark to watch their brothers play. At age six, they

joined a fastball league and by the time they were 12, the sisters started playing competitively and joined the Cobourg Angels.

"Erin and I have always been very athletic, so playing sports has come easily to us," Erica said. "We started playing at the age of four, I guess we continued to play because we were good at it and then it just turned into something we love."

In 2008, Erica tied the OCAA record for most runs in a season by scoring 22 times in her rookie campaign. She was also named OCAA Athlete of the Week in 2010 for her league-high batting average. She currently holds four OCAA records.

Erin was named the 2010 OCAA women's fastball player of the year for the third consecutive season, leading the league with 21 hits. Erin is also the OCAA career leader in batting average with a .559 mark over three seasons.

The sisters plan on pursuing their baseball careers after they graduate from the college this year.

"Erin and I are going to be trying out for the Senior Canadian National team in the summer," said Erica. "I always thought it would be really awesome to play for Team Canada. I'm just going to train hard, try my best and hopefully it all works out."

# LEGAL LEGACY

by Rebecca MacDonald

FOR SOME PEOPLE, RESEARCHING their genealogy and creating a family tree may unearth some unpleasant surprises. For Keara Barton, it was just the opposite. While researching her family history, she discovered the roots of her love for law dated back several generations.

Barton's great-great uncle, Charles William Reid Bowlby, was called to the Bar in 1919, and then served as a Court of Appeal judge from 1946 to 1952. His son, John Bowlby, followed in his footsteps and was appointed judge for the High Court of Justice from 1983 to 1988. This discovery last summer brought meaning to Barton's passion for legal issues.

The 2009 Legal Administration program graduate excelled throughout college and began her professional career journey in the Toronto, Ont. office of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP (Fasken Martineau) in March of 2008.

Fasken Martineau is one of the world's leading international business law and litigations firms with more than 675 lawyers and offices in Canada, United Kingdom, France and South Africa. It only took Barton two weeks to impress the Fasken Martineau team, and she was offered a temporary full-time position during the summer break.

Barton's friendly personality and helpful demeanor allowed her to excel even further and upon completion of her second placement at the firm, she was offered a full-time position.

"I got hired on as a float, so I was their temporary assistant and helped in the records department, marketing department and litigation, and then I worked in labour and employment law which I loved," said Barton.

The law industry has its challenges, but Barton faces them by constantly seeking new opportunities to network and get involved within the firm as much as she can. She is on the Toronto Assistant Liaison Committee as a representative for the legal assistants of the labour department, as well as the Merit Program, which is a charity that offers monetary support to at-risk secondary students in Toronto. The

program is unique as it doesn't choose the top academic student, but recognizes students who demonstrate active involvement in their community, or who have overcome personal barriers. Barton not only expresses her interest in committees at work, as she joined a local boxing class to help her train for the Ride to Conquer Cancer in June.

"I was really motivated to participate because my sister was diagnosed with melanoma and she had to go through the process of having her lymph nodes as well as tissue removed off her shoulder," said Barton. "It hit so close to home and I felt so helpless. I wanted to make a difference and help spread awareness of the disease."

The Ride to Conquer Cancer is an annual fundraising event to raise awareness and financial support to help cancer research. Thousands of participants, both cancer survivors and passionate supporters, cycle from Toronto to Niagara Falls, Ont. in a two-day journey that is both physically and emotionally demanding.

"I don't think I'm emotionally prepared yet," Barton said while preparing for the event. "When I feel like I can't ride anymore, I'll just keep pushing myself further because my fatigue is so little compared to what people have gone through with this disease."

Since September 2010, Barton has been making life-changing choices as she prepares for the ride. Having smoked for several years, she tossed the pack away and hasn't looked back. She's also taken fitness to a whole new level in her life as she avidly participates in boxing classes and cardiovascular training. Barton honours her sister's strength, and will use this as her motivation on her two-day adventure.

Her positive outlook has allowed her to open up to an endless stream of opportunities, demonstrating that dreams can be achieved when you have the motivation to chase them.

"Put yourself out there," said Barton. "There are no limits to what you can accomplish, just limits you put on yourself."



Legal Administration grad Keara Barton has made her mark as a legal assistant at Fasken Martineau in Toronto, Ont.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA MACDONALD



Third-year Journalism students Ryan Graham and Adriana Pacheco work on stories at the downtown Oshawa office of the blog.

# ONE BLOG, MANY POSSIBILITIES

by Amanda Clarke

SINCE NEWS IS CONSTANTLY provocative, interesting and always happening, then journalism, must constantly change to keep up with it. This year, Anna Rodrigues, a professor in the Journalism program at Durham College spearheaded a blog project that allows her students to explore this change. Blogs are online news tools that are fairly new, exciting and fast becoming a mainstream form of media.

On October 2, 2010, Rodrigues launched the Downtown Oshawa News blog. The hyper local blog focuses on the people who work and live in the downtown Oshawa area. These blogs typically report the news and deliver other content on a neighbourhood- or hyper local-level. Rodrigues developed it to give her students experience in this type of writing and to research how local news affects people in the community.

Through the blog, Rodrigues will determine how hyper local news affects people and journalists, as well as learn some of the new ways of telling the news. As for her third-year Journalism students, they have the opportunity to write for more than just an assignment as they write the blog posts.

"News will survive if you localize it," Rodrigues said. "Even if you only have

2,000 people living in a given area, you have an audience of 2,000 interested in what is happening in that area."

Writing for the blog gives students a chance to get out of the school and work in the real world. They go downtown, talk to people and learn the ways of a true journalist. The students also get to practise their multimedia skills, by creating video and audio clips. Their posts cover a variety of topics, from restaurants reviews to political issues.

When it launched, the blog needed an editor, and recent Journalism graduate Amanda Allison was eager to take the job. During the week she monitors the news, looking for story ideas. When Friday comes, she works with two students on their ideas and makes sure they have everything they need to come back with all the essentials of a story. The students conduct interviews and take photos, after which Allison helps to edit their work as they write their stories.

She later posts the stories and photos to the blog and uploads videos to YouTube, and then promotes the blog on a number of social media sites.

"It's a great opportunity to write about the city in which I grew up," said Allison. "I learn something new about the area

every single week. Plus, I get to work with future journalists and make an impact on their lives, which is extremely rewarding."

Allison has learned about the variety of different cuisines in downtown Oshawa; the histories of an array of businesses; thriving new companies; and much more.

The project was developed with funding provided by the Durham College Research Fund and Innovation Fund with the support of the dean and associate dean of the School of Media, Art & Design. Funding ran until April, but Rodrigues hopes she will be able to make the blog a permanent part of the course. She also hopes to bring in guest bloggers who may not necessarily know how to write, but are interested in writing and have ideas for the blog. Students also have high hopes for the future of the blog because of the experience they're gaining from it.

"We've done so much with the blog," said Miranda Roach, a third-year Journalism student. "The hits are incredible and peaking every day. It's nice to see how well-received it is by the community. I think it will only get better from here and one day people will be talking about it as if it were a daily newspaper."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIANA PACHECO

Recent graduate Amanda Allison was hired as editor of the Downtown Oshawa News blog.



Durham College's women's fastball team celebrates its 15th provincial gold medal at the OCAA championships.

# GRAND SLAM SEASON FOR LADY LORDS

by Alanna Sloan

THE DURHAM COLLEGE WOMEN'S fastball team claimed the gold medal at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) championships again, but this time on home ground. The win in October made it the college's fastball team's 15th OCAA title, the most titles of any OCAA team. The Lords were victorious with a 10-1 win over the St. Clair Saints in the championship game.

"This year was an awesome season for us. We played well every game, and never gave up if we were down," said team member Erica Dewey. "The team really came together on and off the field and I think that's what made it that much better when we won the OCAAs."

On top of their OCAA title, the team was also successful at the National Fastball Championship held in October in

Saskatoon, Sask., bringing home a bronze medal. The Lords did extremely well in this tournament and two Durham players, Dewey and Tiana Cosentino, were also named to the championship all-star team at their respective positions of centre field and third base.

**"Everything just came together, the team gelled well. We couldn't ask for anything more from the girls. We just had an outstanding season"**

"The nationals have been in place now for four years and this was our second year going to it. Two years ago it was in Kitchener, Ont. and we placed fourth," said head coach Jim Nemish. "Last year the

University of Saskatchewan hosted it and we placed third. That was really good for us coming from a community college, playing against mostly university teams."

Nemish has 23 years of experience coaching the Durham College fastball team. Since he was appointed head coach, the team has posted a 203-17 (.922) win/loss record. Along with Nemish, assistant coaches Mal Swift (14 years with the fastball team) and Rosemary Theriault (eight years with the team) complete the coaching staff.

"This year was very successful for us. We had a veteran team with a few freshmen," said Nemish. "Everything just came together, the team gelled well. We couldn't ask for anything more from the girls. We just had an outstanding season."

# DOIN' THE PR RAP

by Reisha Prasad

## PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT RAMONE 'R-TRIPZ' STEWART MAKES HIS MARK IN THE RAP GAME

AS A CHILD, RAMONE STEWART SAW A YOUNG BOY named Corey rapping on TV. "I want to get on television," thought Stewart. He called up his cousin and together they came up with a beat and a rap with some pencil crayons, rapped over the beat and recorded it.

Fast forward four years when then 14-year-old Stewart handed his demo to critically acclaimed Canadian hip-hop artist Choclaire. Encouraged by his success to date, and with Choclaire's blessing, Stewart is now known as professional rapper, R-Tripz.

In 2007, Stewart was able to garner more than 20,000 downloads on the Internet with the release of his first single, i'M NICE. Stewart's second and most successful release to date, You Ugly, featuring Canadian hip-hop artist Bishop Brigante, aired on Flow 93.5, Toronto, Ont.'s most popular hip-hop radio station.

Locally, Stewart has performed at E.P. Taylor's, Durham College's campus pub and local Oshawa, Ont. nightclubs like Status Lounge (previously The Big Sexy) and Roi (previously Le Skratch). He has also played major venues in Toronto including Trilogy, Home and the MOD Club, with MOD Club being one of his favourite shows based on overall crowd energy and sound quality.

His first single not only accelerated his career, but also sprouted a clothing line now featured in the Urban Fashion store in the Whitby Mall. The words i'M NICE appear on T-shirts and toques, which are designed by Stewart himself.

"I don't want to be known just as the guy that made i'M NICE. I want to become something a bit more than making music," Stewart said. "My main focus is music, but whatever happens, happens. If I get offered a role I'm going to take it."

Now in his second year of the Public Relations program at Durham College, Stewart has had parts as a background actor on shows like Flashpoint, Angel on Campus, After Math and Degrassi. Stewart has had the chance to experience what it's like to work on a television set, as well as on an online series called College Life on his YouTube channel, which features a documentary-style look at a first-year students' experience at Durham College.

He was attracted to the Public Relations program because it gives him an opportunity to learn more about media relations and writing, allowing him to maintain control over his public image. It also gives him the knowledge he needs to approach different companies and the media when proposing an idea. Whether he's rapping, acting, designing clothes or completing assignments, Stewart is determined to make something of himself.

His philosophy is simple. "Everything happens for a reason. If you think positive and be positive, good things will happen to you."



PHOTO COURTESY OF REISHA PRASAD

Public Relations student and rapper, Ramone Stewart juggles a full-time school schedule along with a music and acting career.

Deborah Tsagris, pictured right, is the primary researcher for a study into services that help students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLE MCLEAN

# ENABLING STUDENT SUCCESS

by Cole McLean

WHEN STUDENTS USE A WHEELCHAIR or cane to get around, the extra challenges they face are visible. But what most people don't realize is that there is a whole other group of students who face less obvious obstacles.

In 2009, Durham College's Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) received more than \$230,000 in funding for research into Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other learning disabilities (LD). The research, funded by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, (HEQCO) was designed to discover how post-secondary schools can improve accessibility for students with learning disabilities.

"It's a substantial amount of funding to receive for this kind of research," said Meghan Houghton, director of the CSD. "There isn't much in the post-secondary sector relating to this sort of thing, so we're extremely lucky to be able to contribute in filling the research gap. There's a much bigger need for research in this area than people realize."

This July, the centre will provide HEQCO with their final report. Those involved in the research hope to break new ground by determining the best methods to help the

estimated three to 10 per cent of post-secondary students coping with various learning disabilities.

The study is examining the outcomes of the summer transition program - named Quick Start - and enhanced services that include learning strategies, counselling services, on-campus technology training and support, resources and student services offered through Student Academic Learning Services (SALS) and the Campus Health Centre.

The research goals are to determine which factors will help improve the students' transition to post-secondary institutions and to determine what factors improve student retention and help achieve higher graduation rates. One of the problems for researchers is that students with LD and ADHD have additional academic demands due to the impact of their disability. Recruiting them to participate during school then becomes an issue, as increased workloads create competing demands between participating in the research and completing their school work.

However, Durham College's student population has made the time and effort to participate in this important study.

"It's exciting research," said Deborah Tsagris, the principal investigator of the research study. "All students are busy, but those on campus with learning disabilities have more to deal with, as they must figure out which strengths they possess to help overcome their weaknesses. That's what we're hoping to help with, their ability to identify their strong points, and help them use their strengths to achieve success."

Depending on the students' challenge, they may require equipment to assist with their learning. For example, someone with reading issues might need text-to-voice software to help them learn different, more efficient reading strategies. The CSD would provide support for this student in many different ways counselors, including teaching students methods to improve time management and lessen procrastination.

The current project will provide all parties with important information about which services are most likely to help. Access to this sort of data will not only aid Durham College, but all post-secondary institutions and their students in the future.



Mike Duggan (second from the left), Tiffany Albath and Kayleigh Kraemer accept their CCAA 2010 Women's golf championship award in Kamloops, British Columbia.

# GLORY ON CANADIAN GREEN

by Caroline Krucas

THEY CAME FROM GERMANY, TRAINED at Durham College and conquered the Canadian greens.

Kayleigh Kraemer and Tiffany Albath are far from home and making a name for themselves in Canadian women's golf. As a team, they captured Durham College's first national women's golf championship and individually they came away with individual bronze and silver medals respectively.

The win topped off a season that also saw Kraemer bring home gold and Albath silver, from the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Golf Championship in October 2010, where they also won the team gold medal. The duo makes up the entire Durham College women's team and together claimed six titles in 2010 including the Fleming College Invitational, Durham College Open and Niagara Classic.

Mike Duggan has coached the pair for more than a year and is thrilled with how well they've done provincially and nationally.

"I am so proud of the way our team went out and performed," he said after their Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) win. "To come home from the national championship with three medals is unbelievable."

The Durham students shot a total of 468 (154-161-153) over three days, finishing ahead of UBC-Okanagan by 25 strokes.

"The nationals are a great experience. Athletes are competing against the top collegiate golfers from the top college programs from across Canada," said Duggan. "This is a great way to visit different parts of Canada, play golf, have fun and make new friends."

Albath and Kraemer moved to Canada almost two years ago to further their careers in golf.

"We had to make a conscious decision to make golf our whole life. We have invested so much time into this sport and it has been paying off," said Albath. "I am so grateful to have the opportunity to train in Canada and with a coach like Mike. He's an awesome coach and I owe him a lot."

Both girls are studying Professional Golf Management at the college. After graduation, Albath would like to pursue a career with a golf association, such as Golf Canada, the Golf Association of Ontario or the Golf Association of Germany as a championship/tournament co-ordinator. Kraemer would like to work as a pro at a golf club.

"I have so much fun playing golf in Canada and having both the men's and women's team working together and training makes it all that much more fun," said Kraemer. "We train so hard, but it's paying off and I definitely will remember my time and successes at Durham College."

Duggan, Albath and Kraemer are proud of their first national championship, but they know there is always room for improvement, because after all, practice makes perfect.

# DURHAM HOSTS NATIONALS

by Tosha Pigeau

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, Durham College hosted the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) national men's basketball championship. The three-day tournament took place in March and showcased the top eight teams from across the country. Athletics director Ken Babcock was excited about hosting the event.

"Every time we do an event like this, the entire country is focused on Durham College, on Oshawa," said Babcock. "It puts the spotlight on our school in a very positive way and showcases our campus and the beautiful facilities we have here. I think it sets us apart from other schools that don't take on these championships and hosting roles when they become available."

Durham has hosted eight other CCAA championship events including volleyball, soccer and golf, but this is the first basketball championship for the college. Hosting an event of this magnitude requires a lot of work. Two years prior to the event the host college has to submit its intent to bid to the provincial organization, and once that process is complete the college has to receive an endorsement and submit another bid to the CCAA board where a vote is held.

The selected college is then informed 18 months prior to the event and can begin preparations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

"We have a great track record for hosting national events. The Athletics department has experienced staff and they do a wonderful job when we take on these large challenges," said Babcock. "We have to generate sponsorship, revenue and support, and we count on support from our Student Association, corporate sponsors in

our community, suppliers and ticket sales."

To run the three-day championship, the school required a number of volunteers. In all, about 150 people helped run the event including 25 host committee personnel, Babcock's staff and 50 to 60 volunteers including students.

In an attempt to gauge how Durham's basketball team would perform at the event, they travelled to Alberta for a Christmas tournament where they played the top teams from Alberta and British Columbia.

"We did pretty well, we won some and lost some, so it was a good barometer of where we were at," said Babcock. "But once you get to that level everyone deserves to be there. Going into the national championships, the team was hoping the home court advantage would help propel them to a win."

The Durham Lord's men's basketball team was nationally ranked as one of the top 10 teams in the country going into the national championship. Babcock said coach Desmond Rowley, who has been the Lord's coach for the past four years, did a great job preparing for this event by building a competitive team.

Despite a strong performance, the Lords lost all three games in the tournament but the team was happy with the exposure that they received.

# NEW VISION, NEW PROGRAMS

by Liana Krmpotic

The innovative Digital Video Production and Digital Photography programs at Durham College are available for fall 2011 registration.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIANA KRMPOTIC

WHEN IT COMES TO NEW COURSE offerings from the School of Media, Art & Design (MAD), the eyes have it.

Focusing on all things visual, two new diploma programs, Digital Photography and Digital Video Production, will be up and running this fall. The Digital Photography program will provide students with all the technical and compositional techniques required to become a successful photographer, as well as giving students a chance to showcase their artistic visions. The two-year program will focus on lighting, drawing and entrepreneurial development as well as how to use web and social media.

The Digital Video Production program concentrates on electronic field production, electronic news gathering, capturing video images and learning how to manipulate them by using state-of-the-art hardware and software.

Also available this fall, is the three-year Fine Arts – Advanced program and a post-graduate

certificate Visual Effects (VFX) and Digital Cinema program.

“These programs fill out a part of our curriculum menu that was missing,” said Greg Murphy, dean of the School of Media, Art & Design. “They are designed to give our students an opportunity to make a contribution to the development of the culture and economy of Durham Region.”

Students will have the opportunity to work on a volunteer basis for non-profit organizations and community groups that do not have the funds to generate these types of media projects themselves. Students will work on projects such as video assets, profiling, website design and public service announcements.

Down the road, faculty members from MAD are hoping to add more programs, such as a new journalism for contemporary media program and one-year post-graduate certificates in documentary filmmaking; web applications for mobile devices; and audio post-production.

# THE CAREER-CHOICE CHALLENGE

by Judy Lazaro



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LAZARO

Emergency Service Fundamentals, a new program offered by the School of Justice & Emergency Services, allows students to try on a number of different hats before deciding what career path they want to follow.

“SHOULD I BECOME A POLICE OFFICER OR A FIREFIGHTER? Then again, maybe I’d enjoy being a paramedic instead.” – thoughts like these plague many students as they decide what career path to take. To help students deal with these questions, Durham College has opened the door to several new programs.

“We are always looking for additional ways to enhance the educational experience for our students and to meet their needs,” said Stephanie Ball, dean of the School of Justice & Emergency Services.

Emergency Service Fundamentals, a new one-year certificate program, targets students interested in the field, but who can’t decide on a specific career. Introductory courses are offered in the Paramedic; Firefighter – Pre-service, education and training; Police Foundations; Law and Security Administration; and 9-1-1 Emergency and Call Centre Communications programs. Through this varied curriculum, students can sample many options before pursuing what will eventually become their professions.

Durham College graduates looking to enhance their education might be interested in Victimology, a graduate-certificate program that provides a more in-depth look at legal and justice studies.

Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to pursue careers advocating for victims of crime, as well as take part in risk assessment on behalf of individuals, families and groups. Graduates won’t be sitting on the sidelines – they will be in the thick of things fighting for the rights of victims.

Another area of the college that is adding courses is the School of Health & Community Services. Presented as a two-year diploma program, the Developmental Services Worker program gives students the opportunity to learn to work with people of all ages who are dealing with developmental, learning, physical or mental disorders. Students will graduate with experience gained through field placements in educational, residential and community settings that will enable them to take relevant experience into the workforce.

“Due to a growing support for persons with disabilities, developmental services workers may find job opportunities in a variety of areas within the public and private sectors,” said Susan Sproul, dean of the School of Health & Community Services.

Through these new programs, Durham College is enabling its students to meet the job market demands as successful professionals.

# EDUCATION SHOPPING NOW EASIER

by Kristina Filippi

Shopping for the right technology program doesn't have to be tough anymore for incoming Durham College students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

FOR MANY STUDENTS, CHOOSING A career at the age of 17 can be tough. They don't know what they want to do and sometimes find out the hard way by choosing the wrong program. With dropout rates of one in four for most colleges, offering a program that helps students select a career path would be ideal. This fall, Durham College's School of Science & Engineering Technology is doing just that.

In September, a new one-year certificate program, Science and Engineering Fundamentals, will give students a chance to test-drive a variety of program areas before choosing a specific one.

"This program allows students to career shop because sometimes we find when students drop out of a full three-year technology program, it's because it's not what they thought it would be or they don't feel confident with it," said Susan Todd, dean of the School of Science & Engineering Technology.

"This gives them a chance to try different things and be successful before committing to a program and finding out that it was not what they wanted," said Todd.

Students enrolled in the program will take six courses each semester, including math, computers and communications. As well, a Science Fundamentals course will provide them with an overview of what is happening in the science world and what kind of careers and jobs would be there after graduating from a three-year program.

The Science and Engineering Fundamentals program will also expose students to career possibilities in the engineering field. Not only do they learn what it takes, but they also get to sample various types of engineering. Rather than just taking a three-year diploma program in manufacturing engineering, students taking fundamentals will experience a variety of specialties such as electronics,

medical or even chemical engineering before settling on just one.

"The majority of students do not have the right prerequisites to get into a full-time, three-year program and that is a deciding factor in choosing what to go for," said Todd. "This gives them a chance to be in college, get their prerequisites, and get a taste of the other professions out there to build confidence in themselves so they can be more successful in making a choice."

Although the Science and Engineering Fundamentals program does not lead to employment, it lets students walk away with four basic and two elective subjects each semester, with some credits available to be transferred to a diploma program. This gives students diversity and creates a pathway to succeed in a future program.

# ONE-STOP SHOPPING

by Sage Livingstone

## STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING PROVIDES STUDENTS AND GRADS WITH EASY ACCESS TO ALL TYPES OF SERVICES.



Students can visit the new Student Services building for such things as Financial Aid and Awards, Career Services and Student Life.

WITH ITS FUTURISTIC TRIANGULAR glass exterior and resemblance to an airport terminal interior, the new Student Services building is providing students and recent graduates with more efficient ways of getting the services they need to launch their careers.

“The idea is to have the building serve as a gateway to the campus, a showpiece for Durham College,” said Paul Bishop, registrar at Durham College. “People drive past and can come and find out where it is they need to go and it gets people in and asking questions.”

Since opening in December, the new building has been a great addition to the Oshawa campus. It provides students with one-stop shopping for financial aid, Career Services, registration and Student Life. One of the biggest goals for this new

addition was to eliminate students being shunted from one place to another for different kinds of services.

“We want to be more respectful of the students’ time,” said Bishop, “We want to provide them with more information in a more efficient way.”

The school has also further developed the technology in the building, with the addition of four or five flat-screen TVs for students and a web interface that lets students know before going to the building what the wait is like for particular services, or where their spot is in line.

The building is expected to be completely finished by summer. The whole area surrounding the building will be landscaped to make it a more usable space, with picnic tables, trees, gardens and seating all available to provide

students with more outdoor freedom on campus.

Bishop also stressed the building is environmentally friendly, in alignment with the college’s goal to be more green. The building has a green roof, using a material that conforms to any shape and acts as insulation to keep the building warm in the winter and cooler in the summer. It is also Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified as an energy-efficient building.

Recent graduates looking for help with their job search, or any graduates interested in taking a course, can easily find the new building. They just need to look for a floating, futuristic-style structure beside the Student Centre.



alumni association

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# ALUMNI UPDATE

## 1973

**DAVID MEIER** (Electronic Technician) lives in Lindsay, Ont. with his wife Theresa and two children Scott and Matthew. David is now retired from his role as superintendent at Whitby Hydro.

## 1984

**MARC MACRAE** (Sports Administration) lives in Waterdown, Ont. with his wife Elaine and their two children, 15-year-old Connor and 13-year-old Carson. Marc is vice-president of RMP Athletic Locker.

## 1987

**SCOTT CLARK** (Sports Administration) lives in Moose Jaw, Sask. with his wife Shannon and their daughters, 11-year-old Madison and five-year-old Bailey. Scott has worked in many aspects of the sports industry, with the Toronto Blue Jays, Hockey Canada and the Oshawa Generals. "Attending Durham College was the most important decision I ever made and it set me up for an enjoyable and successful career that has now been 25 years and counting," said Clark.



## 1988

**BRENDA MCCULLY** (nee Brady) (Nursing) lives in Oshawa, Ont. with her husband Lorne and they have three grown children Andrea, Adrienne and Alison. Brenda is the associate director at Homewood Health Centre in Guelph, Ont. After graduating from Durham College, she became a faculty member for the School of Continuing Education and taught for 18 years. She retired from teaching in 2007 and has fond memories of Durham College.

## 1995

**PHILLIP STEVENS** (Machine Shop Techniques) lives in Penetanguishene, Ont. with his wife Lucille and two children, 10-year-old Alanna and seven-year-old Locken. Phillip works as a CNC machinist at Raytheon Elcan in Midland, Ont.

## 1996

**PAUL DOBBS** (Environmental Technology) lives in Oshawa, Ont. He has been working for the John Howard Society of Durham Region for the past 10 years and is manager of Technology and Community Development. In 2010, he received awards from the Canadian Mental Health Association Durham for production of their 50th Anniversary Awards video; United Way for campaign leadership; and OpenDNS (California) for System Administrator of the Year.

## 1998

**TERRY MUIRURI** (nee Kinyua) (Public Relations) lives in Nairobi, Kenya with her husband Stephen and two children, six-year-old Tyrean and four-year-old Kyle. Terry is employed at Inoorero University as a marketing executive.

## 2008

**KELLY MOSIER** (Practical Nursing) lives in Brampton, Ont. and is currently working at St. Joseph's Health Care in Hamilton, Ont.

## 2010

**KEIRRA SAFFREY** (Public Relations) lives in Oshawa, Ont. Keirra is currently working for Downsview Park in Toronto, Ont. as a communications assistant.

## IN MEMORIAM

**MOHAMMED IDRIS** a graduate of the Computer Arts and Animation program in 2008 passed away February 11, 2011.

**SUSAN LUCAS** (nee DeJong), a graduate of the Business-Accounting program in 1988 and a valuable, longtime member of the Durham College Alumni Association Board of Directors, passed away on May 12, 2011.

**MICHAEL MCLELLAND** a graduate of the Mechanical Engineering – Non Destructive Evaluation program in 2006, passed away on May 16, 2011.

## ATTENTION: NURSING GRADUATES

**PENELOPE YACKEL** (nee Mills) graduated from the Nursing program in 1976, she accepted a position in St. Petersburg Florida after graduation and is still there 35 years later. Now retired, Penny is writing a book about memorable moments in her nursing career. She would like to hear from all Durham College nurses about the unforgettable moments in their career.

Please e-mail Penny at [seyheyay@aol.com](mailto:seyheyay@aol.com), if you are a nurse and would like to share the best, worst, funniest, most unusual, embarrassing, saddest, frightening, shocking, exciting, or interesting true tale.

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