

FALL 2014 | VOLUME 83

Durham College Alumni Magazine

# Reflections

REACHING GRAPHIC  
GLORY: THE ART OF  
DAVID JUNKIN



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



We are looking forward to another great year at Durham College commencing this fall. I hope you have had time to visit with family and friends since I last wrote to you in June.

I would like to first send a word of thanks to Ginny Colling for all her hard work and exceptional contribution as the Editor-In-Chief of our Durham College Alumni Reflections Magazine for the past 21 years. The Alumni Board and office know how much time and energy this publication can demand and we appreciate all her efforts in making it the success it has become -- a true showcase of our DC students' talent. All the best in your retirement, Ginny.

We continue to promote our current Alumni Association mission statement which is to keep graduates informed of College and alumni news, to build a sense of community among alumni, to provide opportunities for alumni and to build links with current students at the College. We are working hard to create recognition for our alumni, offer support to the College and promote alumni involvement in our activities.

The summer has seen many changes to our Centre for Food (CFF) at the Whitby Campus. Our new apple trees and plantings have arrived to complete the north side of CFF and your Alumni Association has recently donated funds for the

remainder of the plants for the front entrance. This donation will complete our \$60,000 commitment to the Whitby Campus Building campaign and, in particular, the CFF.

At our Annual General Meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the unveiling of a bench in honour of our commitment to Durham College and the CFF.

On June 2 in Calgary and June 3 in Edmonton, the Alumni Office (with support from the Alumni Association) hosted two alumni events. Alumni who attended had a chance to get an update on what is happening at Durham College and meet fellow alumni who live out west.

Please continue to watch for new website updates and perks as we work to raise the profile of your Alumni Association. Have you updated us with your new work, home or email information for our Alumni database? Please do so by emailing Lori Connor at [alumni@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:alumni@durhamcollege.ca) to share your new details with us.

I encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and visit our website <http://www.durhamcollege.ca/info-for-alumni> to view your alumni benefits and what is new at the Alumni Association. We are working on refreshing our website, so look for that this fall. You can also follow us on Twitter @Alumni\_DC.

I always look forward to hearing from all of you and welcome any input that would help us improve the role of the Alumni Association. ☞

Sincerely,

Lesley Wagner

President, Alumni Association

Legal Administration – Class of 1985

## REFLECTIONS

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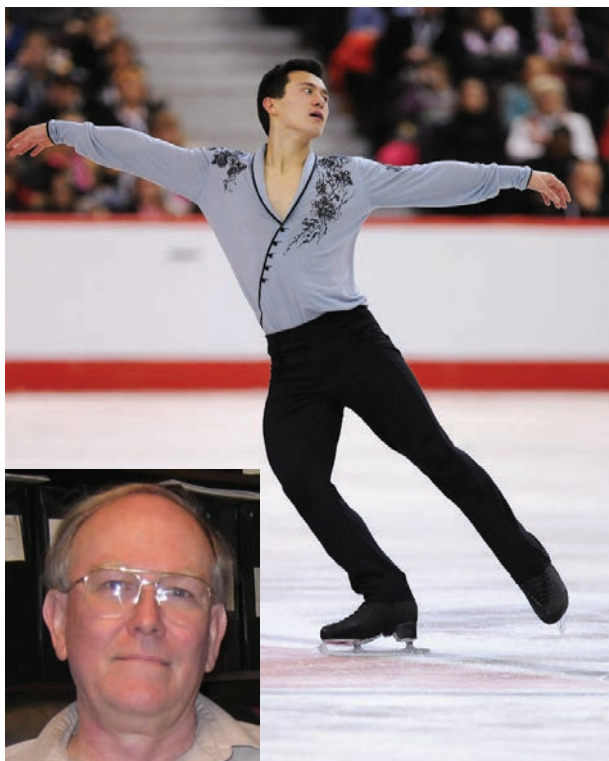
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# SKATE CANADA EH?



*As executive director of Skate Canada-Central Ontario, Sports Administration grad Gary Oswald (inset) has watched Patrick Chan develop as a skater since Chan was 9.*

It's the happiness of lacing up a pair of skates and stepping onto the post-flooded ice. Maybe it's bundling up and playing in a good-ol' pond hockey game with the mountains as a backdrop. Whatever the thrill, it is Canada.

For the last 15 years, Gary Oswald has been a mastermind behind the Skate Canada-Central Ontario organization. As executive director for the Central Ontario branch, located in Concord, Ont., he oversees 29,000 members through 97 clubs stretching from the Ajax-Oakville corridor north to Orillia and Grey-Bruce, with both recreational and competitive skating programs for five- to 85-year-olds. This, along with 750 professional coaches and 340 officials.

"Patrick Chan is one of our skaters, as well as fellow Olympians Gabrielle Daleman, Mitch Islam and Alexandra Paul. I've known Patrick since he was nine years old and it has been very rewarding to watch him grow in the sport and as a human being and to see him evolve into the man he is today. Seeing Patrick at the Sochi Olympics was exhilarating. The hearts of the staff were certainly racing in the office as we watched online. We felt for Patrick and his frustration but being second in the world is certainly something to be very, very proud of," says Oswald. "Essentially we would like to see our skaters do very well. We hope every member keeps skating with a smile on their face."

Currently, Oswald's focus for the organization is rebranding and creating a more visible presence in communities across Central Ontario, particularly among new Canadians.

"We're trying to get away from the figure skating motif and into more of a 'Learn to Skate' program," says Oswald. "We want our organization to start focusing on new Canadians here who have not grown up with skating. Our goal is for them to understand that skating is part of Canadiana. Once we do that

BY TAYLOR CUNNINGHAM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SKATE CANADA-CENTRAL ONTARIO

we can market ourselves accordingly."

Working for Skate Canada may be challenging at times, especially after the bad media attention about allegations that the pairs competition was fixed to have two Russian figure skaters receive the gold medal instead of Canadians Jamie Salé and David Pelletier during the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics. But the job is not without its high points, such as "seeing the skaters grow from little tykes, and seeing the organization grow from the little mom and pop organization it was 50 to 60 years ago into the organization that it is now. We're not a sport, we're a business," he says.

Oswald hasn't always been in the high-powered position he is in today. He started out just as any young graduate would. He came out of Trent University with his Bachelor of Arts majoring in History. With thousands of other young students competing for jobs, Oswald knew he needed more if he was going to be successful. He attended the Sports Administration program at Durham because it offered something that interested him — an internship opportunity. This ultimately led him to his first professional job in media relations with the Toronto Blue Jays. From there, Oswald worked with a variety of non-profit organizations before joining Skate Canada in 1999.

It's clear that Oswald takes great pride in his organization and the successes of his skaters. He hopes his leadership can continue to provide skating opportunities for all Canadians, new and old.

"It would be our goal to see that there is a skating club operating in every town in Central Ontario. We like to see our skaters achieve the ultimate level of excellence. After all skating is Canadiana! 🇨🇦"

# No fumbles for football communications director

BY TIALA ARSENAULT

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT MCNAUGHTON

It's an event every football fan waits for all year and watches, transfixed. Seeing every whistle blown, every intercept completed, and every yard gained is exciting from the outside looking in. But from the sidelines, the Grey Cup is even more exhilarating, and it's just part of the job for Scott McNaughton, a 2004 Sports Business Management grad. In his tenth season with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and third year as their director of communications, he was part of his team's unforgettable run to the Grey Cup in Regina last year, his first experience with the 15-time champs, who didn't clinch the coveted Cup this time around.

The Seaforth, Ont. native credits his internships with the

**“ Being a huge sports fan, it's cool being on the inside of a pro sports team and to have a say in how things operate. Game days are obviously one of the most fun aspects of the job. ”**

Toronto Raptors and the Ottawa Senators with giving him the desire to work for a professional sports organization. After graduating from Durham, the sports fan applied to every sports team in North America, since opportunities are so scarce in professional sports.

As luck would have it, his resume landed on a desk in Hamilton when the Tiger-Cats were recruiting. He joined the team in January 2005 and became director of communications in 2011.

“Being a huge sports fan, it's cool being on the inside of a pro sports team and to have a say in how things operate.



Grad Scott McNaughton, left, chats with Ti-Cats head coach Kent Austin at the 2013 Grey Cup.

Game days are obviously one of the most fun aspects of the job. We only have 18 regular season games, plus playoffs, so every game is important, every game is a big deal. It's fun being a part of that.”

While each day varies, McNaughton's responsibilities include running the team's media relations and social media platforms, and co-ordinating daily media availabilities with players, coaches and reporters. As well, he accompanies the team on every road trip to handle media obligations. That means many hours spent travelling. Now with a family of his own, the long weekday hours and weekends spent at the stadium at home or on the road can take a toll.

“It's tougher now than it was five or six years ago, but thankfully my wife is a superhero, so that makes it easier.”

Since his first season with the team, McNaughton has seen the emergence of social media greatly affect communication with fans, thanks to websites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

“When I started, we'd send a press release, you'd send an e-mail, then wait to see what kind of coverage appeared on a few websites and the local newspaper the next day. Now, we can connect with fans instantly and interactively.”

The tricky part of this new frontier, for most leagues, is getting players to use social media responsibly. But when used properly, McNaughton says it can be a great way for players to build their profile without having to rely on traditional media to tell their story.

Big things lie ahead for McNaughton and the team. This year brings with it new turf to play on — the Tim Hortons Field. He looks forward to being a part of the inaugural season of the major stadium, the first of its kind to open in Hamilton since 1928. 🏈

Kristy Stratton,  
director of  
marketing and  
exhibitor relations  
at IMAX, is proud  
to represent a  
global enterprise  
with more than  
837 theatres in 57  
countries.



# Live. Breathe. IMAX.

STORY BY TAWNYA PAPPIN

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTY STRATTON

**Y**ou can careen through the Grand Canyon or teeter on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, all without leaving Ontario. With the highest-resolution cameras in the world, high technology and architecture, and intensified sound systems, IMAX films have been bringing motion pictures to life for decades. IMAX allows patrons to forget they're at the movie theatre and instead, transports them to a world they've never seen before. And working behind the scenes helping orchestrate it all is Kristy Stratton, director of marketing and exhibitor relations.

Working for IMAX since 2008, she has travelled extensively

**“Everyone who works at  
IMAX is extremely proud of  
the work we do and the brand  
we represent. IMAX is a family.  
And it's amazing to be a  
part of that.”**

throughout North America and beyond, including going to Spain and Italy to help open theatres there. During that time, she has had the chance to meet many interesting and inspirational people from the film industry, which has only made her time at IMAX that much more rewarding.

Along with travelling and helping open theatres across the world, Stratton is also responsible for innovating streamlined advertising and promotion strategies and assessing social media. She can also be found delivering IMAX brand training

as well as controlling and allocating budgets of \$5 million plus.

“My greatest accomplishment in my career was landing my position at IMAX,” Stratton says. “I work for a company that is world-renowned for its immersive theatre experience and films. It has been interesting to work with clients where the movie market is quite different than it is in Canada and the United States. Everyone who works at IMAX is extremely proud of the work we do and the brand we represent. IMAX is a family. And it's amazing to be a part of that.”

Starting her career as a media relations officer at the Ontario Science Centre in March 2001, Stratton worked hard to progress and was promoted to project consultant of international sales in 2004, which provided her with a lot of relevant experience in her current job. She worked through many early mornings and late nights, but the experience paid off in the end.

“At the Science Centre, it was always a learning experience for me, thanks to all of the new exhibitions coming in,” Stratton says. “Not to mention, I got the chance to work closely with interesting people like Chris Hadfield, a Canadian astronaut and the first Canadian to walk in space.”

Inspired by her family's strong work ethic, Stratton has always worked her hardest to achieve her dreams, rocking every challenge along the way. She follows this mantra in all aspects of her life, especially her work, where every day brings new challenges.

“Growing up, I always wanted to get into law, but I had some friends in the Public Relations program and it sounded like a better fit for me, so I changed my mind and made the switch in my second year,” Stratton says. “And now, I wouldn't change a thing.” 🍷

# Challenge ACCEPTED

BY HANNAH MAK  
PHOTO BY MAAYAN ZIV

*Journalism grad  
Scott Bremner,  
host of DurAbility,  
spreads the word  
on the air, from his  
wheelchair.*

Cerebral palsy: a motor disability that limits movement due to a fetal brain bleed. It comes with the stigma that the person with the disability can't do something. Scott Bremner challenged that notion personally – and the result is DurAbility, a talk show on Rogers Cable in Durham Region.

"It's a panel show, so we'll have two to three guests on at any time and we will discuss a topic for an hour that has something to do with disabilities," Bremner explains. "The fact that there are two to three people on the show gives different points of view, and that's what I wanted to share with people."

Because Bremner primarily uses a wheelchair to get around, there is always the perspective of a person with a disability. Though he is able to walk a little, his wheelchair offers him the easiest mobility.

While a Journalism student at Durham College, he would meet with his professors to discuss recording device options because of his limited motor abilities. But he never let any of that get in the way.

"I was born two months premature and there was a brain bleed that affected my ability to walk. And so I'm a wheelchair user," said the 2007 grad.

As a child he was curious, constantly reading the newspaper and writing.

"I always wanted to be a writer. I was always writing stories


and poetry," Bremner says. The "aha moment" for him was when he was in college. "It was one of those things where you realize, 'This is what I feel like doing. This just feels right.' And it just all came together."

Today he's glad to have found his calling – his day-time television show on Rogers, which was recently extended to one hour from a half-hour time slot.

"My whole goal in life had been to show people what people with disabilities are capable of, but I never saw myself as a person with a disability. I'm just Scott and I happen to have a disability."

Bremner attributes his success to his mindset of working hard to achieve his goals and his superb support system – his family, professors, and his team at Rogers Durham. He describes his working environment as a master class. Both Durham College and Rogers Durham are excellent atmospheres for education, he said.

Bremner has learned a lot along the way. His journey led him to where he wanted to be and let him achieve his goals of inspiring and helping those with and without a disability. He doesn't see his cerebral palsy as holding him back.

"Everything that's happened has to have been worth it. At the end of the day, we just want to help people. And that's all we can ask for." 

Nicole Blackman,  
Durham College grad,  
now works as director  
of professional practice  
at Weeneebayko Health  
Authority.



# Putting First Nations First

*Nursing grad **Nicole Blackman**  
works to correct healthcare  
inequalities in Moose Factory*

BY BRIANNA MCDONNELL

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE BLACKMAN

Nicole Blackman has a First Nations background and first-hand experience with the lack of proper healthcare in native communities. She saw her uncle struggle with diabetes and become a double amputee because he did not receive the care he deserved.

"I just see that this is a population that needs focus and attention. Pay some attention there. I'm very passionate about aboriginal health and trying to create an equal system in recognizing these inequalities," says Blackman, a 2004 Durham College nursing graduate.

Today, you can find her working as director of professional practice at Weeneebayko Health Authority, while somehow finding time to work on her PhD. As director of professional practice in Moose Factory, Ont., Blackman oversees programs such as infection control, education, telemedicine and diabetes.

She recently took on a two-year Health Canada Mental Health Project with a \$1 million budget, which entails looking at all of the health services that are delivered throughout the area, and working with the communities to co-ordinate mental health services throughout the region of Moose Factory. Some communities the health authority serves include Peawanuck, Moosonee, Fort Albany, Keshechewan and Attawapiskat. Most of the residents of the area are of Cree lineage.

"When I started at Weeneebayko I was an advanced practice nurse, and what I was doing in that role was developing and implementing various cancer projects," says Blackman. "They didn't have any in the region, so I was working on bringing a satellite chemotherapy clinic to them.

"Right now, all the patients go to Kingston, which could be anywhere from a two to five hour flight both there and back. They have to leave their community even if the appointment will take less than an hour. I think that's just crazy."

She found her passion for nursing while she was in college taking Medical Administration. Finding the medical course interesting, she decided to take a shot at applying to nursing. Though a bad grade on her first assignment in the program almost made her want to drop out, Blackman said the teachers helped put her on the right path.

"They gave me instructions on how to set it up better and it made me pay more attention to the assignments. It taught me to ask questions if I wasn't clear. So now if I get assignments, I ask questions right from the beginning. I don't care, I ask because I want to strive."

Asking questions and excelling in assignments after that one bad grade got her on the honour roll when she graduated with a very high GPA. Later, she worked towards her degree and her masters.

Today, she finds the hands-on skills she learned at Durham are valuable in her day-to-day job. Her passion for nursing and learning, fostered at the college, has driven her to continue to further her education by working towards her PhD.

"I just really praise Durham. If it weren't for the college, I wouldn't have gotten into nursing. I believe in Durham and the education they give. I've had a great experience there and I wouldn't change anything." 🍓



*Lesley Wagner, President of the Alumni Association, Zain Shafique, student governor, and Don Lovisa, President of Durham College, help with the puck drop at Alumni Night held at a Generals game.*

BY STEPHANIE SERVINIS

DURHAM COLLEGE FILE PHOTO

## Alumni Night at the Oshawa Generals

Oshawa Generals shoot, Durham College scores. The Durham College Alumni Association hosted its first “Alumni Night at the Oshawa Generals” in January.

The alumni association sponsored the event, which was a huge success with over 130 graduates, staff and friends in attendance.

“It was really a nice event for folks to network and chat with other alumni,” says Lori Connor, alumni relations officer. “Alumni came and several of the faculty members that taught them were there. We got to drop the puck of course, which was great.”

Two types of tickets were offered for the night: \$14.50 for the bowl and \$26 for the suite level. The pricier tickets included appetizers, food, non-alcoholic beverages and a great atmosphere. There were many giveaways throughout the night, including the Durham College shirts that were tossed out during the second and third periods. The association worked with the Generals’ announcer to encourage people to visit its booth and fill out a ballot to win great prizes. This generated a lot of buzz around the arena.

“We gave away Toronto Maple Leaf tickets, a Durham College backpack, Oshawa Generals tickets, and so many other fantastic prizes,” says Connor. “By asking folks to come out and fill out the ballots, we found lots of alumni who weren’t in our system. It’s critical to have these new email addresses because now we are emailing Reflections instead of mailing it, so the more emails we get the more we get it out there. It was a successful event and we’ll be doing it again next year.”

The DC Alumni Association plans to make this an annual event and wants to see an even bigger turnout next year. With all the new emails received at this event, Connor is anticipating a quick sellout for the next one.

“What a wonderful evening had by all who attended our first-ever Alumni Association-sponsored Oshawa Generals Game,” says association president, professor Lesley Wagner. “We were thrilled to have so many people come by our booth to find out more about us, and what we do for Durham College and our community. We received support from Durham College, the Board of Governors, faculty and staff. It was a tremendous success!”

## TAYLOR MADE FOR THE HOTEL INDUSTRY



*PR grad Mike Taylor, director of public relations at FRHI, enjoys the view of the historic Bund Area in Shanghai, China while on a business trip.*

BY DANA RANCHOD  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE TAYLOR

He has strolled through Central Park while staying at The Plaza Hotel in New York City, had a Singapore Sling at The Raffles in Singapore and enjoyed the breathtaking views of London's River Thames from one of The Savoy Hotel's luxurious suites. Mike Taylor, Public Relations grad, gets plenty of opportunities to travel and experience different cultures while working as director of Public Relations at FRHI Hotels and Resorts.

Taylor could be travelling for in-market conferences, press events, upcoming projects or new product launches, depending on the hotel or region. He has travelled to China, Hawaii, London, Mexico and to many parts of the U.S. and Canada.

"This year, I think I'm going to the Middle East and probably a number of the (United Arab) Emirates, so I'll be going to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Turkey. I'll also probably be going to Hamburg, Berlin and maybe Zurich."

His passion for the travel industry keeps him enthusiastic about the work he's doing.


"I think if you find an industry that you absolutely love, then it makes the job much easier. You have a higher level of commitment, you're passionate about it and that translates into everything you do," said Taylor. "So the work that you're producing, relationships you're nurturing and maintaining — everything is just developed to a higher standard when you're inspired and engaged in what you're doing."

After graduating from Durham College's Public Relations program 16 years ago, he worked his way up to be a senior member of Fairmont Hotels and Resorts public relations team.

Last year, the brand's parent company, FRHI, underwent a rebranding and regionalization process that saw Taylor take on more responsibilities. In his new role, he oversees not only public relations for Fairmont, but also The Raffles Hotels and Resorts and Swissôtel Hotels and Resorts. It now involves a multi-brand focus while supporting FRHI's development plan, which will help the company expand by more than 50 per cent over the next five years.

Days in his position are never dull and can sometimes include crisis management and communicating with key media partners and industry stakeholders, or developing new concepts and trends to increase PR exposure. When Hurricane Ingrid hit Acapulco, Mexico in September 2013, Taylor and his team had to quickly develop messages and relay guest communications due to severe flooding as a result of the storm.

Throughout the years, Taylor has grown with the company he values and respects. He's proud to have been with the company for so long, to have maintained a presence in the future of the company, and to have helped in the development of FRHI.

"I've helped grow the company and they've grown me. Over the years, I've also had an opportunity to work with some truly fantastic PR people. I've learned a lot, both personally and professionally, from those individuals and I'm now in a position where I can share that knowledge with other people who are coming in at an entry-level role or mid-level role. And it's fun." 



*Electrical grad Galen Crampsey entertains fans with his band, 20 Amp Soundchild.*

# Success Rocks!

BY JULIE LATANSKI

PHOTO BY BRYSTAL ALLAN

sporting clothing reminiscent of rock ‘n’ roll legends, Galen Crampsey shuffles through equipment in a small jam space rented by bands just outside of downtown Oshawa. With two drumsticks in his hands, he plays a few beats to warm up before the rest of his band arrives. The Durham College electrical grad is focused on making most of his apprenticeship, but his passion for music and electrifying audiences is undeniable when playing with his band, 20 Amp Soundchild.

Performing in iconic Toronto venues like the Horseshoe Tavern and the Opera House, Crampsey has shared the stage with influential Canadian acts such as Big Wreck and The Reason. 20 Amp Soundchild has received grants geared to helping recording artists, one of which funded the production of a music video shot at Durham College. Their music has aired on Muchmusic, MTV Drops and 102.1 The Edge, which named them ‘Indie Online Band of the Month’ after the release of that music video. They’ve also been asked to provide music for a documentary about Toronto’s music scene that will premier at TIFF this fall.

Shortly after his previous band of five years broke up, Crampsey joined 20 Amp to gather some fresh inspiration. As he began to mature, so did his music, and he plans to continue to work on new material with the help of his bandmates while holding down a day job at Space Age Electric. He landed that gig after graduating from the Electrical Instrumentation and Control Program in 2010. Although his career as an electrician pays the bills, playing music feeds his soul.

“It’s a music style I am sure anyone would like, especially

those people who like to dance and sing along (to songs) with no offensive lyrics,” says Crampsey. “With catchy lead melodies, combining bouncy swing dancing drums and a rhythmic bass section, our music is not written to exclude any other genre of music fans.”

Playing with influential bands is not new to Crampsey. He was able to enjoy a nostalgic moment this year when the band joined the stage with Monster Truck at Campusfest 2013. Although he has shared a bill with Monster Truck in the past, this time 20 Amp’s music brought a different energy to excited students, new and old.

“The treatment we received was incredible. Without a doubt this is a more prestigious gig,” says Crampsey. “It’s nice to see how Durham College is growing into this amazing place that not only produces great graduates, but the environment is just so beautiful.”

Whether playing with his band or on the job, Crampsey is able to apply the skills he has learned from the college. He’s eager to continue feeding his musical passion, and the band is in the process of planning an upcoming tour.

“Durham College definitely taught me a lot about dealing with people and how to make the best of the relationships you have so you can succeed at something,” he says. “At 25, I am way more accepting of new things and challenges, hopefully this will help me in my music.”

*If you want to see Crampsey and band in action, go to:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWnm-\\_9fEi0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWnm-_9fEi0)



# Graphic Glory

BY MADISON ELLIOTT  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID JUNKIN



His works of art are unique, thought-provoking and clearly come from a place of pure passion. For David Junkin, that passion has lasted since childhood. The 1988 Durham College Graphic Design graduate has since turned that love into a widely successful career as a freelance art director and fine artist in Montreal. His powerful images and unique takes on current events have attracted world-wide recognition.

Junkin has had many successes in his career. He's been published in The Washington Post, Legion Magazine, Car & Driver and more. But there is one achievement that stands out. In 2011 he was named one of the 200 Best Illustrators Worldwide by Archive magazine.

"I still can't believe it, that I was picked for the 200 Top Worldwide Illustrators," he says. Junkin has remained humble about his talents and didn't believe it when they tried to tell him about the award.

"They kept sending me emails saying I won. I jokingly brushed it off and thought it was spam and junk mail. And sure enough Sari [his agent] called me from New York and said, 'Have you been getting emails from Archive magazine... they're trying to find you because you've won.'"

**“They kept sending me emails saying I won. I jokingly brushed it off and thought it was spam and junk mail.”**

Junkin has proven time and time again that he is in fact good enough to earn that recognition. He is greatly inspired by current events, such as a Ponzi scheme by “this twisted character that was screwing around with people’s lives.” He also did a piece based on the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan.

“I tend to do stuff that ... affects people in an environmental way or a political way. For my commercial work, it’s definitely inspired by the story I’m sent. For my acrylic work, it just comes from my heart, it just comes from me. It’s to do with colour, the feeling.” And when a particular piece is complete? “I get that feeling when I look at it and I actually start to really like it and think, ‘This is good work.’”

When he chose to take Graphic Design, Junkin admits it was the cheapest thing for him to do at the time, but he also knew that he could put his artistry to good use. “I thought maybe I could use my talents as an artist through taking a course in graphic design ... I just loved it and I thought I was a natural at it.”

For the future, Junkin has some ambitious goals. “This year [I’ll] hopefully make it into the New York Times.” He says he

has been working hard with his New York agent to try to make this happen. “That would be a great accomplishment for me — to make it into the New York Times as an editorial illustrator.”

As for his fine art, he says his main goal is to get his work into the Montreal art scene. Earlier this year he was feverishly working on a gallery project.

“I’m doing 25 paintings in six weeks, and then I’m going to do a show.” The ‘vernissage’, as he calls it, was to be hosted in his studio apartment in March of this year.

It is clear that the graphics grad, quite literally, was born to be an artist. His proven skills and acclamations for his work have shown that, but on an even deeper level, Junkin has an emotion behind his work. Whether he is telling a story or feeling a gut instinct, he’s driven to create images. Who knows where they could appear.

“Someone in the college once told me that one day he was going to see my work in the Guggenheim and I used to laugh at him. I don’t think that will ever happen, (but) it’s funny, that stuck in my head since 1988.”



Graphics grad David Junkin (bottom left) was named one of the world’s top 200 illustrators. Samples of his work here: *Sacrificial Lambs* (top left), *JFK* (centre) and *Christopher Walken* (right.)

# Engineering Change

## Professor's Success Breaks New Barriers

STORY AND PHOTO

BY LISA MACPHERSON

The words “electrical engineer” might conjure an image of a man at a drafting table — but women are slowly joining their ranks. Today about 17 per cent of engineers are women. Even fewer female engineers progress to designing car parts. Pamela Stoneham has done all that, and much more. Today she’s a professor in the School of Skilled Trades, Apprenticeship & Renewable Technology at Durham.

*Prof. Pamela Stoneham enjoys teaching her Advanced Math class at Durham College. She has a background as an automotive engineer at GM.*



Being a woman in a male-dominated field can be challenging in the sense of having to prove your capabilities, but Stoneham takes it with a grain of salt.

“You just can’t let it bother you. Some women put up armour and try to fit in. Me, I just stayed true to myself and did what I do best, which was managing projects and working with suppliers for GM. It was a professional company and I knew I was respected as a worker and a woman.”


After earning a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Stoneham not only completed her field placement at General Motors in Oshawa, but also advanced to become one of the design engineers. She worked for GM in various roles until 2011. One of her greatest accomplishments was the Integrated Centre Stack design, which styled radio and Heating and Air Conditioning buttons in the 2010 Chevy Equinox.

During her career at General Motors she also became the “resident engineer” of GM’s Oshawa Autoplex Energy Savings Plan Initiative. Its goal was to reduce energy consumption in General Motors Oshawa buildings by over 25 per cent, and

they did. For these efforts GM received an Industrial Energy Innovator Award from the Canadian government in 2005 and in 2006 the initiative was awarded an “Energy Star” by the Oshawa Truck Plant for being one of the most proactive energy conscious facilities within the GM corporation.

After 15 years as an engineer, she decided to follow in her parents’ footsteps and become a teacher. In 2009, she attended the University of Ontario Institute of Technology for a one-year Bachelor of Education degree. Since August 2011, she has been teaching math, residential blueprinting, and electrical safety and communications at Durham College.

“I knew I always wanted to teach. I just want to reach out to other people and help them love what they’re learning.”

Throughout her career, Stoneham has found time to raise three children and travel with her husband. By mixing business with pleasure, she has had opportunities to visit Germany to meet with head engineer co-ordinators, and to see the sights. When she’s not travelling, she can be found doing yoga, downhill and water skiing, and visiting her parents. 

# Designed For Success

PHOTO AND STORY BY MEAGHAN NEWHEY

A love of art has always been a part of Santo Spataro's life. Originally, he pursued cabinetry as a career, doing fine woodworking. Unfortunately, an unforeseen accident caused him to retire his tools and head back to the drawing board, literally.

"Because cabinetry was the closest thing I could think of relating to design work, I took my shot at it. It's in my blood – I'm Italian," says Spataro, who graduated from Durham College's Graphic Design program.

After graduation in 2011 he landed a graphic design gig at The Artist Den, a design/print shop above the Student Centre at the college. He and his colleague, Rob Pellegrino, also a Durham College Graphic Design grad, work side by side providing students and the public with an affordable alternative to printing and design work. They also work with organizations such as the Student Association and Aramak Food Services at the college creating posters, wall murals, large format printing, business cards and many other types of print.

"The Artist Den has been around for about 10 years. Although, not many people are familiar with it, we are doing our best to start expanding," says Spataro.

The men upstairs have plans to expand their brand into the school's Gordon Willey building, close to the Pit, in hopes that a more centralized location will attract more attention. Spataro

and Pellegrino hope to have the new location up and running this fall.

"Rob wants me to run the new location, and it's a great opportunity. If we set up shop at the Pit we will have a lot more business, given the flow of student traffic is much more dense in that area of the school.

"Art students are very creative and The Artist Den is a pretty free-spirited atmosphere, so knowing that I am helping them out makes me happy," says Spataro.

Most people believe that everything happens for a reason in life. Spataro can certainly agree that with the second chance he was granted, success became the first word in his career vocabulary. 🍷

For more information on The Artist Den, visit [www.artistden.ca](http://www.artistden.ca)



*Durham College grad Santo Spataro put down his tool belt to head back to the drawing board at The Artist Den on campus.*

## Medals to Medical Supplies

BY SHAWNA SOMMERVILLE

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT MACDONALD

From passing a rugby ball to handling medical supplies, Paramedic grad Scott MacDonald has always been a team player.

However, school was far from his mind when he joined Team Ontario in 2008 for rugby. The team played at the Canada Summer Games in 2009 and walked away with gold. After that he joined Team Canada and was fortunate to travel to Moscow, Russia and Tbilisi, Georgia. He carried on those winning ways while in the college's Paramedic program.

Every year the students in the program enter the National Paramedic Competition, which challenges paramedics to strive for excellence in their profession. When MacDonald entered the contest he and his partner came in third.

After graduating from Durham's Paramedic program in April of 2013, the job offers started rolling in, proving that all his hard work had paid off.

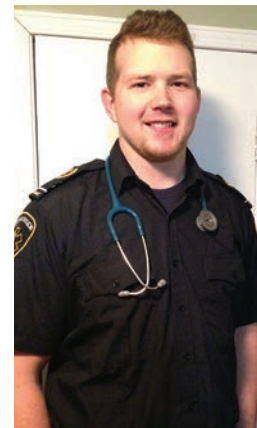
He began working part time with Durham Region Emergency Medical Services shortly after graduating. A few months later he added a full-time position with the City of

Toronto EMS to his resume.

"Durham Region has a mixture of smaller rural and urban communities to respond to, while the City of Toronto is predominantly a condensed urban setting with a larger population and call volume," he says.

The program at Durham prepared him well for the real world. He attributes his success to the class environment and the knowledgeable professors who mentored him. But even though he learned a great deal while at school, he says he is constantly learning on the job.

His main duty as a paramedic is to decrease mortality and morbidity in patients that present with acute and/or chronic injuries and illnesses by performing primary care interventions. Eventually, MacDonald sees himself returning to Durham College to become an advanced care paramedic — a step up from his current role as a primary care paramedic. 🍷



*Paramedic grad Scott MacDonald attributes his success to the program at Durham College because he feels he was well prepared for the "real world".*

# A PICTURE PERFECT FUTURE

BY LEAH MIROWSKI

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLEY KOWALSKI

It's the middle of October. The crisp autumn leaves are falling off the trees in a kaleidoscope of different colours and shapes. The wind lightly blows them down the street and into the parks and ravines. How can this be captured? Shelly Kowalski would be the best person to ask.

The 2013 Digital Photography graduate from Durham College is no amateur when it comes to capturing the perfect moment. Starting her own company two years before attending the college, she has built a name for herself and clientele to go along with it.

"I love being able to show the true emotion of a situation. I feel like weddings are an atmosphere that you will never be in again. It's very specific to how someone is feeling in that moment," says Kowalski.

**“With Discovery Channel my job is a camera assistant . . . for the TV show Mighty Cruise Ships.”**

Her talent and passion for photography landed her several contracts with Discovery Channel working on their show *Mighty Cruise Ships*, formerly known as *Mighty Ships*.

"With Discovery Channel my job is a camera assistant. I am contracted per episode for the TV show *Mighty Cruise Ships*."

So far, Kowalski has been contracted to do three different episodes for *Mighty Cruise Ships*, one in Europe (England, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Russia and Finland). The second



was in Southeast Asia (Vietnam and Thailand) and the most recent was in Patagonia (Chile and Argentina). She landed the Discovery Channel work through her lighting professor.

"I had some really great professors over my two years at the college. Some taught me parts of photography I didn't really like doing but ended up learning, which aided me in getting jobs after I graduated," says Kowalski.

Those jobs range from wedding photography and engagements to portraits and products.

Most of the product work has been for things like blogs or for a graphic designer to show the texture of their printed products. She has also shot photography for Remax real estate, and jewelry photography for various artisans.

"I was given an opportunity in college to explore my own style, my own way of shooting. It was very freeing," she says.

**“I was given an opportunity in college to explore my own style, my own way of shooting. It was very freeing.”**

Over the next years she plans to expand her business to include videography and travel photography for resorts in different parts of the world. The future looks nothing less than booming for the young photographer. Next time you're on vacation, take a look around. She just might be capturing your perfect moment. 📷

*Photography grad Shelly Kowalski captures the trees changing colours during a photo shoot.*





*As marketing and media relations manager for the NHL Alumni Association, Sports Management grad Dylan Wade regularly deals with NHL alumni. Here (right to left) Wade is shown with Dennis Maruk, Ron MacLean, Lanny McDonald, Mike Krushelnyski, and Peter Ing.*

# Wade-ing in opportunities

BY KYLA NORRIS

PHOTO COURTESY OF DYLAN WADE

There are approximately 5,500 players who have made the NHL over the years. About 3,500 are still alive, and the NHL Alumni Association has information on approximately 2,500 of them.

"I haven't talked to all 2,500 of them, but I've had the pleasure to deal with the likes of Marty McSorely, Wendel Clark, Darcy Tucker, Gordie Howe, Ted Lindsay, and Mark Messier," says Durham Sports Management grad Dylan Wade.

The 30-year-old marketing and media manager for the NHL Alumni Association (NHLAA) has built quite the impressive resume, from his education to his experiences.

Wade's transition into his current role didn't happen over night. Working with the NHLAA executive director, successful NHLer and two-time Stanley Cup winner Mark Napier, took time.

"I just expressed my interest that I really wanted to be involved in hockey, and luckily I had the educational background to back that up. He didn't hire me right away. There wasn't a position available. He said, 'Look, I'll keep my eyes and ears open and if anything comes up in my path, I'll reach out to you.'"

Wade was living in Vancouver when he received the call from Napier, two months after their original meeting. He was offered an events and administrative co-ordinator position with the NHLAA and immediately accepted. That was in October, 2007.

Since then, he has expanded his knowledge in the field, while working with former NHLers to show them the

benefits of joining the association. His days typically centre around planning events such as the NHL Alumni Hockey Tour, golf tournaments and the PokerStars NHL Alumni Charity Tournament. He also spends time connecting via email with sponsors and companies looking for donations and devotes a certain amount of time to seeking out new business opportunities and updating the NHLAA social media accounts.

Before launching his career, Wade attended Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., for Kinesiology, graduating in 2006. When it came time to apply to teachers college, he realized it wasn't the right career path for him. It was then a friend told him about Durham College's postgraduate sports management program. Wade didn't hesitate.

"Like 99 per cent of Canadians, I grew up a huge (hockey) fan. If there was an opportunity involving hockey, I was going to jump on it or try to get involved in sport management, whether it would be working with an organization, a team or a league in some capacity. I went to Durham College for that and they welcomed me with open arms."

It was the program's internship opportunity that gave Wade the best of both educations. He interned with the University of Hawaii's athletic department, where he was able to put his education to work. Originally working with the student-athlete program (making sure student-athletes know there's life after university), he eventually got involved with the marketing department.

"It's the chance to put something on your resume. To me, that was incredibly worthwhile and to this day, it helps me." 🍷

Details from the painting "Flight Plight" by Francine Fortier.



# A Colour Full Life

BY STEPHANIE DUFFY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHANIE DUFFY AND FRANCINE FORTIER

Journalist. Graphic designer. Law clerk. Two-time Durham College grad Francine Fortier has reinvented herself quite a few times. But the one constant in her life has been her passion for art.

Today her work can be found in the permanent collection of the Robert McLaughlin Gallery as well as the Royal Canadian Bank Collection. One of Fortier's latest exhibitions of mixed media – *Snips & Snails/Teeth & Tales* – was at The Vault Gallery in Oshawa earlier this year. It juxtaposed the harshness of hardware, including nuts and bolts, wire, and tormented plexiglas, with delicate pastel drawings and ambiguous detached forms. The pieces evoke feelings of naiveté along with a sense of wakefulness – idealism shown in floating, winged figures.

"These tales are about human consciousness and the struggle inherent in developing awareness," Fortier pens in her artist's statement. "But the tale continues to spin."

Fortier has been a contributing member of the arts in both Oshawa and Toronto for years. The 1970 Communication Arts grad began her working life as a journalist with The Oshawa Journal. While taking a break from her 10-year career in journalism to raise her family, she was able to focus on her art. The mother of two had a studio at home and was showing in art galleries in both Toronto and around Oshawa.

"Some of my favourite venues have been non-traditional," says Fortier. "My first venue in Toronto was the Queen Mother Café. And then there was the Academy of Spherical Arts, which was a pool hall that had a restaurant, music and art shows. Everybody had a lot of fun. They wouldn't just go see the art, they got to play pool and eat – everything at the same time. I kind of like a mixed venue like that."

Although she focuses more on her visual arts, her talents are not limited to the canvas. In Durham Region's Multicultural Council's "Hang on in Harmony" contest in 1986, Fortier earned first place for a poem she had written, which was ultimately published in the council's 1987 anthology.

While exploring her artistic side, Fortier ran her own signage and graphic design business in Oshawa for 12 years. Despite the fact that she found joy in her work, she decided that her art alone wasn't able to provide her with a stable enough income. Although she had worked in creative fields for most of her life, the ambitious artist chose to change areas completely, and enrolled in Durham College once more to get her diploma as a law clerk.

After graduating in 2008, she developed her skills as a legal assistant and worked at an area law firm before moving on to an investment firm in Toronto.

"I keep trying to strive to bring my other skills into my more current skills," says Fortier. "I have reconnected with the art community in the area and it's been really great. I've been involved in quite a few things, and so this is where I hope my future focus will be, other than the fact that I still need to make a living. I hope to become more involved in the art scene, and continue to work in my studio." 🍷



*Grad Francine Fortier at one of her art shows.*

**“These tales are about human consciousness and the struggle inherent in developing awareness,” Fortier pens in her artist’s statement. “But the tale continues to spin.”**



*Fortier poses with her painting, "Fallen Angel".*

# A High Voltage Career

BY MAGGIE GOLDSTEIN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASON HICKEN

The real world for Jason Hicken and Ryan Burtney does not involve a 9-to-5 desk job. It's about hard work, dedication and High Voltage.

Both men graduated from Durham's Electrical Engineering Technician program – Hicken in 1994 and Burtney in 2001. Both started working for Wilson High Voltage before graduation and have stayed there ever since. Today they own the company that gave them their start.

"About six years ago Jim (Wilson, the former owner) was mentioning that soon we'd be taking it over, so we worked towards that," says Hicken.

According to Burtney, the owner mentioned they could be running the company from the beginning. The hard work of the two men paid off when Wilson retired three years ago and turned over the reins completely to Hicken and Burtney.

The pair have put their expertise to work on campus, helping with the construction of the Wind Tunnel. Located in the Automotive Centre of Excellence at UOIT, the Wind Tunnel is capable of generating wind speeds of up to 240 km/h through a three-megawatt fan. What sets this Wind Tunnel apart is the


500-horsepower chassis dynamometer (a machine that measures and tests force, torque and power), its ability to recreate weather and road conditions, as well as to put cars through various load tests.

Now High Voltage is charged with its maintenance. "We're doing all the maintenance to check it all out, check and see that all the connections are OK. We're going to be doing some thermal scanning on the connection points. Hopefully they can ramp it up to full power so we can get a good look at it," Burtney says.

Hicken and Burtney have worked on many projects with Wilson High Voltage, but the Chapman's ice cream plant in

Markdale, Ont. was one of their most memorable.

"They had a fire and their plant burned down. We were involved in getting their high voltage system set up at a temporary plant until they built a whole new facility, and we were involved in all the high voltage aspects of getting power to the new facility," says Hicken.

The well-oiled team of these two Durham grads seems to be working quite well, with plans to grow the company in the future. 

**“They had a fire and their plant burned down. We were involved in getting their high voltage system set up at a temporary plant.”**

Ryan Burtney (left), and Jason Hicken (right), co-owners of Wilson High Voltage, took over the company that launched their careers.



For university graduates, often college can be the best avenue for hands-on experience



*Durham Computer Programmer student Kevin Black is one of a growing number of university grads turning to college for practical experience.*

## PROGRAMMING A NEW PATH

PHOTO AND STORY BY JENNIFER ROTHERAM

After Kevin Black graduated from McMaster University in 2009, the political science major landed a job as a policy and communication assistant in the Ministry of Health. Almost three years later, when the provincial election took place, the Liberal party lost a significant number of seats and had to downsize. They were one vote shy of the majority they sought, and Black found himself out of work.

"Finding work after that was extremely hard, and I couldn't find anything that I was qualified for. I was qualified for many things, but what kept happening was they would always go with a candidate with more experience," he says.

Today you can find Black at Durham College, studying for a two-year Computer Programmer diploma, years after graduating from university.

"I never thought I would go to college after university. When I think about it now I would have done it the other way around," says Black. "With a lot of professions now, you need some sort of specialized skill and you don't really get that at university, you get that more at college."

In a recent article published in the *Globe and Mail*, president of Colleges Ontario Linda Franklin stated this is becoming a growing trend: "In the last five years in Ontario, we have seen a 40 per cent increase in university graduates going to college." It's evident Black is not alone.

Before he applied to Durham, Black did his homework and learned that the college had a well-known programmer and network specialist team.

"After talking to a couple of professors and one of the student advisors for our program, I decided that Durham

College was the best place for me to go."

Although Black would never change his experiences at university, he is enjoying and embracing this different style of learning.

"I think the differences are honestly like night and day. I like the hands-on aspect, I like being able to

sit there in a classroom and figure things out. There's a lot of micromanagement of your time, smaller class sizes, a lot more interaction with the teachers. You're getting a lot more hands-on teaching as opposed to university," says Black.

On average, 90 per cent of college graduates in Canada are able to find work within six months of graduating, according to the Council of Ministers of Education Canada. Black hopes to become a website developer or programmer and join their ranks.

"There seems to be a lot of jobs, even in Durham Region, in that field. So I think if I keep working hard at this and get some good grades, the opportunities will come." ■

# Lights, Camera, FASHION

BY KRISTEN SCHAFFRATH

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA MATHESON

Advertising grad  
Melissa Matheson  
is an aspiring  
artist who uses  
her passion for  
photography for  
work as well as  
play. She created  
a self-portrait to  
express her love for  
art, fashion and  
photography.



From playing around with point-and-shoot cameras to collecting over \$10,000 worth of photography equipment, Melissa Matheson has come a long way as a photographer and has the portfolio to prove it. Once merely photographing her friends playing dress-up, this 24-year-old Durham College graduate is now doing editorial and commercial-test shoots for some of the biggest names in the Toronto area.

Since graduating from Durham's Advertising program, Matheson has been extremely busy with a full-time job as a graphic designer for an Australian electronic magazine, which she works on five days a week. Even though she is busy with her current job, she still makes photography a priority. Matheson knows she wants to eventually be a major player in the Toronto fashion photography industry and is currently obtaining experience in the field while building her portfolio. Since September 2013, she has been conducting test shoots for models signed with well-known model scout Peggi Lepage.

"Test shoots are a main step in getting recognized in the fashion photography industry in Toronto," says Matheson. "If you start test shooting with agents and get on their good side, it means if you ever want to shoot an editorial to submit to a magazine the agent may let you use their models."

An artist in more ways than one, Matheson is also talented at painting and drawing. In addition, she is extremely interested in design and fashion. As for her photography, the Durham College grad finds inspiration from the Internet, other artists and her own life.

**“I am really moved by the human body.”**

"I am passionate about fashion and use certain designers for inspiration. A few of my favourites are Vera Wang, Versace, Givenchy and Dolce and Gabbana," says Matheson. "I also find a lot of inspiration from Tumblr.com. I get inspired by candid moments and seeing people in their day-to-day lives. I am really moved by the human body and especially women's beauty in general."

Ever since Grade 11, Matheson knew she wanted to be a photographer. She was inspired by her best friend's photography, for which she was a model. After attending the Ontario College of Art and Design for a month, she realized the lack of hands-on learning was not how she wanted to continue her post-secondary studies. However, she was nervous of just diving into a full-time photography career because of the competitiveness of the field. Instead she decided to study Advertising at Durham College so she would have another occupation to fall back on. While in the program, she took a photography class with School of Media, Art & Design professor John Davidson which motivated her greatly.

"Before my class with him, I was all self-taught," says Matheson. "I had just played around and learned a little from my dad, who did photography as a hobby. Even learning the basics in the Advertising program really helped me a lot and I developed a strong interest for it after John Davidson's course." 📷

# Never Missing a Beat

BY MADELAINE VOLPE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA MOLINA

She has spent a day with Joel Plaskett, attended the Polaris Music Prize Gala, and is the junior account manager at a company that has worked with the likes of Radiohead and Alabama Shakes. It's all part of the job for grad Jessica Molina, who has recently become a part of the chaos and luxury that is the music industry.

Her passion and commitment helped Molina turn an internship with MapleMusic Recordings into a full-time job, complete with perks.

"During my internship, I had the privilege of spending a press day with Joel Plaskett and later in the evening attending his concert. It was really awesome to see the behind-the-scenes process of a full press day, and then attend his sold-out show at Ricoh Coliseum (Exhibition Place Toronto)," says Molina. "Recently, I had the honour of attending the Polaris Music Prize Gala. It was a proper award show, filled with Canada's top musicians. And there I was sitting amongst some of the most accomplished music industry professionals."

By the time she walked across the stage to receive her Public Relations diploma last October, Molina had already launched her career in the music industry with MapleMusic Recordings, one of Canada's top record labels.

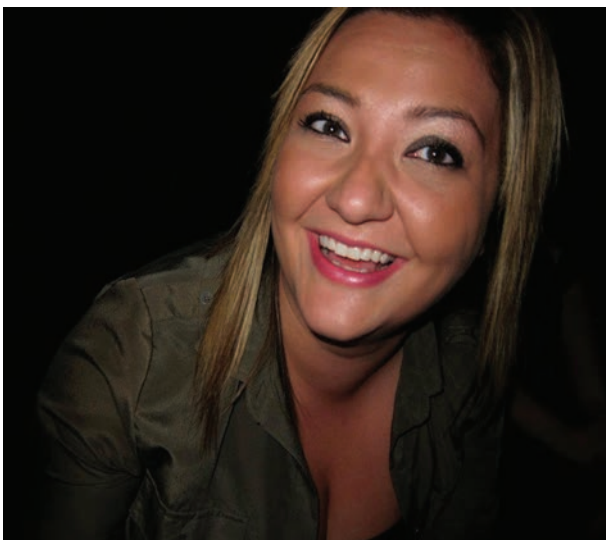
"I remember hearing that I landed the internship at MapleMusic Recordings and feeling like I won the intern lottery," says Molina. "I was thrilled to know I would be working alongside a team of individuals who are well versed in the music industry. Working for a record label has always been a dream of mine, not to mention working for one with a roster-

that includes many of my favourite artists."

Molina was offered the position of marketing co-ordinator and office manager just weeks after completing her internship. She has now been promoted to junior accounts manager working for MapleMusic.com, which is an e-commerce site providing online stores to more than 800 Canadian artists. With the ability to sell merchandise, tickets, CDs, vinyl and downloads through a single shopping cart, Molina plays a large role in MapleMusic.com's solution for both artists and fans. She now supports internal client relationships and takes on the great responsibility of managing the day-to-day store operations and client partnerships and promotions.

She says through MapleMusic Recordings, she has found her niche.

"I hope to always in some way work in music. I feel really proud knowing that I've been able to accomplish my life-long dream to work in the industry I've always been curious and passionate about. It's an indescribable feeling to wake up in the morning and go to a job that you genuinely love," says Molina. "In terms of my future plans, I suppose I plan to keep climbing the corporate ladder and making a name for myself within this crazy and always exciting place they call the music industry." 🍷



Jessica Molina, (far left, and second from right with colleagues) represents MapleMusic at a record booth at Independent Label Market, an independent record label sale in Toronto.



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