



FATIMA DI VALENTIN:
TAKING EDUCATION
FROM THE CLASSROOM
TO THE DINING ROOM

Durham College Alumni Magazine

FALL 2016 | VOLUME 89

Reflections

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello DC Alumni!

At Durham College, fall is all about new beginnings. A new academic year brings new students, new classes and a fresh slate of plans for the year ahead. This academic year, your DC Alumni Association's Board is gearing up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Durham College in 2017 along with other colleges in Ontario - it is appropriately called - "The Start of Something Amazing". We hope this milestone will further connect you to the DC community and that you will reflect upon your time at DC with nostalgia and share your fondest memories with us. A [special 50th anniversary website](#) has been established to capture memories and keep you informed about events and activities planned for the upcoming celebration.

This past year, your Board has been busy building on the recently updated constitution that was approved at the 2015 AGM. We have established several working committees including Nominating, Alumni of Distinction and Marketing complete with terms of reference for each committee. As a first task, the Marketing Committee established a social media plan which has resulted in both an increase in followers and communication. In addition to Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, we now have Instagram as part of our social



media platform.

In April, we celebrated the announcement that



#DC50

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES —
COMPLETE THE SURVEY

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Durham College will build a new facility, the Centre for Collaborative Education (CFCE), to replace the old Simcoe Building at the Oshawa campus. The new three-story facility, a legacy project tied to DC's 50th anniversary, will bring together local, Indigenous and global communities providing a new home for several of the college's innovative and ground-breaking programs. [Complete details are listed here.](#)

I would like to express sincere appreciation and thanks to our outgoing board members:

- Michael Baird, 11 years of service
- Shifa Makki, 7 years of service
- Chris Gill, 2 years of service

We are truly grateful to the retiring board members for their many years of service and dedication in serving the DC Alumni Association board.

I am also pleased to welcome five new board members: Nicole Blackman, '04, Shane Cicchine, '12, Michele Roberts '06, Jonathan Hurter, '04 and Robert Kowal, '81. A special event was held on September 20th at the college's Bistro '67 to welcome the new members and say farewell to our retiring members.

In September the first-year orientation barbecue took place at the Oshawa, Whitby and Pickering campuses respectively, where we handed out ice cream to all first-year students and welcomed them to the DC family. On September 7 and 14, DC Alumni cheered for our soccer teams at the annual Campus Cup where the UOIT women's team came out on top and after six years of DC Lords winning, the UOIT men finally were the champions.

In October, the DCAA supported the first-ever Run

for DC as part of the Scotiabank Charity Challenge in Toronto by matching all donations from alumni. Several alumni participated in the run and money raised will support the construction of the Centre for Collaborative Education.

Please check with our [alumni office](#) for further information on the following upcoming alumni events this fall, we hope to see you there!

- Fall Open House, Saturday, November 12
– Oshawa/Whitby Campus
- Etiquette Dinner, Monday, November 14
– Bistro '67, Whitby Campus
- Holiday Food Drive, Sunday, December 18
– Oshawa Campus
- Oshawa Generals Alumni Event, Friday, January 13
– General Motors Centre

In closing, we are pleased to announce this year's Premier's Award [nominees](#) are Hannah Elkington '14, Melody Gaukel '98 and Philip Pritchard '85.

I encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook, DC Alumni LinkedIn and [visit our website](#) to view your alumni benefits. Join the conversation with us on Instagram and Twitter @alumni_DC.

Sincerely,



Chris Vale
President, DC Alumni Association
Class of 2003

REFLECTIONS

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CONTENTS

- 5 TURNING SOMEDAY INTO TODAY
- 6 A DIRECTOR WITH INTERNATIONAL FLARE
- 7 DC CREATING GLOBAL BRANCHES
- 8 TAKING A SEAT FOR SUCCESS WITH...
THE WOMAN AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE
- 10 A REAL INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE
- 11 INSPECTOR GADGET
- 12 WELCOME TO THE FAST-PACED WORLD OF PR
- 14 PASSION AND INSPIRATION
- 15 WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK
- 16 BEYOND FIRE FIGHTING
- 17 STUDENTS LEARN AT THEIR LEISURE
- 18 ALUMNI UPDATES





Carl Holland (left) and Daniel Turner met while studying at Durham College. The two men founded Rehm, a mechanical design and product development company.

Turning *someday* into *today*

BY AMY NICHOLSON

PHOTO BY AMY NICHOLSON

We all dream of ‘someday’ – someday I will have the job I’ve always wanted; someday I will do that amazing thing that I’ve always wanted to do. What we tend to forget is that someday doesn’t exist, unless we create it.

Carl Holland and Daniel Turner met and became close friends while studying Mechanical Engineering Technology at Durham College (DC). Their someday dream was to start their own business. After graduating from DC, both men found contract work in their field and that dream was quickly pushed to the side – until a few years ago.

“It has always been in the back of my mind to have my own company and run my own show,” says Turner. “I kept in touch with Carl after graduation and after a few years we had a conversation basically saying ‘Hey, are you ready? Because I think I’m ready to start a business.’”

That conversation between college friends reignited their dreams. Two years ago, the DC alumni started their own mechanical design and product development company, Rehm.

Holland and Turner have experience in a variety of different fields, from manufacturing to construction. They’re familiar with improving existing ideas and creating new concepts. Because of their diverse backgrounds, the men can design innovative and practical solutions for any application.

“Our greatest success is that we are here and we are working for ourselves. The fact that the two of us stepped out on our own and are here and clients are benefitting is pretty incredible.”

Although they are doing well and enjoy working for themselves, things haven’t always been easy for Holland and Turner.

“Our business plan needed to be modified on the fly from what we originally said we were going to do to what we are doing now,” says Holland. “We couldn’t find the clientele that would afford us the opportunities to grow and expand.”

In the beginning, Holland and Turner thought their company would be about innovating and developing new products. Things began to take off for the two men when they adapted to market demands and became more flexible in the services they offered; they listened to what potential clients wanted.

They have realigned their business model to fit client needs. Holland and Turner shifted focus to provide design support services for other established design and manufacturing companies, but the pair have not given up on the dream of innovating and developing new, cutting edge, products. However, for the time being, they are happy with where they are. The college friends have already made their biggest ‘someday’ dream come true.

“Our greatest success is that we are here and we are working for ourselves,” says Holland. “The fact that the two of us stepped out on our own and are here and clients are benefitting is pretty incredible.”

A director with international flair

BY AMANDA SEXTON

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HERRINGER

Durham College welcomes new international education director however the only thing new to Mark Herring is his surroundings.

Herringer is responsible for international projects, recruitment, education abroad and internationalization. Durham is presently active in 4 countries delivering international development projects (Barbados, Guyana, Peru and Vietnam) recruitment activities in over 40 other countries and education abroad opportunities in the UK, US, Australia and other locations. Having travelled and taught in Thailand and Japan and previously working in international education at North Island College, Herringer will effectively provide services to 543 international students at Durham College, all while creating and maintaining relationships around the world.

“It was an interesting opportunity to do something different,” says Herringer. “It was driven mainly by work. I love this work and I was looking for a different focus and an institution that was also just developing its international program, so that was intriguing to me.”

“It was driven mainly by work. I love this work and I was looking for a different focus and an institution that was also just developing its international program, so that was intriguing to me.”

After graduating from the University of Victoria, Herringer moved to Japan for four years to experience living in Asia where he taught English and developed training programs for English teachers. His travels didn't stop there. He journeyed to Thailand living in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. As the director of the experiential education program on Chao Phraya River, he took students of all ages in a renovated teak rice barges along the river. High school students learned skills such as



Mark Herringer (second from left) visited potential partner Indian School of Design and Innovation in Mumbai in April 2016.

water-quality testing through this unique experiential program. In Chiang Mai, Herringer was involved in establishing a high school. Although the intent was to teach English, the curriculum adhered to Thai culture and concepts. With his first hand experiences overseas, Herringer can truly relate to international students.

Fast-forward to today and Herringer is enjoying his time at Durham College and his specialized skills are beneficial to our international education system. He is creating solid relationships abroad for exchange programs that Durham College students can take advantage of. He knows the importance of building strong ties overseas to “ensure we are teaching kids what they need to know for a changing world,” says Herringer.

Given his understanding and abilities within the international sector Herringer is the ideal fit for Durham College. He enjoys the planning process and working through systems to find an easier and more efficient way to solve problems but considers the under-graduate students as the most rewarding aspect of his career.

“I love orientation every year, seeing the new students coming in, talking to them, finding out what their goals and objectives are,” says Herringer. “Then, I like to see graduation and talk to those students that I met on the first day and see them finishing.”



Durham College President Don Lovisa (front left) eagerly signs a contract to officially partner with the Hau Giang Community College in Vietnam.

DC creating *global* branches

BY NICOLE SAATHOFF & KATHLEEN VARGA
PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN CHRISTIE

Nelson Mandela once said education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. Today more than ever, through technology, knowledge can be shared between anyone, no matter the distance.

Durham College (DC) is part of an initiative that shares knowledge with international colleges. In recent years, DC has made contracts that range from one to four years with four international colleges located in Guyana, Barbados, Peru, and Vietnam. Each program shares the same concept but are thematically focused in different areas. The project in Guyana is focused on automotive electronics; Peru in culinary studies; and Barbados in leadership through online mentoring. In August of 2015, Vietnam signed on for a technical vocation program.

The goal of these projects is to collaborate on programs and strategies with international partners about curriculum development, teacher training and institutional procedures. From this, DC will be able to expand internationally to support their partners around the world.

“What I think I like the most about it is that every day is different,” says Katie Boone, international projects manager at DC. “You’re working with multiple different people in multiple different contexts and cultures, so it’s really interesting and eye

opening... It can be challenging and exciting and it can really have people reflect on what they do on a day-to-day basis.”

The Hau Giang Community College (HGCC) in Vietnam has decided to partner with DC to develop a brand new technical vocation program in the area of food and pharmaceuticals, which will be funded by the Canadian Government.

Throughout the five years in which the program will run, individuals from both DC and HGCC will travel between the two colleges two to three times a year. In November 2015, DC representatives Sue Todd and Jacqueline Towel went to Vietnam for their own training to get a better understanding of the college’s requirements.

“Travelling to Vietnam and working with the staff at Hau Giang College was very enriching,” says Sue Todd, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering Technology at DC. “I learned a lot about their hard working culture and where their education system is now. It was a wonderful opportunity and I look forward to working with our partners.”

When the current project contracts come to an end, DC plans to partner with more international colleges to expand its global branches. 🍁

“You’re working with multiple different people in multiple different contexts and cultures, so it’s really interesting and eye opening.”

Durham College
Alumni Association
member Vanessa
Hughes (far right)
sits with graduating
students of the
Computer Science
program, at Bistro
'67 for the 3rd annual
DC alumni etiquette
dinner.



Taking a seat for success with...

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY CARLY CUNNINGHAM & MEGHAN MICHAEL

The Durham College Alumni Association (DCAA) takes education from the classroom to the dining room.

Known for their DC alumni night with the Oshawa Generals the DCAA have recently introduced a new signature event, the DC Alumni Etiquette Dinner. This event has quickly become a highlight of the year for faculty, alumni and students alike.

Attendees learn to dine and socialize in a business setting while enjoying a three-course meal with their peers. Starting in 2014, the dinner quickly found success, so much so that the DCAA has considered making this a bi-annual event.

"The Alumni Association wants to bring real life experiences to current students who are going to be entering the work world, so they can learn about what the environment is going to be like when they get there," says Vanessa Hughes, DC Alumni Association board member. "I attended the last etiquette dinner and would have really appreciated something like that when I was a student."

Hughes, along with the alumni board and Office of Development and alumni staff, help in the planning and development of alumni events, which also includes events for current students - future alumni.

"It is in our mandate to not only support and engage alumni, but also support current students; that is why we look to do events that can benefit both groups," says Hughes. "It only costs \$20, which is very reasonable and the Alumni Association picks up the rest of the cost as a gesture of support towards future graduates.

It is important for students to have proper etiquette skills. The information learned from the dinner can be applied both in social and professional environments. The format of meetings and interviews is getting less formal, and more often than not, you are being invited to discuss opportunities over a cup of coffee or a meal.

"All of a sudden you find yourself in a true interview setting and you're no longer just worrying about what you're saying, you've got the added stress of how to act," Hughes explains. "These types of meetings are more common and you still have to conduct yourself in a professional way."

The greatest benefit of the etiquette dinner is that it is a judgement free zone, where someone can make a mistake and learn from it without being scolded or looked down upon. Lessons go beyond which utensil is used with which course, they also focus on how to interact with wait staff, where to put a name tag and evaluating if it's appropriate to have an alcoholic beverage or not.

The etiquette dinner is held in Durham College's Bistro '67, and can accommodate 55 students. Previously reserved for certain programs, the DCAA has received phenomenal feedback and requests that the event be open to more students from other faculties.

Whether participants are students or alumni, the DCAA will help ensure everyone is prepared to pull up a chair with confidence, be it in the boardroom or the dining room. ☞

The *woman* at the *head* of the table



Etiquette coach, Fatima Di Valentin leads the Etiquette Dinner and shares her knowledge with future grads.

Etiquette. It's more than a raised pinky at afternoon tea. For most, it's associated with society's elite or the snobbish. But etiquette coach, Fatima Di Valentin, says that these assumptions are far from true.

"Good etiquette is all about being considerate to those around you. It is about ensuring the safety of all persons, and paralleling your behaviour to maximize your acceptance while in a group," says Di Valentin.

As a college professor, it became apparent to Di Valentin that although students had impressive academic skills and hands-on experience, they did not have the dining and social etiquette training to match. Concerned that the lack of these skills would hold students back in their careers, she developed a curriculum incorporating dining and social etiquette. It was not long before others started recognizing the value of this skill set and other departments at the college wanted the course for their students as well. Now, Di Valentin travels all over Ontario educating people of all ages on the importance of etiquette.

“...it is a skill that if you lack, all will notice, no one will tell you, few will teach you and all will hold against you.”

"Historically, etiquette has been taught alongside math and physical education, but, through the years it has been deemed as a non-essential course. However, it is a skill that if you lack, all will notice, no one will tell you, few will teach you, and all will hold against you," she explains. "I absolutely applaud Durham College's Alumni Association in taking the crucial steps to invest in their students to ensure both their academic

as well as their social success in the world of work. Durham College's Alumni Association's commitment to the success of their students is demonstrated in their efforts to sponsor events that further enhance the skill sets for each and every student."

It is far too common for the lack of proper etiquette to hold people back in both social and work related matters. Di Valentin stresses the point that etiquette is an integral skill for everyone and an investment in their future success.

"Good etiquette strives to be inclusive to all people around you. Ultimately, it's about practising kindness." ❧

Fatima's Top 3 Tips

- Never forget the power of the first impression. Good grooming communicates to all people who meet you that you cared enough to make the effort.
- Take the time to get to know the person by their first and last name. Repeat it back. It is the sweetest sound to most people's ears.
- Practise, practise, practise your handshake. This typically occurs within the first moments of meeting and goes along with forming that good first impression.



A real investment in real estate

BY DYLAN COOPER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RYAN CARR AND IMAGE SOURCE

Ryan Carr is a successful Durham College graduate who now owns his own real estate company with a solid 10-year plan.
(RYAN CARR)



When students enter the world of college they set a goal for themselves. Their road to success is measured by the time they put in.

But even with all the options available to students, there can always be a change of heart. Although scary, it can sometimes be the best decision of your life. Ryan Carr, a former Motive Power Technician graduate from

Durham College (DC), knows this better than anyone.

Carr completed his diploma in 2008 and immediately headed into the work force as an auto mechanic. Although Carr enjoyed the work he was doing and credited his success to the college, he still believed he could do more with his life. A pinnacle moment happened in Carr's life when he was part of mass lay-off at his auto shop in 2012, which started him on the journey that brought him to where he is today. At the time, Carr and his wife had just purchased their first property but ended up flipping it shortly after. The two ended up purchasing another property and the tremendous rental and resale potential was realised within a relatively short time frame.

“It is completely self made. I don’t come from money; I don’t come from a silver spoon or anything like that. It was a genuine interest that got business to flourish.”

“The two properties really gave us the seed money to grow the business,” recalls Carr. “From there I have been able to create a business where I have sub contractors who do the work and I can manage the oversight of these properties as a whole.”

“It is completely self made. I don’t come from money; I don’t come from a silver spoon or anything like that. It was a genuine interest that really drove this business to flourish,” says Carr.

It is difficult to evaluate where your life will go when the negativity creeps into our lives. But the key to success, or at least by Carr's example, is to create triumph through times of necessity.

Carr insists that a big reason to where he is now is through his time at DC. Although his business has nothing to do with the automotive industry, he says the skills he learned at DC

contributed directly to his success.

Carr owes a lot to Robert Grant, who is head of the automotive program at the Whitby Campus at DC. He taught Carr a critical way of thinking and to not see things for what they are in front of you, but to look a bit deeper and find opportunity.

“It might be a little abstract, but just the way I was taught to think critically and the way I was taught fine motor skills really adapted me to form a methodology of the way I think.”

“It might be a little abstract, but just the way I was taught to think critically and the way I was taught fine motor skills really adapted me to form a methodology of the way I think,” reflects Carr. “I had some professors there, who over and above auto mechanics, are very intelligent. So I turned into a sponge and soaked in everything they were willing to teach me.”

Presently, Carr's business is in the acquisition stage, which means they are looking to buy houses. However, Carr's 10-year plan is to make the business self-sustaining to the point where he can move onto something else while the business still continues to grow.

Carr's advice to graduates looking for their job in the workforce is to ask yourself whether you want to get a job or create one. Although getting a job for financial stability is important, having a genuine interest in something is what is truly fulfilling. Anyone can take the nuts and bolts of Carr's journey and tie it to their own path. The road ahead may not always be straight, but there is definitely hope waiting at the end of the tunnel. 🏠



A house similar to this is what Carr sells on a daily basis. No matter how small or big, Carr is determined to offer the best service to customers.
(IMAGE SOURCE)

INSPECTOR GADGET

SAFETY OFFICER DEVELOPS FIRE PREVENTION APP

BY JADE BEGGS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL AMENDOLA

Hard work and dedication are nothing new to Paul Amendola after being a student at Durham College. So starting his own company while still working full time was challenging, but not impossible.

Amendola went to Durham College for the Pre-Service Fire Fighter program in hopes of becoming a firefighter. While at the school he discovered the Durham College experience was about more than just going to class. He discovered how inspiring teachers were, how comfortable the classroom environment was and how easy it was to stay engaged and dive into the material. He also realized his passion for fire prevention and safety.

“I believe I am where I am today because of the people and the lessons I learned at that school.”

“It still sticks with me how willing teachers were to go out of their way to help. They helped me with a lot of things, even if it didn’t have to do with their program,” say Amendola. “I believe I am where I am today because of the people and the lessons I learned at that school.”

After school, Amendola went to work as a Fire and Life Safety Officer in Toronto’s Financial District. In his role, Amendola was tasked with a number of different duties which included conducting health and safety inspections, routine inspections of fire equipment, responding to medical and fire emergencies, planning fire drills and ensuring the building’s emergency procedures were in order. This involved training and educating tenants on such procedures. While doing this, he realized a few gaps in the system that he thought software could solve. As a result, Amendola and a fellow Durham College graduate created Rapid Evac in 2011.

Rapid Evac creates safer workplaces through software. The concept is life safety can be made simple through intuitive software for everyday devices. Rapid Evac helps companies reduce risk and ensures compliance, which in turn protects its brand and reputation. Rapid Evac’s solutions increase operational efficiency and simplify evacuations, inspections, mass notifications and much more.



Paul Amendola the co-founder of Rapid Evac and the Tap report.



“I was working as a fire and life safety officer by day and a chief executive officer by night and weekends,” says Amendola. “At times, I had some difficulties with a healthy work balance. However, I managed to get through the rough patches with the great support of family and friends.”

Rapid Evac is a great place to work, says Amendola. The culture is to always question the status quo. All the software is built in-house so it’s very easy to make effective changes quickly.

Amendola believes the biggest challenge right now is getting the word out to companies that there is an easier and more echo-friendly way to inspect equipment such as fire extinguishers. He believes that solution is Rapid Evac Tap Report. 📱

Welcome to the fast-paced world of PR!

BY CHRIS DUVAL AND LAURA KIDD

PHOTOS BY CANDACE DARBYSHIRE, JACOB SPENCER

You're running across campus and minutes feel like seconds. You hardly notice all of the eyes on you as you're panting through the halls wearing your best formal clothes - feeling like Anne Hathaway in *The Devil Wears Prada* as she runs around New York City to fetch a steak for Meryl Streep. Your mind is racing as you think of all the things you have to do in the small amount of time you have left - meet guests in the parking lot, hang signs on the walls, set up decorations in the room you booked, figure out how to use the sound system... What was the other thing?

You make it to the room and find your teammates finishing up the decorations and the sound system is already checked. Everyone is working hard just as they have been for the last couple of months. Everything has been leading up to this day and now you realize all of that running, all those late nights and meetings between classes has paid off. You have successfully planned and executed your first media conference, one of the unique hands-on projects in Durham College's fast-tracked Public Relations (PR) program.

"I think it's a really good thing that it is a fast-tracked program," says Lynn Gough, the PR Program Coordinator. "Being in a fast-tracked program means that you are learning at a quicker pace. You have to be really organized and be able to multitask, but at the end of the day you're going to graduate one year earlier than your counterparts at other programs."

“At the end of the day you're going to graduate one year earlier than your counterparts at other programs.”

2015 PR graduate
Ryan Cudmore
and program
coordinator Lynn
Gough assess
a mock media
conference.
(Darbyshire)



Durham College's PR students and program coordinator Lynn Gough pose with Traci Melchor and David Foster at Bell Media's etalk studio.

Whether you're reaching out to real media about your campaign ideas, pitching stories to newspapers, being a PR intern, or having coffee and networking with real PR professionals in downtown Toronto, the PR program reflects what Durham College's focal point is: The student's experience.

"We have a good cross-section of skills," says Gough. "When you go out there as a grad, it's a one-stop shop. Not only do you know how to write the newsletter, but you know how to take the pictures, lay it out, load it up on their website, and you know how to promote it in a pitch. All of those skills are there. You're not just learning one piece of one course, you're learning how to put everything together which will give you the ability to go out there and promote yourself."

The program is known for its high post-graduate employment rate. A large number of graduates are offered a job after their corporate placement and this is where their PR journey begins.

“You're not just learning one piece of one course, you're learning all of the things to put it together and you could go out there and promote yourself.”

APEX PR agency, General Motors, Bell Media, and Toronto Zoo are just a few places Durham College's PR students have been hired upon graduation.

"When looking at PR programs, I was really drawn to the

program at Durham College because of its variety in courses and its two internships,” says 2015 PR graduate, Courtney Pope, who works as the marketing and promotions manager for Brimacombe ski area. “For me, being able to have the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and gain experience in the field really sets the program apart and was ultimately my deciding factor when choosing the program.”

Pope loved the fast-paced aspect of the program because the program mimics that of the workplace. In the workplace, you need to be able to have a fast turn-around for projects and meet tight deadlines, so by attaining these skills while in school, it is beneficial for when you’re ready to step into your career.

“I learned that I am more capable than I believe I am and that I can achieve anything that I set my mind to.”

“Over the course of the two years in the program, I learned that I am more capable than I believe I am and that I can achieve anything that I set my mind to,” says Pope. “I have learned that I can really adapt to my surroundings and work with various types of people. I am so happy I had the opportunity to bring forth my new skills to currently hold my position at Brimacombe, one of southern Ontario’s largest skiing and snowboarding facilities, as the marketing and promotions manager.”

If you’re an outgoing, dedicated self-starter with a passion for writing and communications, DC’s Public Relations program could be a great place to open doors to endless possibilities in the PR field. Maybe one day, someone will be fetching you the steak. 🍖

Grad Testimonials

“I like how the program really teaches you how to put yourself out there. By the time the placement opportunities came around, I was already much more confident in my abilities as a working PR professional.”

Meghan Thompson, 2015 Grad

“I think that the best part about the Public Relations program at Durham College would have to be the opportunities that it provides you with. Not only are you introduced to multiple industry professionals, but it gives you the opportunity to get yourself in at the ground-floor of the industry through placements, community contacts and networking.”

Ryan Cudmore, 2015 Grad

“The Public Relations course at Durham College really set me up for success with my future career path. All of the material that I was taught has been used so far and has been a great help. The program covers a lot of material and offers us hands-on experience that is truly beneficial in any young PR professional’s life. I’m always getting praised by co-workers on the knowledge I have - and I owe it all to the program!”

Tyenne Worobess, 2015 Grad

“The Public Relations program at Durham College really prepped me for the real world of PR and Marketing. Within a week of being employed with Republic Live, my colleagues and superiors were commenting on how extensive my knowledge, mindset and hands-on experience was. There hasn’t been anything thrown my way that I haven’t been able to handle using what I learned during my time at Durham. I would strongly recommend this program to anyone looking for a real-world, hands-on PR program. It has opened so many doors for me in all facets of the professional world.”

Taylor Cunningham, 2014 Grad



Durham College's PR program coordinator Lynn Gough and PR students Morgan Claringbold, Carly Cunningham, Chris Duval, Jadde Ullman, Sofia Esquivel, Candace Darbyshire, Tiffany Nobes, Katelyn Beer, and Larissa Newberry, attend Canada's Walk of Fame 2015. (Spencer)

Ryan Zupancic
(right) manages
Jimmy Guaco's in
Oshawa.



PASSION AND INSPIRATION

A pathway to success for an aspiring entrepreneur

STORY AND PHOTO BY CANDACE DARBYSHIRE

A former Ontario Hockey League (OHL) player with an Olympian sister and an entrepreneurial mother has combined his passion for athletics and the inspiration of a fervent family to reach his future goals working in an industry he loves – the competitive industry of sports.

Whitby native, Ryan Zupancic is currently working towards his Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa. Before enrolling at UOIT, Zupancic played for the OHL team, Sarnia Sting. Once he started studying at university, he made the UOIT hockey team where he played for two years. A year later, Zupancic says his professional hockey life is on hold for now, as both school and helping his mother manage her quick-service restaurant, Jimmy Guaco's, is taking up much of his time.

Jimmy Guaco's is a concept Zupancic's mother, Annette, brought to life six years ago. The Mexican-style restaurant first opened its doors in Oshawa and now has three additional locations in Whitby, Peterborough, and Montreal. Zupancic's mother always had a passion for food and she wanted a fresh alternative for people with active lifestyles. Luckily, his mother had some encouragement along the way from Zupancic's uncle, president of Pita Pit, an international quick-service restaurant.

Additionally, Zupancic's two brothers offered their culinary and restaurant management experience to the Jimmy Guaco's family and worked together as a team, constantly experimenting with new recipes and unique concepts of their own. Shortly after the first restaurant opened, Zupancic began working as a front-line staff. He's now manager at the Oshawa location.

"I'm currently taking an entrepreneurial class and my professor has taught us that the first five years of starting a business are the toughest and a lot of businesses don't succeed," says Zupancic. "Jimmy Guaco's has gotten over that hump as we're now past our fifth year, so it's a pretty big deal. It's extremely inspirational that my mom was able to create this business all while being a mother of four children. It's very inspiring."

So inspiring, that Zupancic has some entrepreneurial plans of his own.


"I grew up playing hockey and I have a sister who is going to be attending the next Olympics. She's now competing in Rio for Judo, so with her journey and seeing amateur athletes along the way, I've been inspired to create a business with regards to athletes," says Zupancic.

"I believe some of these amateur athletes don't get the recognition they deserve compared to professional athletes. A big thing is getting sponsorships so that they're able to pursue their dreams. My whole thing is opportunity. If you're not given the opportunity, then you'll never know if you're the next Sidney Crosby or the next big Olympian star. Finding sponsorships and managing their money in the proper areas is what needs to be done. So to give those people the opportunity to pursue

“My whole thing is opportunity. If you're not given the opportunity, then you'll never know if you're the next Sidney Crosby or the next big Olympian Star.”

their dreams would be my goal."

Zupancic is currently in the process of figuring out the steps to bring his dream to life. He hopes with the help of his entrepreneurial courses, he will be able to narrow down exactly what he needs to do. As well, he has had first-hand experience of what it's like to be an entrepreneur, which will really help to guide him along the way.

"Working at Jimmy Guaco's has been a learning process and I'm lucky enough to have gone on the ride with my mom," says Zupancic. He will be sure to bring the lessons he's learned to his future entrepreneurial career. 

We've Got Your Back

BY JADDE ULLMAN

PHOTO COURTESY JILL FOSTER

Hundreds of students enroll in first responder programs each year. These students soon become grads working jobs such as police officers, fire fighters and paramedics. First responders can face immense tragedies every day that can result in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for many. The campaign #IveGotYourBack911 uses the power of social media to bring light to the stress first responders experience and is, as a result, making changes one hashtag at a time.

“We have been putting pressure on the government since the inception of the campaign. We really need a specific bill to be passed which will allow first responders to claim Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) with a diagnosis of PTSD.”

The campaign #IveGotYourBack911 was founded in 2014 by four paramedics. Jill Foster, a founder of the campaign, has been a paramedic for almost four years and is currently working for Medavie Elgin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Elgin County. The campaign provides a platform for people to reach out, share stories, and post photos using the hashtag #IveGotYourBack911. Sharing experiences and photos has affected the lives of many. Two years later the campaign is still going on and bringing awareness to a serious issue that affects the lives of so many.

“We have been putting pressure on the government since the inception of the campaign. We really need a specific bill to be passed which will allow first responders to claim Workplace



#IveGotYourBack911
co-founders with the
Minister of Labour,
Kevin Flynn.

#IveGotYourBack911

Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) with a diagnosis of PTSD,” says Foster. “The bill is called Bill 163 and was put forth by Cheri Dinovo a NDP and MPP for Parkdale – High Park in Toronto. I truly believe that people’s lives depend on the passing of this bill.”

The amendment would shift the burden of proof so that a first responder diagnosed with PTSD will automatically be considered for compensation, if the individual needs to take a medical leave. PTSD is a psychiatric disorder that can occur following the experience of witnessing of a life-threatening event. Military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, are all examples of events that could potentially trigger PTSD.

Jessica Nash, who is completing her final year in the 911 Emergency and Call Centre Communications program at Durham College, heard about the campaign while in school and was intrigued.

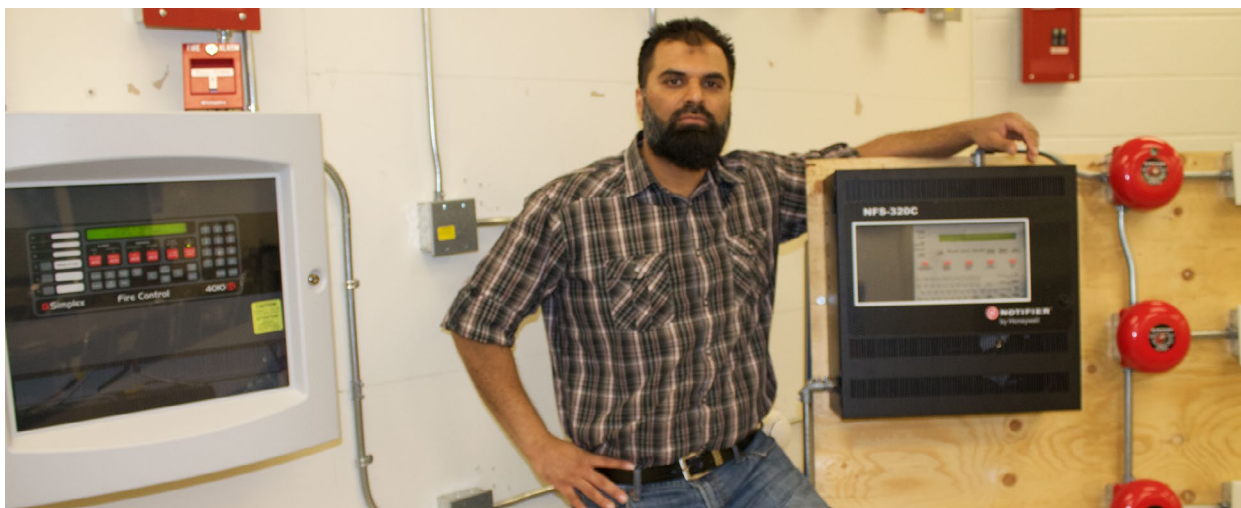
“As someone who is studying to be a 911 dispatcher, it is really encouraging to see the support and positive feedback that #IveGotYourBack911 provides,” says Nash.

PTSD can happen to anyone, a study done suggested that one in 10 Canadian civilians meets the criteria for PTSD in his or her lifetime. In the past year, 12 members of the military and 38 first responders committed suicide in Canada. The number of suicides that are committed by first responder was concerning for Foster, and is one of the reasons why the campaign was launched.

Continuing to bring awareness to such a serious matter is important to the founders and supports of this viral campaign.

“The best way to help out is to get involved. Listen when someone is telling you something. Be supportive. Spark conversation when it comes to mental health.” says Foster. ☒

Fire and Safety
Technician Professor
Randy Panesar
stands next to a
display of fire safety
equipment.



Beyond *FIRE* Fighting

*Program offers graduates a wealth of options
in prevention and response*

STORY AND PHOTO BY RAQUEL CARGILL

Fire protection specialists develop solutions that protect individuals, property, homes, and buildings from fire damage and Durham College (DC) is one of the leading schools to help students master these skills to get their resume to the top of the pile.

In DC's Fire and Life Safety Technician program, students learn to use sophisticated modeling software to analyze the risk of fire at various locations. Students in the program can become fire protection technicians employed by the government, by fire stations, or by companies in the private sector, such as insurance groups, fire protection equipment manufacturers, and consulting firms.

Randy Panesar is lead professor of the two-year diploma program. Panesar says his goal is to see students reach their full potential and become leaders in the industry.

He says this program is suitable for all students who are looking for a career in the fire industry. This program can give you the necessary skills like fire detection analysis, design

“Almost 100 per cent of the graduates are working a month after they graduate.”

of fire protection equipment and testing and maintenance of fire protection equipment. The campus hosts two events for industry members and fire marshalls from across the province. The program engages with them and demonstrates the tools and skills. Students learn what is required to use in the workforce.

Durham College is proud to take part in Fire Prevention Week, which occurs the first week of October. It fits with the

program mission to increase awareness of fire prevention. Many people don't know what to do in the event of a fire. The key is to educate, says Panesar. The awareness week is an opportunity to show the public how to test their alarm monthly, prevent a fire and plan an escape in their home. Not only does the program create awareness, it raises funds for burn victims and students who suffer from fire accidents.

The program lab is a brand new, state-of-the-art fire protection facility. DC is the only college to have live sprinkler systems as well as a kitchen fire suppression and simulated natural gas emergency training system.

“Almost 100 per cent of the graduates are working a month after they graduate,” says Panesar. “Most of our graduates have solid job offers a few weeks before, or even a few months before, they graduate and have full-time jobs lined up with major companies.”

In order to work on this equipment, you actually need certification by the Canadian Fire Alarm Association following one year of employment, he says.

The job prospects for graduating students is very strong, he says.

“We are at a point where we have to turn back some employers because we don't have enough students for them,” says Panesar. “We caught the eye of a lot of industry, local Durham Region fire departments and are really ecstatic about the program and what the school can offer.”

Watch a video about the program at:

<http://www.durhamcollege.ca/programs/fire-and-life-safety-systems-technician>

Students learn at their leisure

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MELANIE GRANT

It's never too late to learn a new skill or develop a new hobby. Whether it's brushing up on general interest or earning a certificate, the Leisure and Personal Development program in the School of Continuing Education offers its students the knowledge needed to enhance individual achievement.

Available three times a year during the fall, winter and spring semesters, the program allows students to choose from a variety of general interest subjects or delve into courses that conclude with a certificate or Recognition Of Achievement (ROA). The courses are offered in a variety of learning methods including in class, online or through workshops and are designed to provide an insight into the subject without the obligation of continuously pursuing that subject.

"These courses are suited for adults who don't have the time to commit to a full-time two-year program," says Sandra Meader, leisure and personal development program officer. "Courses where you can work at your own pace are convenient for that clientele."

Even though the program is designed to allow students to pick and choose courses they are interested in, it also accommodates those who are looking to earn a Durham College certificate or ROA, specifically for sewing and photography respectively.

Requirements for certificate or ROA courses include maintaining a minimum average of 60 per cent in all courses as well as completion of each pre-requisite course prior to advancing. Sewing and photography courses are available in class to students and provide hands-on techniques from industry professionals to enhance learning.

"All the teachers are from the industry and provide real world insight," says Meader. "It's not just book learning; they're teaching them the tips and tricks of what's happened along their many years in the business."

While students earn a Durham College certificate in the sewing course and an ROA in photography, they both include

professional knowledge equivalent to entry-level and are considered to be vocational courses. Upon completion of all courses in their program of study, students must apply for their certificate or ROA. Through the hands-on learning experience of both sewing and photography courses, students walk away from the program confident in their skills and are able to work in that field or create their own business.

"Photography and sewing courses are going to give you skills that you can get a job with," says Meader. "Students from either program are going to have the edge over somebody who doesn't have the background in that."

Regardless of whether the course is online, in class or through a workshop, students are able to connect with and learn from each other. Every course is designed to provide students with the necessary tools to learn and continue with their passion.

"It's a matter of interest, just picking and choosing what you're interested in," says Meader. "Some of them are going to be a hobby and some are going to turn into a business."



The hands-on approach to the sewing course allows students to effectively learn from the instructor.



Students of the sewing program are taught by industry professional Mary Duldouras through night classes at Durham College.

Some of the leisure and personal development courses offered:

- ASTRONOMY • CONFIDENTLY SPEAKING • DISCOVER YOUR TRUE PASSION • DRONES • ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP
- EVENT PLANNING • GLOBAL WARMING CONCEPTS • GUITAR TECHNIQUES 1 • HOCKEY HALL OF FAME PRESENTS
- INDIGENEOUS IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAND
- LANDSCAPING YOUR HOME • METEOROLOGY • MYTHS AND LEGENDS • PEN AND INK AND WATERCOLOUR WASH • SAME SEX ISSUES • SMART SERVE • SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIETY
- SPORT PSYCHOLOGY • WORLD CINEMA • WORLD RELIGIONS
- ZAP THE BLUES BY BOOSTING MENTAL HEALTH

For a complete list of courses available or to register, visit www.durhamcollege.ca/academic-schools/school-of-continuing-education

alumni UPDATE

1980

GORD FORFAR,

Business Administration - Marketing,

lives in Toronto with his wife Lori. He has three children: Bailey, Benjamin and Alex, and he is currently retired.

DANIEL NICOLLE,

Business Administration - Accounting,

lives in Niagara On the Lake with his wife Joan, and has 3 children: Nathan, Richard and Jennifer. Daniel is currently the CEO at OutFront Portable Solutions/OutFront Custom Built Buffalo.

1981

DAVID ZWICKER,

Business Administration - Accounting,

lives in Pickering with his wife Susan, and is now retired from Imperial Oil Ltd.

1984

DAVID BRADLEY,

Sports Administration,

lives in Woodbridge. He is currently employed as a managing director at Taylormade Adidas Golf Canada and has a 15 year-old son, Logan and an 11 year-old daughter Zoe.

JULIE CASHIN OSTER,

Journalism,

lives in Newcastle. She currently is the Principal/Owner of Julie Cashin Oster - Empowering the Inclusive Workplace.

1985

SHELLEY JONES,

Legal Administration,

lives in Greely and is currently the Senior Legal Counsel for Research In Motion Limited.

1986

GERRY GIONET,

Business Administration - Data Processing,

lives in Oshawa with his wife Zamara. He is currently the senior manager of development at the Bank of Nova Scotia.

1990

GRANT OYAGI,

Food and Beverage Management,

lives in Oshawa with his wife Sandra. He currently is the owner/president of ODAWGS Management Consulting (Contract Project Management). Grant also had this to say: "Durham College was a huge part of my success. While attending DC (Food and Bev) I learned self-discipline and realized I had a love of education and knowledge. I am no longer in Food and Bev but every day I use a number of skills I learned at DC."

1992

MICHELLE TAPLEY, (nee Davis)

Office Administration - Word Processing Option,

lives in Oshawa with her husband Mikeal and their two children Melissa and Mitchell. She currently is employed at Minacs as an administrative assistant.

1993

MARTIN WHORMS,

Business Administration - Accounting,

lives in Oshawa and is employed as a field supervisor at Yellow Pages.

1999

MICHAEL MADILL,

Human Resources Management,

lives in Toronto and is currently the human resources manager at Multimatic Inc.

2001

BRIE-ANNE CLARK, (nee Wallace)

Dental Assistant,

lives in Oro Medonte with her husband Brian, and two children Megan and Leah.

ANDREA OSTER,

Office Administration - Medical,

lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and is currently an instructor at the Maritime Business College.

2002

SCOTT KERSLAKE,

Sports Administration,

lives in Elmvale with his wife Dianna, and is currently the territory planning director for Nike.

JENNIFER LEITNER,

General Business - Accounting,

lives in Oshawa with her husband Steve, sons Kieran, Steven and Jacob and daughter Abby.

2003

LARISSA BLUE,

Sports Administration,

lives in Owen Sound. She is currently an administrative assistant for the Owen Sound Attack Hockey Club.

2004

MONICA PEACH, (nee Dylla)

Computer Systems Technology,

lives in Happy Valley Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador with her husband Greg. She is currently a graphic designer for the Nunatsiavut Government.

2005

FERNANDO FERREIRA,

Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology,
lives in Campbellford. He is currently a certified service engineer at Bell & Howell Canada.

PETER MITSKINIS,

Journalism – Print,
lives in Stouffville and is currently employed by the York Catholic District School Board as an occasional teacher.

2008

LESA ISAACS,

Human Services Counsellor,
lives in Pickering with her husband Oral and is currently an educational assistant with the Toronto District School Board.

2009

MEAGAN SWEENEY,

Public Relations,
lives in Oshawa, Ontario. She is currently a marketing coordinator at Raywal Cabinets.

2010

SHAUNA-LEE COURTNEY, (nee Reeves)

Police Foundations,
lives in Pickering with her husband Sean and their two children William and Lucas. She is currently employed at Cadillac Fairview in Security.

ELLIS EKEKHOR,

Human Resources Post Graduate,
lives in Ajax with his wife Karen and daughter Kristina and currently is employed as a mobile mortgage specialist at TD Canada Trust.

2011

MICHAEL BOYES,

Sports Administration,
lives in Whitby and is currently the assistant equipment manager for the Binghamton Senators AHL hockey club.

CHRISTINA LISTER-WALKINGSHAW,

Business Administration – Accounting,
lives in Lacombe, Alberta and is currently an office manager/ events coordinator at Burman University.

2012

SHANE HOUSE,

Business Administration - Marketing,
lives in Toronto, and is currently employed as an executive jet broker with Air Charter Service.

LUKAS KOCH,

Renewable Energy Technician,
lives in Astorville with his wife Emily. He is currently a crew leader at Burk Oak Resources.

ALYSSA RHYNOLD, (nee Edwards)

Legal Administration,
lives in Bowmanville and is currently a technical assistant – real estate for the Region of Durham.

RYAN WICKENS,

Legal Administration,
lives in Bowmanville and is currently an export control assistant at Safran Landing Systems.

2013

COREY ZERF,

Computer Systems Technology,
lives in Ottawa with his spouse, and is currently a telecommunication/network analyst for the Government of Canada.

2015

MICHAEL PUPUNKOSKI,

Music Business Management,
lives in Pickering, and currently manages a band called Romancer.

MELANIE SHARPE,

Paralegal Diploma,
lives in Whitby, and is currently employed in the legal department of Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc.

KYSTLE WELLING,

Practical Nursing,
lives in Oshawa and is currently employed as a registered practical nurse at Rouge Valley Centenary.

2016

JENNIFER WINGATE,

Office Administration – Executive,
lives in Oshawa with her husband Adam. She is currently an administrative assistant at Durham College.

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Get in touch by contacting Lori Connor in the alumni office at lori.connor@durhamcollege.ca.

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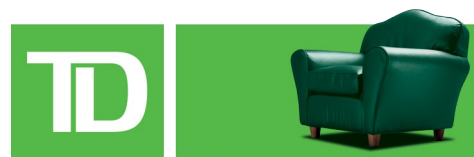
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