

Durham College Alumni Magazine

WINTER 2015 | VOLUME 04

Reflections

**FALLING IN LOVE
WITH HAITI**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to say that we have had a productive few months since I last touched base. We have been working to provide new benefits, taken on new social media initiatives and continued to contribute to our Durham College Alumni community.

I would like to share some of our initiatives and continuing events we have participated in and sponsored:

These include:

- Your Alumni Association substantially increased our scholarship and bursary contributions for our current students with focus on children of alumni;
- We were able to provide the Campus Holiday food drive with a large donation to assist our campus community with Board members assisting in the food drive packing and delivery;
- I attended, on behalf of the Board, the Donor reception at our Centre for Food with over 150 students and Donors in attendance with inspiring stories shared throughout the night. The alumni association has been donating to scholarships and bursaries for over 15 years.
- We sponsored our 2nd annual Oshawa Generals Game on January 30th with a sold out alumni crowd in attendance. We had a great evening with a reception for alumni, staff and their families, We also offered door prizes which included a signed Maple Leaf hockey stick and tickets;
- We are continuing to focus on our media exposure – adding our new twitter handle – @dc_alumni;
- We have also added new benefits for our alumni and current students, so I encourage you to check back often to see our new benefits and initiatives.

We will continue to work with Durham College to elevate the exposure of your Alumni Association throughout the country and beyond connecting with alumni ~ our 50th anniversary is only two years away.



Do you know a deserving Durham College alumni? We are currently accepting nominations for our annual Alumni of Distinction Awards until March 13, 2015. Nomination information is available on our website, durhamcollege.ca/alumni

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and at our website at: durhamcollege.ca/alumni to view your alumni benefits and general information on your alumni association and board.

Any DC memories, successes or input which you would like to share with us? Please send them to lori.connor@durhamcollege.ca as we would love to hear from you.

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lesley Wagner'.

Lesley Wagner
Legal Administration – Class of 1985
President, Durham College Alumni Association

REFLECTIONS

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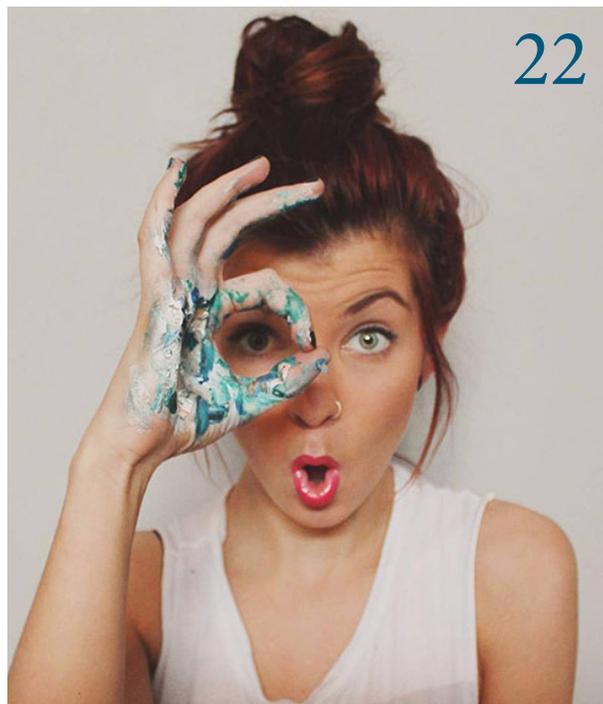
Reflections is written and edited by
Durham College second-year Public
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JUMPING TO THE STARS

BY RYAN CUDMORE

PHOTO COURTESY OF
STEPHANNIE BLOOMER, SN PHOTOGRAPHY

Deidre Dengo, a second-year public relations student at Durham College, puts her best foot forward in everything she does. Her experience as an equestrian and time on Canadian Idol have made her the strong and confident woman she is today.

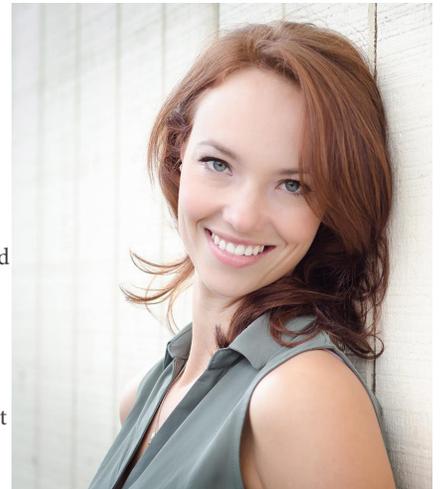
Dengo has gone through things that some only dream about, and that has given her an extreme sense of determination and commitment. She is an equestrian who competes at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, as well as many other national and international competitions. Additionally, in 2008, she was chosen to be on Canadian Idol where she fulfilled her dreams and sang her heart out for thousands of TV viewers.

“I would say that I am emotionally driven, hard-headed, and passionate about what interests me, and never afraid to stand up for what I believe in,” says Dengo. “When I set a goal for myself, I try to make sure that it is a BHAG, which stands for ‘Big Hairy Audacious Goal.’ I want it to be something that will challenge and scare me, not something I can do with ease.

From a young age, Dengo loved being around horses. Twenty-one years later, she is now competing with them, including saddling up with the DC/VOIT equestrian team for the past two years. Her mother owns an equestrian facility in Beaverton, Ont., which she helps run. No Stone Unturned,

the name of the family’s company, specializes in equine-assisted learning, and the retraining and selling of off-the-track thoroughbreds and hunter/jumpers.

Due to strong family ties to horses and the determination that comes along with everything she does, being part of the equestrian community is one of Dengo’s most



Deidre Dengo, a second-year public relations student, temporarily puts away her crop and riding boots to further establish her music portfolio with a professional and well-composed headshot.

prized accomplishments in life. At the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, held in Toronto, she has regularly been part of the Sport Pony class where her successes have demonstrated what commitment and hard work can achieve. Dengo has even taken her fighting spirit and applied it to another aspect of her life, singing. In 2008, she was given the opportunity to compete on Canadian Idol, where her wildest dreams came true.

“I was ranked Top 30 out of 20,000, but my official standing was 27th,” says Dengo.

“I toured after Idol. I had my own band and everything; it was amazing. I still have two EPs out there. It was the single-most terrifying, humiliating and humbling experience of my life.”

Without doubt, when opportunity knocks, Dengo always answers with a resounding and confident response. As a singer, equestrian and soon-to-be public relations professional, she takes on any challenge at full stride. 

Dengo, riding Vezina, puts her competitive spirit and training techniques to the test at the Pickering Horse Centre Summer Solstice.



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

BY MIKAYLA MORRA
PHOTO CREDIT DURHAM COLLEGE

When on the hunt for a part-time job, most students don't have a care in the world as to what the job might be – as long as they are cashing those cheques to pay their way through school, they are happy. But, for Benjamin Lewis, Durham College's Bistro '67's very own chef and administrator, washing dishes to pay his way through university was when he discovered his love for food.

Spending most of his time in a culinary environment and helping out in the kitchen helped him realize that he wanted to be a chef. Thus, he made his move to Stratford, Ont., where he attended the Culinary Management program at the Stratford Chef School. After completing the program, Lewis moved back to Toronto in 2009 where, before he knew it, he landed his first job as executive chef for Presidential Gourmet, a catering company located in Markham, Ont. He baked, chopped, minced and diced his way to success and landed another executive chef position with restaurant chain Frankie Tomato. Finally, in 2013 Durham College got its hands on Lewis, and he started as the culinary technologist for Bistro '67 at the Whitby campus, later becoming chef and administrator for the restaurant.

“My favourite part of the job is the goal of program integration, the fact that we're looking out from Bistro '67 onto the future fields for the agriculture program.”

“Durham College has been great. It's been very different. I like the idea of contributing to the learning of students in an institution kind of setting,” said Lewis. “I'm currently working with chefs like David Hawey and the people that have started the Field to Fork project, and so far it has been great. The exposure to some of the new faculty members that are here and the idea of integrating the agricultural programs and the food science program is really fascinating.”

In addition to Lewis' role with the college, he also has an entrepreneurial side to him. Beginning in December 2012, Lewis and his family developed Howden House Productions, which he describes as a very slow-moving project focusing on the creation and development of permaculture farms. There is no doubt that his passion for the Culinary Management program and the agricultural industry is genuine, as his motivation stems from Durham College's Field to Fork concept where sustainable and local, seasonal products are used in the creation of the dishes at Bistro '67. These crops are located



Benjamin Lewis stands outside of the entrance of Bistro '67, DC's very own teaching-inspired restaurant located at the Whitby campus. Lewis remains motivated by the restaurant's vision, which revolves around the Field to Fork concept.

outside of the Whitby campus's Centre for Food building where students from various programs get hands-on experience with the agricultural integration into their curriculum.

“The sustainable and local, seasonal products just make more sense,” he says. “My favourite part of the job is the goal of program integration, the fact that we're looking out from Bistro '67 onto the future fields for the agriculture program. The Agriculture Technician for the school currently has a garden growing on campus. He brings us bushels of fruits and vegetables to Bistro '67 that were grown on campus. That is probably one of my favourite things.”

Lewis believes that students should take the initiative to find inspiration and delve into things that interest them. With the fairly new Centre for Food (opened in September 2013), there are a lot of opportunities for students to explore their options, and they may find that down the road, their future may be in an industry they did not expect. As a teacher, Lewis strives to be a source of inspiration for these students by assisting them in taking advantage of all the doors that Durham College can open.

While Lewis remains dedicated to his students and the program, he continues to maintain a balance between work and his personal life. He will continue to be involved with food through Howden House Productions, where he and his wife are interested in doing a bit more farming, and continuing his path to teach more. His focus is to keep teaching, guiding, farming and, overall, continue to be inspired.

You could call it his recipe for success. 🍴

The College Turns a ‘Green’ Leaf

BY HEATHER VERMAIRE

Eating organic, recycling and composting are easy, everyday activities many of us have a difficult time doing. For Tanya Roberts, the new sustainability coordinator for Durham College, living a greener lifestyle is something she is able to accomplish in her personal life and at her work as well.

Having begun her educational career by earning a social work diploma from Sheridan College, Ajax resident Roberts knew she loved working with people. Soon after, she realized her interests went further than social work, and decided to pursue a career in environmental studies at York University. The experience and knowledge she was able to gain while studying Environmental Science afforded her the opportunity to work on York University’s Sustainable Energy Initiative.

“I worked with two well-known professors along with Ontario’s former chief conservation officer. My main role was to develop and host the Sustainability Energy Initiative Seminar Series,” says Roberts. “During that time I had to meet many individuals from Durham College. When I saw the position of sustainability coordinator available, it was around the end of our research at York University and this job would give me the opportunity to put my skills and experience to use in Durham Region.”

“I am hoping that with the Sustainability Committee and The Green Team we are able to create a system where we can identify an issue then make adjustments and changes in a positive way.”

Even though Roberts has only been at Durham College since May 2014, she has already accomplished a lot. Her first task was creating a sustainability policy to reflect how Durham College is doing its part in making sustainability a core mission. The Green Team, which is a group made up of

Roberts has had a successful 2014. After creating the Green Team to get students involved, Roberts is excited about Durham College’s green future ahead. (ROBERTS)



Tanya Roberts (left), sustainability coordinator at Durham College visits the first ever farmers market being offered to students and staff. Durham College had the opportunity to learn about local businesses in the area, and buy local farm fresh products. (VERMAIRE)

students who are passionate about environmental issues, is another project that Roberts created at Durham College, and there has been great interest and response to the team from all across its campuses.

“I have been recruiting students at different orientation events, and the response has been really big,” says Roberts. “Unfortunately, we are only able to choose 25-30 students to be a part of the Green Team, but those who are not chosen are highly encouraged to still volunteer. I am hoping that with the Sustainability Committee and the Green Team we are able to create a system where we can identify an issue then make adjustments and changes in a positive way.”

The Sustainability Committee and the Green Team are two groups that are creating a promising future for Durham College. Last year, Durham College even received a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Higher Education. The STARS rating is created on a points system based on school engagement, operations and planning. A STARS Bronze rating is the first out of four rewards that a school can receive. Roberts is hoping that within the next couple of years the Sustainability Committee and the Green Team will help Durham College achieve a STARS Silver or hopefully a STARS Gold.

“Stars Bronze was a great achievement for Durham College, but to build upon that would be wonderful,” says Roberts. “It is a high standard to hold, and wanting to achieve a higher level will take longer than a year.”

Roberts acknowledges that shooting for the highest STAR will not be easy nor will it be an overnight success but with hard work, determination and the awareness driven by the Sustainability Committee, it is something that is attainable. One thing is for sure, the changes will be profound and will benefit not only our environment but also those who shared in creating a greener future. ♻️

From CELLBLOCK to CLASSROOM

BY JESSICA BROOKS

PHOTO CREDIT JESSICA BROOKS

Some people find their dream occupation on the first try. Not Margot Murray. A professor in the School of Justice & Emergency Services, it took her over 30 years and more than four careers to find the right fit. For her, discovering different jobs began very early indeed.

“I think wanting to be a police officer started when I spent a day in jail eating cherry pie until my mother was able to pick me up,” says Murray. “I kept running away from my kindergarten class and this was how it was handled way back then.”

She started her career in policing after graduating from the Correctional Worker program at Centennial College in 1976. Murray began as a correctional worker, which led her to begin the application process for the Ontario Provincial Police.

However, after some self-evaluation and reflection on experiences with the convict population, she decided policing was not her calling.

Wanting to leave the corrections field behind, Murray began working in the scheduling department at Centennial and discovered the paramedic program interested her. She completed the Ambulance and Emergency Care program and became provincially certified as an emergency medical care assistant. After graduation, she worked as both a paramedic and an auxiliary training officer with the Ministry of Health. This was just the beginning of many teaching opportunities for Murray.

“Every career path I have taken, there has always been a component of teaching... it must have been in my blood.”

A natural progression led Murray into emergency medical dispatching with Toronto Emergency Medical Services, where she drew on her experiences as a paramedic. After 10 years of commuting to Toronto, she began her Teaching and Training certification part-time through Durham College while working as a fire service communicator for Whitby Fire and Emergency Service.



School of Justice & Emergency Services professor, Margot Murray, experienced many career options before discovering her perfect profession in teaching.

With 13 years experience in that role, she was asked to sit on a committee to help develop the one-year 911 Emergency Response certificate program. This was the beginning of her teaching journey at Durham College.

“Every career path I have taken, there has always been a component of teaching...it must have been in my blood,” says Murray, who began instructing the 911 Emergency Response and Firefighter Pre-service, Education and Training programs part-time at the college in 1997. In August 2005, she started full-time in the School of Justice & Emergency Services, where she continues to teach.

Along with teaching, Murray is currently aiding in initiating a partnership with the Durham Regional Police. The affiliation would enable students to use the Computer Aided Dispatch software, allowing them to gain hands-on experience that they may potentially use after graduation.

It has been a long and winding road for Murray, with each career leading her into the next, but it seems that she has finally found her true calling in teaching. She feels students need to understand that school is meant to provide them with knowledge for the real world and that it is OK to struggle along the way.

“Some students don’t realize teachers do their best job to prepare you for the work force. Sometimes that means allowing you to trip and fall. [You] need to get used to not everything being given to you,” says Murray. “Having to work and make those mistakes, then realizing you made those mistakes and learning from them, is all a part of preparing you for the workplace. They aren’t being mean or unfair; they’re just allowing students to grow.”

DJ's *Smart Party* Never Ends

BY **SHERIKA WALKER**
PHOTO COURTESY OF JON DANIELS

The most common route to success is to complete years of schooling for a diploma or a degree. Jon Daniels, a former Multimedia Design student at Durham College, took a more direct path to success.

Near the end of his final year, Daniels withdrew from his program after finding success outside of school. With the skills he had learned at Durham College, he attracted multiple job offers, leading him to leave the desk behind and focus on his blooming career. His success was based on the connections he made while still in the classroom.

"I started networking in school and started getting jobs for what I was doing in school," says Daniels. "So, whatever I was learning in class, I was applying it that night to another job. Other students were like, 'How the heck are you getting this?' You have to start networking with what you want. So whatever you're going to school for, get in the field. Go talk to someone; go out there and ask, 'How can I help you?' Help out before you try to get money or anything."

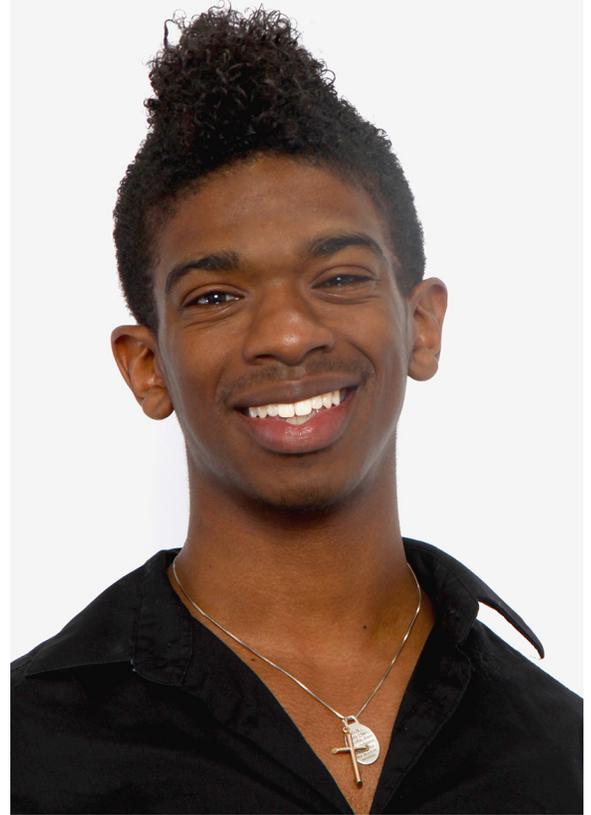
Daniels began working and managing for CPI, a photography company in Pickering, Ont., and that's what he continues to do, along with DJing in downtown Toronto during the weekend. Daniels currently works for Ink Entertainment and is affiliated with a few nightclubs, such as The Peacock and Guilt. And Daniels' hard work doesn't stop there. Along with his best friend, Dylan Ottley, he owns a record label called Smart Party (stylized as SMVRT PVRTY).

"He and I had been making music for a while. One day we were like, 'Hey, we need a team, something solid.' And we came

"I started networking in school and started getting jobs for what I was doing in school. So whatever I was learning in class, I was applying it that night to another job."

up with this name — he came up with the name," says Daniels. "I just bought out the name because we had this gig and I said, 'Oh, why not put this under Smart Party?' They sent us a cheque under Smart Party, and we couldn't cash it. So I had to create an entire business around the name."

Smart Party currently consists of a lineup of six to seven members, ranging from music producers to dancers. Members include Chris Rose, a classically trained music producer and rapper; Ottley, Smart Party co-owner, rapper, producer, dancer, and former DJ; and Daniels himself, DJ, music producer and



Jon Daniels is a jack of all trades. He is a small record label owner, DJ and photographer. Daniels found success in the multimedia industry with the skills he learned at Durham College prior to graduation and recommends networking to future grads hoping to launch their careers.

manager. He also takes on the task of booking out current members for gigs.

On top of his busy schedule, Daniels runs a web show on Soundcloud, an online service that allows users to share original audio content with the world, called Peacock Pvrty. The show has a small online following of approximately 300 people and is designed to inspire the average listener to create something for the show — whether it is story writing, free-writing or another source of art — based on how they feel during the mix. Although his web show has a small following, Daniels is hoping for something big.

"I want to fill up with more art, so I can help you to help me, to help the rest of the world with what I'm trying to do," says Daniels. "Smart Party is trying to help individual artists get further in their art and meet more people, to do more things, to get where they want to be. Colour the world and live life." 🎧

Shimmy, Shake & Study



Durham College student, Alysha Patterson, used belly dancing to help her enroll in the Protection Security and Investigation full-time program this past fall. She is a student by day and a dancer by night.

BY LIANNE STERLING

PHOTO CREDIT LIANNE STERLING

Imagine if you had to juggle schoolwork and your hips at the same time. An odd combination one might say, but for 21-year-old Alysha Patterson this scenario became her lifestyle. She knew no other way than to use her natural talent for dancing to help her shimmy her way to the top. You could even say that her hips were her future, and they definitely did not lie. Still, who would have thought that bright lights, make-up and costumes were going to be key components of that future?

Ever since Patterson was a young girl she has been a fan of dance. When she was nine, her mother enrolled her in ballet classes. Seven years later, she joined a dance company called Diva Diverse where she transitioned into belly dancing. She showcased her newfound talent so well that she was promoted to head dancer. Similarly, not only was she focused on being a full-time dancer but she was also determined to put herself through college.

Thus, on Sept. 2, 2014, Patterson enrolled at Durham College. For no other reason than having a mild interest and to secure a paying job, she joined the Protection Security and Investigation full-time program. Independent and persistent, she is now using her passion for dance to advance her career.

“I could not afford school, so I danced a lot. I wanted to save enough money to pay my tuition all on my own,” says Patterson. “Now I dance almost every single evening. I am a student by day and a dancer by night. I have to find a balance to be the person I want to become.”

Balancing the two can be very challenging. Patterson’s days are busy and she never has any free time. Her weekly routine consists of early morning classes and evening shows. Most nights she does not arrive home until midnight. Similarly, her weekend performances last the whole day as well. Patterson’s busy schedule affects her studies tremendously. For her, life never seems to skip a beat.

“I believe in working really hard. My mother is my role model and she never used OSAP [Ontario Student Assistance Program]. I don’t believe in easy money,” says Patterson. “My mother managed to handle financial struggles for all my life. She is the reason why I believe in working hard. I do not believe in anything being handed to you.”

Patterson’s dream is to work as a dancer for singer Beyoncé. She has a positive outlook on life and nothing can change that. In the end, Patterson feels like nothing will stop her from reaching her goal. Ultimately, dancing is her main focus but she is smart enough to have a secondary plan – and smart only begins to describe Patterson. Just ask her younger sister, who’s among those to have been inspired by her drive and ambition.

“I really look up to my older sister,” says Keyanna Patterson, a first-year Law Clerk student at Durham College. “I love the fact that she works so hard and, honestly, I know that I would not be able to do what she does. I don’t know anyone else who is as strong-minded as she is.”

Call for Nominations 2015 Alumni of Distinction

The Alumni of Distinction Award honours the extraordinary contributions Durham College graduates make to society while achieving career success.

If you know a Durham College graduate who deserves special recognition, please consider nominating her or him for this award.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 13. Awards will be presented at spring convocation in June.

Please submit a resume and a completed nomination form, available at:

<http://www.durhamcollege.ca/info-for/alumni/alumni-awards>

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No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in their province or territory of residence as of the contest start date. Approximate value of each prize is \$1,000 Canadian. Chances of winning depend on the number of valid entries received by the contest deadline. Contest closes Thursday, November 27, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Only one entry per person accepted. Skill testing question required.

Designing Success

BY HEATHER BULMAN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETH CHAPLEAU

There are a lot of rungs on the ladder to success. At Durham College (DC), Beth Chapleau climbed many of these while designing her career. However, this 29-year-old's professional journey did not start at DC. She started following her creative passions by completing the Interior Design program at the International Academy of Design and Technology. After graduation, she struggled to find a job where she felt fulfilled. Chapleau worked as a kitchen designer at Home Depot for two years before deciding to return to college.

In 2008, Chapleau enrolled in the Graphic Design program at DC. There, she was able to gain industry experience and knowledge through a number of opportunities. In the second year of her program, she secured a part-time position at the college's Communications and Marketing department through the school's DC Works program, which allows students who show financial need to apply for paid positions within the school. Already a student and a part-time employee, Chapleau took on the role of an intern when she chose to complete the second portion of her program's required field placement in the department.

Once Chapleau received her diploma, she relocated and began working for The Office of Gilbert Li, a graphic design studio in Toronto. It was only three months later when she packed up her things and moved back into her parents' basement after she was presented with the opportunity to return to DC's Communication and Marketing department full-time as a web and print designer.

"Beth is an extremely innovative and creative designer," says Carol Beam, Executive Director, Communications and Marketing. "Her strength in bringing brand continuity from print to online has been a great asset to the college. Beth is always looking for new approaches and unique ways of presenting college information in an engaging manner."

The transition from student to full-time employee was relatively seamless due to Chapleau's previous experience in the department. In no time, she was leading successful enrollment initiatives such as the What Matters To You campaign. This project won multiple awards, adding to Chapleau's extensive list of achievements. Of these achievements, the young designer is most proud of her RGD Award of Excellence, a student award from the Association of Registered Graphic Designers.

Currently, Chapleau is working on Experience DC, a campaign that allows a group of students to share their college experience through social media. The design aspect of this campaign has been a collaborative effort between Chapleau and Steven Perry, another graphic designer in the department. Experience DC is the largest communications and marketing campaign the college has ever taken on and Chapleau is proud



Graphic Design grad, Beth Chapleau, cuddles with her bulldog, Hayden, in the backyard of their Oshawa home. Chapleau enjoys using her passion for design to transform the property, via DIY renovations, to reflect her mid-century modern tastes. Chapleau's design experience ranges from designing the interior of a cafe (left), to the products it may carry (right).



to be a part of it.

"The whole social media aspect, turning it over to our students, has been a big change for us," says Chapleau. "It's a big unknown, which is kind of scary but exciting at the same time. It's been fun to see how it's evolved and how it will continue to live on its own."

Outside of DC, you are likely to find Chapleau curled up with a tea and her snoring bulldog, Hayden, in the third-floor loft of her newly purchased home. She has spent much of the past 2½ years renovating and implementing her mid-century modern design tastes.

In order to flex her design muscle outside of the college's brand, Chapleau completes occasional freelance projects and has considered doing some volunteer design work. Even though she may be seeing a lot of green, DC's official colour, Chapleau is happy in her current position and plans on staying at the department long-term.

"I don't feel that different from when I was a student to now," says Chapleau. "Being a work study student, you're immersed in [the job] already – it was already part of my experience. It was nice that I didn't have to leave. The whole college family is a good place to be." ☞

Ellen Pierre-Louis provides a fluoride treatment to a young Haitian child. Most communities in Haiti currently have no dental care available for their residents.



Making a world of difference

BY KAYLEY CHEUNG

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN PIERRE-LOUIS

The remote mountainous region of Maplat, Haiti suffers from extreme poverty – the community has no water, no access to healthcare, and no stable education system. Although young people there aspire to earn scholarships and get themselves out of the country as soon as possible, Durham College Graphic Design graduate Ellen Pierre-Louis is doing everything she can to instill a passion for Haiti among Maplat's youth.

Pierre-Louis, a Bobcaygeon, Ont., native, earned her advanced diploma from Durham in 2007. She then moved back home and started her own graphic design business, which she maintained for about six months. In 2008, she took her first trip to Haiti and performed basic clinic work such as medical care and dental hygiene. During that trip, what she originally thought would be a one-time experience turned into much more.

"I fell in love with the community, with the people, with the country, with absolutely everything," she says. "I knew I wanted to be a part of it somehow."

Pierre-Louis remembers one of her most touching experiences from that trip, when she encountered a man wearing torn-up shoes, in such a state that most Canadians would consider them unwearable. It just so happened that the team of volunteers she was travelling with had brought down an extra pair of sneakers, so she decided to take a chance and see if they would fit the man. To everyone's delight, the shoes fit perfectly, and the man was overjoyed.

"It was the smallest thing that anybody could ever do for somebody," Pierre-Louis recalls. "But to see the joy on his face, he was so excited and so happy and so thankful; he was hugging us – it was a really great moment and I'll never forget that."

“I fell in love with the community, with the people, with the country, with absolutely everything. I knew I wanted to be a part of it somehow.”

After her first trip to Haiti, Pierre-Louis's family moved to New Brunswick. She decided to follow them and tried to start up her graphic design business again, but she found the work was too scarce for her

to continue, so she reached out to a woman she had met during her first volunteer mission and opted to return to Haiti for an eight-week stint.



Pierre-Louis places a pair of donated eyeglasses on a teary Haitian man. He had suffered from poor vision for a long time and did not have access to eye care in the past.

It was during that period that Pierre-Louis met her now-husband, Nego, a Haitian citizen. The couple was married in Haiti by a Canadian minister in 2009, and Ellen moved to Haiti for two and a half years. Together, she and her husband now aim to train, equip, and mobilize Haitian youth and give them opportunities to make a difference in their community instead of trying to escape it. They purchased a plot of land from a local minister and have started building a new community centre for Maplat, which Ellen says will bring full-time health care and emergency relief, among other services, to the region.

Because the scope of their humanitarian work has expanded, Ellen and Nego have moved to Canada full-time and continue to run the organization from home, while a remote staff team carries out operations in Haiti such as completing the construction of the community centre. They finished building a security wall around the property in the summer of 2014, but acquiring the sponsorship and volunteers necessary to finish the community centre has proven to be a challenge. Pierre-Louis hopes once the centre is built, it will help bring permanent change for the residents of Maplat.

“The people there, even though they have nothing, are so joyful,” she says. “If they receive something, they’re so thankful for it, and it’s really an incredible thing to experience.”

More on Maplat...

- Education in Maplat does not extend beyond Grade 6.
- Children often have to miss classes because they do not have shoes to wear and cannot walk to school.
- Rough road conditions make this mountainous community very difficult to access.
- Aside from building the community centre, the Maplat project also helps provide medicine to needy groups in the region, such as prisoners and the elderly.

*For more information
visit www.maplat.org*



The security wall for the Maplat community centre was completed in summer 2014. Pierre-Louis says obtaining funding is the greatest obstacle standing in the way of the centre’s completion.

An International Experience

BY COURTNEY POPE

PHOTO CREDIT COURTNEY POPE

Her face is everywhere – on campus, trains, planes and even automobiles throughout the community. OK, maybe not planes. As a member of Team Experience, Adriana Reyes has an important role, which is to share her journey at Durham College (DC).

The 21-year-old international student from Lima, Peru seized the opportunity in December 2012 to live with extended family and attend college in Canada. Reyes admits that it was scary not only because she was new to the school, but she was new to the country too.

The warm welcome she felt during Orientation Week made it less intimidating for her to get involved. Since her first day at the college, Reyes has been engaged in as many extracurricular activities as possible. Her extensive volunteering within the community with organizations like Durham Life Beat and Ontario Power Generation has solidified her as a perfect fit for Team Experience, a new campaign through DC's Communications and Marketing department.

"I joined Team Experience to share my experience as an international student and to share what I have learned," says Reyes. "My favourite part is that I am meeting people from everywhere and all different programs. I feel like Team Experience is the connection that is going to join the gap between the institution and the students."

As a second-year student in the Business Administration Marketing program, Reyes was drawn to Team Experience, a diverse group of students who share their unique and personal college experience through various social media platforms and blog posts on the school's microsite. The purpose is to provide real-time accounts of life at DC from the perspective of these students, so the school community can identify themselves with one of the team members.

“Her desire to learn from everything she does and everyone she meets, coupled with her willingness to take risks by experiencing the unknown, make her an excellent example of how a student can maximize their experience at DC.”



Adriana Reyes takes a photo of two Durham College students on her iPad, which she uses to post photos, blogs, and updates to a variety of social media platforms to share her experience.

Being a part of Team Experience has allowed Reyes to develop her creativity, learn new marketing tactics and network with students in a variety of programs, which will benefit her professional career after graduating from DC.

"Adriana has shown enthusiasm to be a part of the DC and Canadian experience since she started here last year. Her eagerness to participate and contribute to life at school has led her to volunteer to be part of the Business Administration Marketing student club as well as become a part of Team Experience," says Ingrid Brand, one of Reyes' professors. "Her

desire to learn from everything she does and everyone she meets, coupled with her willingness to take risks by experiencing the unknown, make her an excellent example of how a student can maximize their experience at DC."

Reyes' transition as an international student has been less challenging because of her determination to become active on cam-

pus, which is something she encourages other students to do. She often meets with international students at DC to inform them about what events are on campus, as well as any particular opportunities that may interest them.

"My advice for a new international student coming to this school is that you should feel free to ask questions, be prepared to succeed and try to get involved in the school," says Reyes. "You will find all the support you are going to need from faculty and students at the school." 

To read more on Reyes' experience at Durham College, you can follow her on Twitter (@dcadrianax) or like her Facebook page ("Adriana – Team Experience"). You can also visit (www.experience.durhamcollege.ca) to read her weekly blog posts.

Care and Patients

BY CODI VILANDER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAMILTON HEALTH SCIENCES

A stopped heart, a torrential bleed, unforgiving burns, the human body pushed far past its breaking point, this is what Greg Cuicani, a Registered Nurse (RN) at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS), experiences on a daily basis.

Cuicani graduated from Durham College's three-year Nursing program in 1990 and hit the ground running, driving and, for a while, even flying. Almost immediately after graduating, he was hired to work at Hamilton General Hospital, currently Hamilton Health Sciences, in the burn unit. Today, he is an invaluable part of the hospital's team in the cardiovascular intensive care unit with nearly 25 years of experience. His years at Durham College launched him into the workplace fresh out of school with the right tools for the job.

After growing up with a grandmother suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and seeing how the home care professionals and his family were able to help, Cuicani decided he would pursue a career in nursing and try to do the same. The program offered at Durham provided the perfect opportunity to get the hands-on experience and education to break into the field and feel with both confidence and competence.

"I actually felt very comfortable with it. What I really found interesting about it was the hands-on aspect of the program," says Cuicani. "A lot of programs only did a little of the hands-on but our program was class Mondays, then Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday was the hospital for hands-on work, then Friday class again."

It was this kind of experience landed him a job almost right out of school and also allowed him to work in ground transport for the hospital for five years, and then to do air transport out of Pearson International Airport for six years.

Since Cuicani's graduation, nursing programs have changed a little in regards to becoming an RN in Ontario, because since 2005 a university degree is now required. Students can be adaptable and complete bridge programs, going to colleges and universities such as Durham College and UOIT, or complete a bachelor's in nursing through four years in university.

In regards to being adaptable even beyond the classroom, Cuicani says, "It's not like a trade where you go to school for that one thing. You can work with babies, you can work with kids, you can work with the heart, or with people with cancer. It's unlimited, varied."

“It's not like a trade where you go to school for that one thing. You can work with babies, you can work with kids, you can work with the heart, or with people with cancer. It's unlimited, varied.”

Working as a nurse in critical care has its share of sadness and rewards. Some cases have a happy ending with people's bodies being made whole again by a fantastic staff of nurses and doctors. Other times there is just nothing that can be done.

"There are tragic parts of the job, but there are parts of the job that you're happy about, that you feel good about at the end of the day. You see a lot of bad stuff, but you see a lot of good too. It's nice seeing the bad stuff get good though, seeing the families happy," says Cuicani.

Like most medical professionals, Cuicani never has a dull day by office-job standards. Some of his days start quietly with sleeping patients, and some days begin a little more harrowingly with someone nearly being killed by a train.

"This morning, I was coming into work and there was a cop car in the middle of the street, and the hospital is adjacent to the train tracks, and somebody had decided to lay down on the tracks, he survived!" Cuicani says, "It's a tragedy that something like that happens, but we're here to fix it." 🚑



Greg Cuicani (left), an employee at Hamilton Health Sciences (below, left) in their cardiovascular critical care unit, still employs the skills he learned at Durham College 25 years later.



'Spark'ing a Passion for Innovation

BY DUSTIN KACABA

Who do you want to be for the rest of your life? This is a question everyone faces at some point, often before they have a chance to determine who they are. This is the same question Amanda Reynolds was trying to answer when she enrolled at Durham College in the Entertainment Administration program in 2001.

A resident of Durham Region, Reynolds grew up in Whitby, Ont., with a love for baseball, tennis, and music. Any genre, any artist, it didn't matter to her. She had a passion for music that helped to guide her studies, and her career choices.

After graduating from Durham College in 2003 she received the opportunity to work in the Canadian entertainment industry in Toronto, at Universal Music Canada until 2008 and with Outside Music until 2012. Shortly thereafter she transferred into the publishing industry and worked on marketing and publicity for authors at McGraw-Hill Ryerson in Whitby, Ont. Like many of us, Reynolds admits that she didn't have a firm grasp on any 50-year plan to complete after high school.

"At that time I really didn't know what I wanted to do or where I wanted to be," says Reynolds. "I think the Entertainment Administration program was really helpful because it was so broad. It was public relations, it was marketing, it was event management, and it was accounting. So that was really beneficial to get each aspect of the sort of field I wanted to be in. It has been quite a long path to



Spark Centre operates out of Core 21 in downtown Oshawa. The co-working space offers a creative work environment for the staff and entrepreneur associates to share ideas. (KACABA)

where I am today. I really enjoyed going to Durham College." Now the public relations and media manager at Spark Centre, a non-profit organization based in Oshawa, dedicated to aiding entrepreneurs and start-ups working in the technology and innovation sector, Reynolds couldn't be happier with her path. She is the only one at Spark Centre focusing on public relations. Therefore, she must work to find new ways to promote the entrepreneurs and the organization. Thus, she strives to innovate her craft, rather than just show up for a job.

"A keynote speaker at a conference I recently went to said, 'It's not about thinking outside the box; it's realizing that the box doesn't exist,' and I think that was a really nice quote that represented entrepreneurs really well. Because it's true they don't see any box at all. They just see the world as a free pathway to wherever they want to go," says Reynolds.

“It's not about thinking outside the box; it's realizing that the box doesn't exist.”

As for her own future, Reynolds doesn't have big plans to move on. Rather, she is enjoying her role at Spark Centre, where she recently worked on the Ignite competition, an entrepreneurial showdown for inventors and innovators to win \$25,000 towards their start-up.

"I would like to see where Spark Centre goes. I'm really happy with my role here," says Reynolds. "We're expanding our locations and our client list. We have new programs and new events and, I'm really excited to see where they go. Ideally I would like to stick with Spark Centre, and in five years hopefully have employees as the manager of public relations and maybe even be able to hire some Durham College graduates." 📍

Amanda Reynolds, the public relations and media manager is responsible for finding innovative ways to promote Spark Centre and to empower technological entrepreneurs. (SPARK CENTRE)



For Petes' Sake

BY JORDAN PEGUTTER

PHOTO CREDIT JORDAN PEGUTTER

Did you know the Peterborough Petes have sent more players to the National Hockey League than any other junior hockey program in the world? The city loves its team, and the Maroon and White are an integral part of the fabric of the community. No one knows this better than Durham College (DC) graduate Matt D'Agostini, who hopes to continue to build a strong relationship between the team and its fans.

D'Agostini graduated from the Sports Management program at DC in 2013. He soon became the first full-time community events co-ordinator for the Petes, and believes it is his goal to have every Peterborough citizen engaged and excited about the team. His passion for the sport and the organization is clear whenever he talks about it. As such, D'Agostini views the club not only as a sports franchise itself, but also an integral part of the community.

In fact, community outreach is a massive aspect of his job with the team, and the public perception is largely influenced by his effectiveness. In the past his position was a minor one, but in just over a year D'Agostini has worked to transform that. His part in developing community relations is incredibly gratifying, especially when the Memorial Centre is packed. Although community relations have been vastly improved under his leadership there is still room for improvement.

"People out in the community tell me that our community relations have certainly increased, our awareness has increased in a positive way, and it is self-rewarding to hear that because that is my primary job," says D'Agostini. "In addition to that we do our very best to support charities. Whether it is a mascot visit, or a player visit we do our very best to accommodate everybody, and at the same time we try to make our product as reasonably priced as possible."

However, D'Agostini does not want to stop there. He believes a community relations volunteer team is in order. Sometimes on a weekend several event requests are made, and he wishes to accommodate as many people as



Matt D'Agostini, the first ever community events coordinator for the Peterborough Petes is the face of the organization out in the community.



D'Agostini describes his game-day role as a utility infielder as he takes on multiple tasks including working in the team store.

possible. Quite often on weekends he has had to personally attend three to four events prior to puck drop. A team of volunteers would ensure more event requests could be accommodated and thus help build more positive relationships with the community.

D'Agostini uniquely describes his role in baseball terms as being a utility infielder. This means he needs to constantly juggle many different roles. For instance, on game nights he will help out in the team store. He maintains an all-hands-on-deck mentality, and believes that any way he can assist is a benefit to the team.

"My brother played goal here for a few years, and I got to know these people really well, and they are true hockey fans," says D'Agostini. "They are also truly lovely people, and if I can do anything to make their experience at a Petes game more enjoyable then I will do anything."

Andrew D'Agostini made the name a household one as he tended goal for the franchise from 2009 to 2014. However, D'Agostini believes his ongoing work off the ice is helping carry the family torch in the community, and upholding the solid reputation his brother established. The passion he brings to the club is tremendous, and will aid in the team's vitality.

"Without the Peterborough Petes this town would simply not be the same," says D'Agostini. "On Thursday nights the city lights up in anticipation of an upcoming home game, and you can feel it in your blood and bones. And honestly, for me that is really self-rewarding." 

Drawing On Experience



Johnston reminisces on a few old sketches while enjoying a hot cup of coffee and a perfect fall day, a great combination for the young artist.

BY MADISON HUTCHCROFT
PHOTO CREDIT MADISON HUTCHCROFT

Graphic Design student by day, concertgoer by night, and freelancer by morning, Durham College pupil Cass Johnston is just getting started. Entering her third and final year of the Graphic Design program, she already has experience working at the Abilities Centre, the first all-accessible workout complex and community centre located in Whitby, Ont., and has mastered the art of self-promotion, all before receiving her diploma.

Parachuting right from high school to Durham College's Graphic Design program in 2012, Johnston blossomed more than she had ever expected. After just the first year, she landed a dream job of working at the Abilities Centre as a graphic design intern. Nervously entering her first design position, she feared being too young. Being only 18 at the time, and the first-ever student to work at the Abilities Centre, Johnston realized that it was her moment to shine.

"I was really nervous," Johnston says. "I had no idea what to expect, however it was really well maintained, even 'hipster modern,' if you will. Everyone was about 20-30 years old. Totally unexpected, but a young crowd, and I loved it!"

After being contracted out of the Abilities Centre that summer, she returned to Durham College to finish her last two years of school. Stressing about midterms and assignment deadlines was something that began to consume her schedule. Fast forward an entire year, and Johnston is now faced with even more stress as her schooling draws to a close.

The Graphic Design program is unique. It gives students individual freedom to do work that benefits their portfolio. Instead of the typical rules and guidelines to assignments,

creative expression allows students to really decide their own career path.

"I really wanted to go to the Ontario College of Art & Design for art, specifically drawing. I've always kind of been that person that just draws everything and anything, and I really thought that's what I wanted to do with my life," Johnston says. "However, I realize that in today's economy, being an artist doesn't make you a lot of money. So, during high school, I started to do more art projects on the computer, and I came to love it just as much."

“At Durham, I have the freedom to express myself and learn from everyone around me. It's amazing and I recommend this program for anyone looking to get thrown into the art world.”

With the end of classes on the horizon, all new adventures await Johnston: the start of an internship, the talk of finally moving to Toronto, and the excitement of continuing her freelance design career. In the little spare time Johnston has, she makes local band posters and has even sold a few to venues located in Toronto and Brampton. Being a huge music junkie goes hand in hand with her love for promoting great talent, and she is always excited to meet new artists, or in other words, "potential clients."

Amidst her demanding class schedule and constant list of assignments, Johnston is counting down the days until she says goodbye to Durham College. Graphic design was always just a hobby, but thanks to Durham, it has become her life. She is not only prepared for her future but has an impressive list of contacts to boot. One could even say that the artist's future seems picture perfect. 📷



Recent sketches designed by Johnston, Graphic Design student at Durham College, which can all be found on her instagram: @cassjohnston.

Professor Bares Her Teeth to Change Laws

BY MEGHAN THOMPSON
PHOTO CREDIT MEGHAN THOMPSON

The dental hygiene field isn't always all smiles, as Durham College Dental Hygiene instructor Terri Strawn knows. Recently elected president of the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA), Strawn is not only combatting the likes of gingivitis, but also regulations that are inhibiting the full potential of Ontario's dental hygienists.

For instance, some laws in Ontario strictly prohibited dental hygienists and other health care providers from treating a patient who's related to them. The penalties for disobeying this law were heavy, ranging from revoked licences to permanent records of sexual assault. In part through the advocacy of the ODHA, this law has only just been revised. Health care providers in Ontario are now permitted by the government to treat their spouse with their consent. But the work doesn't stop there.

"Our main goal is to get dental hygienists to be able to prescribe radiographs or x-rays, but also that they can be what's called a radiation protection officer," says Strawn. "That means we can actually operate the x-ray equipment that's within our office. Right now, dental hygienists need a dentist to use that equipment. We can own it, we just can't use it."

The ODHA represents over 13,000 registered dental hygienists in Ontario with over 6,000 members. It works towards informing the public about the important role dental hygienists play in oral care as well as overall health and well-being. The association also seeks to advance the profession within Ontario, elevating it to new heights of responsibility beyond hygienists' perceived role as "teeth cleaners."

"Dental hygienists have all been taught not only when an x-ray is needed but also how many to take, how to read them, how to diagnose certain things from them and make treatment plans from that. So we have the background education," says Strawn. "We want people to recognize what we actually do, so that people understand that oral health is related to overall health."

Strawn was elected to her first major position in 2010 by 10 of her fellow members of the ODHA board after being involved for six years. They promoted her to one of only four



Terri Strawn in Durham's on campus fully-functioning student practice clinic.

spots on the executive committee. The following year she achieved an even higher position when she was chosen as first vice president which quickly led to president-elect. Once this position was achieved, Strawn was automatically made president and CEO of the ODHA the following year.

"I kind of just moved up though the ranks," says Strawn. "My job is to be at those press conferences, and attend any of the meetings with the health minister if we're lobbying and advocating for dental hygienists," says Strawn.

“We want people to recognize what we actually do, so that people understand that oral health is related to overall health.”

As far as her role at Durham, Strawn has always had a passion for both dental hygiene and for teaching. Working in dental offices since the age of 14 as a dental assistant, she quickly acquired first-hand experience before completing co-op programs at dental offices and attending both Algonquin and Durham College. After graduating in 2004, Strawn's passion for teaching beckoned and she began applying to local colleges to instruct dental hygiene students. Being a Durham College alumni, Strawn is pleased with the progress the college's dental programs have made.

"They have the newer clinics and the dental assisting programs and the office administrative program. It's not just a dental hygiene program; there are a lot of areas of dental study where we can work inter-professionally," says Strawn. 

For more information about becoming involved with the ODHA, please visit odha.on.ca or call 1-800-315-6342.

Genie Grants One Final Wish

BY MATISSE HAMEL-NELIS

PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER BOYCO AND AMBER VAN WORT

“I believe in destiny. There must be a reason that I am as I am. There must be.”

This is how Robin Williams described his role in bringing laughter and joy to millions around the world. It is only fitting that recent Durham College (DC) graduate Tyler Boyco felt the same way about his own path when he created a minimalist-style tribute to the late actor. The image, which took over the Internet and made Boyco an overnight sensation, wasn't his first foray into the limelight however.

While growing up in Keswick, Ont., sports and movies helped break up the mundane rural life that Boyco lived. His parents, avid movie lovers, shared their passion of motion pictures with their son, which led to his admiration for Williams.

“I grew up with him [Williams],” says Boyco. “He was able to make me feel love, happiness, sadness and every other emotion possible within a single role. That's what made me love comedy at a young age. Not only that, I appreciated Robin's creativity and that made me want to create my own stuff. The



Since graduation, Tyler Boyco has found success with his various ventures in film and graphic design. Recently receiving attention for his tribute to the late Robin Williams, he is currently working on the third installment of “Sassquatch,” which will be a full-length feature musical endeavour that focuses on his tutu-wearing lead (VAN WORT).

characters that I grew up with, those were the ones I wanted to pay tribute to – Peter Pan, Mrs. Doubtfire, all of them.”

During his time at DC, Boyco earned a reputation among School of Media, Art & Design students as the brilliant creator behind the chase-sequence short entitled *Sassquatch*. The premise for the short revolves around a grown man wearing a pink tutu and hunting random people throughout the woods in an attempt to capture them for a trance dance party. Boyco not only starred as the sassy protagonist named *Sassquatch*; he wrote, directed and edited the short too. With the entire campus abuzz about this film, it was only a matter of time

“He was able to make me feel love, happiness, sadness and every other emotion possible within a single role. That's what made me love comedy at a young age. Not only that, I appreciated Robin's creativity and that made me want to create my own stuff.”

before it won its first award. During the Reel Film Festival in Oshawa, Ont., in March of 2013, the short took home the award for Best Video, something that Boyco still cannot wrap his head around.

The comic timing and dark humour of Boyco's work certainly plays parallel to the early works of his idol. When he heard of the tragic death of his most revered actor, Boyco found himself sitting in front of the television, watching *Golden Girls* and experimenting with Adobe Photoshop. His first attempt was the now iconic memorial showcasing 15 of the actor's most memorable roles. Although he merely posted the image on social media platform Reddit for feedback on his technique, those who know Boyco well weren't surprised by the international response it received.

“Tyler's Robin Williams tribute wasn't born out of desire to be famous or make money, but out of recognition of Robin's contributions to the world,” says Kevin Fraser, Boyco's former professor. “His piece resonated with people not only because it was timely and beautiful but because it was an honest, heartfelt creation – something that perfectly encapsulated Williams' genius. The world should expect more work of the same calibre from Tyler in the future. Then we can say ‘We knew him when...’”



Boyco received worldwide accolades for his minimalist tribute to Robin Williams following a retweet by Rosie O'Donnell (BOYCO).

“The world should expect more work of the same calibre from Tyler in the future. Then we can say ‘We knew him when...’”



Boyco has made a name for himself around the college's School of Media, Art & Design as the creator of "Sassquatch," a short film based around a chase sequence where a man named Sassquatch terrorizes people in the forest while wearing a pink tutu and dancing to electronic music (BOYCO).

'Coffey,' News Releases & Rock n' Roll



*Strut Entertainment
Junior Publicist
Chantel Coffey looks
at life through a
different lens.*

BY: **TORI KOZLOWSKI**

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPH SERVINIS

You know the saying “you got to keep your eyes on the prize”? Well, that is what Chantel Coffey is doing.

Born in Oshawa, Ont., and raised in Brooklin Ont., Coffey had only fantasized of the day she could work in the music industry. But now, as a Public Relations graduate from Durham College, she is doing just that.

Throughout school, Coffey dedicated every assignment to music so that it would be relevant for her portfolio. She even applied for a co-op in Los Angeles at a record label, and got the position. However, it was not to be as she was heart broken by not being able to get a work visa.

“I got the placement in Los Angeles and then it took about a month and a half to find out my visa didn’t get

approved,” she explains. “So I didn’t have a placement and I was freaking out. Part of me was really sad because I wasn’t going to California, and my heart was set on it, as I was super stoked for it. But it didn’t work out and I always say everything happens for a reason.”

In her case, that reason turned out to be Strut Entertainment, where Coffey is now on contract as a junior publicist. She eventually found her co-op at Strut and then was hired on after her 14-week internship. Coffey loves not being an intern any longer and is excited to move on to bigger and better things. Ten years from now she says she will be working as a PR publicist for a musician, no doubt about it.

“I have always said that I want to be some famous person’s sidekick. That’s been my line since I was two,” Coffey says “I want to be some famous person’s sidekick. I want the red carpets, and

the movie awards, but I don’t want to be the person in the limelight. Ideally, I would love, love, love to be a famous person’s publicist. I definitely want to stay in music. I would love to be on tour one day, so a tour publicist job would be ideal for me. Honestly, anything that is in the field of music and entertainment will be good for me.”

Similarly, she knows what is good for current PR students looking for co-ops and advises them to start volunteering, and researching where they want to do their placements. “I knew early,” she says. “I interviewed for my January placement in August at Music Canada. I got my placement through a publicist I interviewed in my first month of school. Everything is in the connections you make.”

“As long as you go to class you’ll get a good grade,” Coffey adds. “Go to class, do your work, and you’ll be fine.”

alumni UPDATE

1990

SHARON CAMERON

Legal Administration

lives in Calgary and works for Bow Valley College as an educational assistant.

MARK HILLIER

Sports Administration

lives in Torbay, Newfoundland and is currently head scout for the Winnipeg Jets.

1998

SARAH BARTLETT (NEE EMBLEM)

Interior Design

lives in Cobble Hill, BC with her husband Ian and their two daughters, two-year-old Juliana and four-year-old Jessica. Sarah is the project manager for Kinetic Construction in Victoria BC.

STEFANIE DURAND (NEE BLACK)

Public Relations

lives in Ajax, with her husband Brian and nine-year-old daughter, Easton and six-year-old son, Madden. She currently works for Rogers Media as a project manager, Integrated Sales.

BARRY FORTH

Sports Administration

lives in Dundas, with his wife Terri-Lynn. He is the senior manager - golf consulting for Wasserman Media Group.

2005

VICTORIA JONES, (NEE DIDIANO)

Legal Administration

lives in Ajax and works for CGI as a contracts specialist.

2009

CARLA DI FELICE

Music Business Management

lives in Courtice and works for Universal Music Canada as a National Promotions coordinator/assistant to the VP of National Promotions.

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*Average based on the home and auto premiums for active policies on July 31, 2014 of all of our clients who belong to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile.

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