

A photograph of Phil Pritchard, a man with blonde hair, wearing a light purple button-down shirt and white gloves, leaning over a large silver Stanley Cup trophy. The trophy is on a black tray. In the background, there are shelves with various items, including a sign that says 'SURVEYORS' and another that says 'ORS CO.'. The lighting is warm and indoor.

PHIL PRITCHARD

STUDENT, ALUMNUS AND NOW
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

WINTER 2017 | VOLUME 90

Reflections

Durham College Alumni Magazine



**DURHAM
COLLEGE**
SUCCESS MATTERS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Start something amazing as we celebrate Durham College's 50th Anniversary



As you may know, Durham College (DC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017. During this year of festivities, we are remembering the past five decades, while also looking to the future, acknowledging the incredible growth and development of our alma mater.

In the spirit of the 'Start of Something Amazing,' the official theme of DC's 50th, I would like to encourage my fellow alumni to continue your relationship with the college or make 2017 the year you re-engage with us.

We kicked off DC's 50th anniversary celebrations in style during Alumni Night at the sold-out Oshawa Generals game in early January and had a successful Backpack to Briefcase (b2B) campaign. b2B was a new initiative and was well received.

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs has been hard at work and as you read through this issue of Reflections, you will realize that our grads have been too. You will find many alumni success and achievement stories. As well, this issue looks back at some of the college's history from old buildings to the people who filled them with learning and laughter. There is even a time capsule looking at pop culture then and now.

The year ahead looks great for the college, with a new athletics centre (the Campus Fieldhouse), which opened in November and with construction starting on the Centre for Collaborative Education. If you haven't been very involved with DC since embarking on your careers, please consider reconnecting this year and join us as we celebrate the start of something amazing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Vale". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris Vale, Class of 2003
President, DC Alumni Association

REFLECTIONS

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 ALUMNI UPDATE
- 5 WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR DC'S 50TH
- 6 ALUMNI SUPERSTARS
- 8 DURHAM COLLEGE TIME CAPSULE
- 9 POLONSKY COMMONS
- 10 PRESIDENTS THROUGH THE YEARS
- 12 BRING THE PAST TO LIFE
- 13 CULTIVATING CURIOSITY
- 14 LORI CONNOR: A CAREER CONNECTING
- 15 REMEMBERING THE 80s
- 16 CAMPUS ART
- 18 A NEW NEST
- 19 GOODBYE SIMCOE BUILDING, HELLO...
- 20 REMINISCE WITH REFLECTIONS
- 22 SHAPING THE DC COMMUNITY
- 23 A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITE PLACES



9



16



19



14

alumni UPDATE

1988

TIM HUTCHEON,

Aviation Transport and Industrial Engineering Technology,
lives in Gatineau, Quebec and is the circulation clerk for Library and Archives Canada.

1989

ALAN MILLAR,

Sports Administration,
lives in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan with his wife Kelly and is the general manager of the Moose Jaw Warriors Hockey Club of the WHL.

1995

CHRISTINE HUNKING (nee BRICKER),

Advertising Administration,
lives in St. Thomas with her husband Larry and children Jaxon and Lucas. She is currently employed as a member services representative at the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce.

VICTORIA BALL (nee THEOBALD),

Business Administration - Human Resources,
lives in Orillia with her husband Dan. She is currently employed as the fitness centre coordinator at Georgian College.

1998

KAREN SULLIVAN (nee KOBESCAK),

Graphic Design,
lives in Courtice with her husband Daniel, who graduated from Business - Operations Management in 1998. They have three sons, Connor, Brandon and Adam. She is currently employed as a receptionist for the UOIT Faculty of Science.

1999

AMANDA LAPALME (nee WALSH),

Business Administration - Accounting,
lives in Mulmur with her husband Daniel and daughter Emma. She is currently employed as the manager of corporate accounting at the Stronach Group.

2005

DANIELLE OGDEN (nee HUTCHEON),

Food and Drug Technology,
lives in Richlands, Alberta with her spouse and is currently employed with the Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) as an operations specialist in the United States.

2007

SHANNON HAYMAN (nee SIMPSON),

Court and Tribunal Agent,
lives in Brooklin with her husband Kyle and son Connor. She is currently employed as an administrative appeals coordinator at Tario Warranty Corporation.

AARON LEVY,

Business Administration - Marketing,
lives in Whitby and is employed as the commercial account manager at Rogers.

2008

BRANDON ROGERS

Fitness and Health Promotion,
lives in Toronto and is currently employed as a train movement director with Toronto Terminals Railway.

ADAM VICKERS,

Sport Management,
lives in Whitby with his wife Felicia and son Eli and is currently the program manager at KidSport Ontario.

2012

CHRISTOPHER WEAVER,

Police Foundations,
lives in Jarvis with his wife Maegan and two-year-old son August. He is currently employed at Lake Erie Steel Company in emergency services.

Contact Lisa McInerney in the Alumni Office
lisa.mcinerney@durhamcollege.ca
to share your news.



What's Happening?

Story by Marlee **Camacho**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SNAPD WHITBY AND DURHAM COLLEGE

April: Celebrating Communities

- 3 Employer Placement Appreciation Reception
- 3-7 Exam Stress Relief Week
- 6 2017 Durham College Athletic Banquet
- 8 Epic Mac N' Cheese Competition
- 27 Research Day 2017

May: Celebrating Diversity

- 10, 24 Building Connections
- 12, 19, 26 Taste of the Trades

June: Celebrating Success

- 12-14 Spring Convocation
- 15 Centre for Success Completion Ceremony
- 21 Campus Professional Development Day

July: Celebrating Canada

- 1 Canada Day

August: Celebrating Academics

- 29 Academic Kick-off
- 31, Sept 1 International Student Orientation

September: Celebrating Student Experience

- 5-8 Orientation Week
- 8, 9 50th Anniversary Homecoming
- 21 Harvest Dinner

October: Celebrating our People

- 15 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon
- 27 Fall Convocation



Jeremy and Courtney (above) at Durham College's second annual Epic Mac n' Cheese Competition.

November: Celebrating Health and Wellness

- 18 Fall Open House
- 25 HO HO HO HOLIDAY HULLABALOO!

To Be Announced

Gingerbread Competiton

December: Celebrating Partnerships

To Be Announced

50th Anniversary Skating Party

With Durham College's 50th year celebrations and Canada's 150th year celebrations it is bound to be a wonderful year filled with activities. There are plenty more events happening in 2017. For more information and details go to the Durham College 50th Anniversary website www.durhamcollege.ca/50.

ALUMNI SUPERSTARS

THE PEOPLE LEADER

STORY BY ANN **POWER**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHEILA CORRIVEAU

In order to secure her dream job, Sheila Corriveau knew she needed to become a well-rounded communications professional. It was important for her to have skills in writing, photography and design.

Through Durham College's Public Relations program, Corriveau became engaged in the world of PR while learning authentic communications skills through industry-standard applications and assignments. In her second year, Corriveau even wrote her own Reflections articles as part of the second-year curriculum.

"My goal was to be an engaged student academically and socially but also to build an impressive portfolio so that I could secure a job upon graduation," says Corriveau. "Potential employers were impressed with my work term experience and my Reflections articles that were published during my two-year program."

Soon after graduating in 1988, Corriveau held numerous progressive positions. During her first job at public-relations agency Barrow Communications, she assisted in writing and designing publications, magazines and articles for well-known organizations. After a few years, Corriveau decided to transition from the agency world and join the Retail Council of Canada. She later joined the Dynacare Health Group before becoming president, CEO and partner of Porter Novelli Canada. Corriveau was also appointed Global Network Director at Porter Novelli, one of the world's largest PR agencies.



Corriveau and students pose at the 2016 Enactus World Cup. Corriveau has travelled all over the world participating in Enactus programs to help students make a difference in their communities and sharpen their business skills.



In her second term in Public Relations, Corriveau devoted her time to Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham to honour her father who committed his time to the not-for-profit for many years. Today, she is a global leader at KPMG International.

"I wanted to live and work in Toronto as soon as possible. I set a goal to secure a position before the summer began after my last year of school," Corriveau explains. "I was hired by a PR agency, Barrow Communications, just one month later. My professor at Durham College, Ev McCrimmon, recommended me to his colleague, Keith Tisshaw, who hired and gave me unique and challenging opportunities for such a newbie."

Besides her impressive resume, Corriveau is an active volunteer, sits on numerous boards of directors and mentors marketing and communications students. In recognition of her commitment to the PR community, Sheila was awarded the Canadian Public Relations Society's PR Professional of the Year in 2005.

Corriveau's time at Durham College prepared her to become a communications power-house and finally land her dream job as the head of Global Marketing Operations, Program Delivery and People Leader at KPMG International.

"Durham College prepared me by providing an education in skills that were needed to succeed in the corporate, non-profit, association and agency world," says Corriveau. "The faculty taught everything from public speaking and law to crisis communications and design. Not only that, I met my husband while he was studying journalism at Durham College in 1987. We have been married for almost 24 years and have a 16-year-old son." 🍷

SUCCESS IN A SMILE



Russ Montague is an alumnus of Durham College and the founder and CEO of Nerd Block and Shirt Punch. (Montague)

STORIES BY MATTHEW LARCOMBE

PHOTOS BY RUSS MONTAGUE AND PHILIP PRITCHARD

After graduating from the Durham College (DC) Advertising Program in 2004, Russ Montague has had many incredible achievements. He is the founder of two distinctive companies; ShirtPunch and Nerd Block.

He also has subsidiary lines such as Nerd Block Classic, Comic Block and the new Horror Block. Before attending DC, Montague wasn't sure about which route to take.

"I was really confused about myself, I was really confused with what direction I was going," he said.

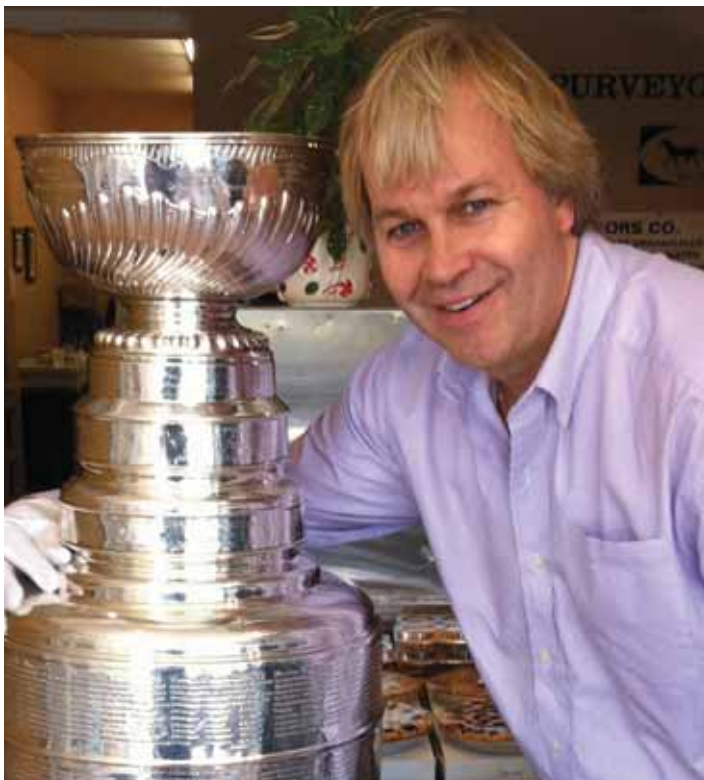
However, once he started his education at DC he quickly found mentors in professors. They continued to inspire as much as educate Montague.

"Durham College is where I found myself. Its where I figured out what I wanted to do," explains Montague. Over the last 50 years DC has been a leading provider of post-secondary education across Ontario and has students that live as close as a few streets down the road, and students that come here internationally.

The common element is Durham College's ability to create well- prepared, disciplined and hard-working alumni.

Montague is a living embodiment of the college's ability to help foster creative and unique individual strengths. ☞

KEEPER OF THE CUP



Philip Pritchard (above) is vice-president and curator of the Hockey Hall of Fame and is responsible for following the Stanley Cup everywhere it goes. This leads Pritchard all across North America. If the Cup has a best friend, it's Pritchard. (Pritchard)

Phillip Pritchard is a graduate of the Sports Administration Program at Durham College (DC) and one of its Alumni of Distinction. After graduation, he went on to take an internship with the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and continued his climb to success.

"I moved up the ladder in a way, working with Dave Branch (president) of the CHL and OHL, and he's on our board. Things kind of worked out. And, in 1988 I started here (at the Hockey Hall of Fame)," explains Pritchard.

His time at Durham College helped combine theoretical and practical experience and that was a huge help in the workforce. He is also a firm believer in co-op/internships as a great tool to gain experience.

“Networking at Durham College with students, faculty and co-ops I think was the best thing I took from the program.”

"I think for any student thinking about getting into the work world....intern/co-op is the way to go," he says.

Pritchard's final piece of wisdom for Durham College students is one of the most important.

"Networking at Durham College with students, faculty and co-ops I think was the best thing I took from the program.... You begin to understand that the sports world is a small community and Durham introduces you to that as a student." ☞

DURHAM COLLEGE TIME CAPSULE

STORIES BY CURTIS HEAVRIN

The year 2017 is one of celebration. Spanning five decades, Durham College (DC) has definitely seen many changes. As we celebrate 50 years of great success, we look back to 1967, the year the college opened its doors. From the music we listen to, the food we eat, the movies we watch and most importantly, the college's growth over the years, things have definitely changed.



1. When the college first opened its doors in the fall of 1967, it was home to 205 students and 14 full-time staff members at the North-Oshawa campus.

2. Today, the college is home to over 30,000 students at the Oshawa, Whitby and Pickering locations combined. In addition, over 900 full-time staff members and over 700 part-time staff members work at College.

1. The late Canadian artist, Leonard Cohen released his first album, "Songs of Leonard Cohen," in 1967. Well-known across the world for his hit song, "Hallelujah," he died, Nov. 7, 2016 at the age of 82.

2. Today, British singer Adele leads Billboard's top charts with her singles "Hello" and "Send My Love" (To Your New Lover). In addition, the British icon shared her music with sold-out shows across North America and Europe.



1. A family hotspot across the Greater Toronto Area in 1967, 'Red Barn' was known for their burgers and fries and their family atmosphere.

2. Today, local Durham Region families enjoy a home-style meal at Oshawa's Teddy's, known for their chicken parmesan, turkey dinner, home-made salad dressing and strawberry pie.

1. In 1967, celebrity deaths included Hollywood actress Jayne Mansfield and Vivien Leigh. The latter was known for her role in "Gone with the Wind."

2. In the past year we lost celebrities including Alan Rickman, known for his role in the "Harry Potter" franchise and David Bowie.



1. The year 1967 was a success for movies, from the top-grossing film of the year "The Graduate" to the release of Walt Disney's "The Jungle Book." This same year, we also saw the first IMAX screen, which premiered at Expo 67 in Montreal.

2. In the past few years, movies have taken us from a galaxy far away, deep into the ocean and into the streets of New York. From the second film in Marvel's 'Captain America' franchise to a live-action remake of Walt Disney's 'The Jungle Book.' We also saw the first film in the new 'Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them' movie franchise, which takes place in the same Wizarding World as Harry Potter. (2)

Photos courtesy of: Durham College, Biography.com, Billboard, Lost Toronto, Teddy's, MGM, Warner Brothers, Retro Movie Poster.



Gary Polonsky is the longest-serving Durham College president. He is also the founding president of University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

STORY AND PHOTO BY MEINA LUTFI

Gary Polonsky combs his hair with his fingers as it battles with the wind as he enters the sliding doors of the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre. He cannot help but smile as he takes a second to reminisce about how quickly time has gone by. With his rockstar status, his former colleagues wasted no time coming up to greet him. Polonsky reciprocates their warm welcome by making sure they felt welcomed in return, in a place he once called home.

Polonsky possesses charm and humbleness that brings out optimistic and calm emotions in others. His desire for others' success and learning opportunities is one of the traits he is known for within the Durham Region community. Another trait, out of the many, is his ability to teach valuable lessons through his stories and mistakes.

“One of my favourite words is ‘start.’ Give something a shot, maybe it will be spectacular, maybe it will be mediocre or maybe it will be a failure. But at least you’re out there. You’ve started, you’ll adapt and life will be good.”

One story he loves to share is about the eve of his interview for the position of president at Durham College. He bet his son \$90 that Mike Tyson would lose his 1988 fight with Michael Spinks; Polonsky lost the bet. Polonsky walked into his interview the next morning hoping the odds would not be against him two days in a row. Upon hearing the news of getting the job, Polonsky questioned the Board's decision by asking them if it was a wise choice to let a man who lost \$90 in a 90-second fight run a college. Nevertheless, Polonsky was thrilled that his energy, sense of humour, vision and values matched the ones of the Board and college.

18 years as college president, Polonsky met politicians, gave speeches five to six nights a week and raised millions of dollars within his networks. Through Polonsky and his team's hard work, facilities such as the Whitby campus, the student centre, the several residences, the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre and all of University of Ontario Institute of Technology were created.

“As you progress through life, opportunities will present themselves and I think it's wise to pounce on the ones for which you have a really good feel,” says Polonsky. “I believe in working hard, being accountable and trying to create opportunity. I know it's tough but at least recognize opportunities and pounce!”

Not only did Polonsky add new buildings to the college, he also added diversity. With his romantic notion of Canada being about equality, in 1988 he wanted to add more diversity in the college to reflect the college's brand. Polonsky's vision for the college was to change it from being small, technical and predominantly populated with white, male students. To achieve this, he brought in a new range of programs to attract a more diverse student population.

Spending his prime years at the college, including a lot of late nights, long hours and hard work, Polonsky and his team created diversity and equality within the college's system. Polonsky knew he had to model this in every way so he re-organized his senior team and made it gender-equal without laying anyone off. Today, students and staff of all ethnicities, genders and age groups roam the hallways of Durham College.

“Three of my favourite words are students, growth and community,” says Polonsky. “Our movement isn't called community college for nothing! We are supposed to be a leader in the community.”

Retired now, Polonsky has yet to slow down. He is a member of three boards, two of which he chairs. Not long ago, Polonsky was

asked to write a report for the Federal Ministry of Transport regarding the development of the Pickering airport.

As a retirement gift, the college named a common area after him. The Polonsky Commons, the grassy area in front of the library, is located in the middle of Durham College and UOIT. Polonsky is grateful for the commons because he believes it gracefully reflects him.

Polonsky loves retirement because it gives him more time to spend with his grandchildren. He teaches them the importance of never giving up on the things that are important to them and not to let the fear of failure hold them back.

“One of my favourite words is ‘start.’ Give something a shot, maybe it will be spectacular, maybe it will be mediocre or maybe it will be a failure. But at least you’re out there. You’ve started, you’ll adapt and life will be good,” says Polonsky. “If you go for it and stay buoyant then I predict good things will befall you.”



Gary Polonsky on the DC - UOIT campus, in the Polonsky Commons, remains involved within the Durham Region community during his retirement. His vision and commitment towards building a better community is one of the many reasons why the college is successful today.

Looking back...

Presidents through the years

BY ISSA OCAMPO

PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

With Durham College turning 50, it's impossible to look back at our history without mentioning those who helped make the college what it is today. Look back and see what our favourite presidents were up to during their time at Durham College.



Don Lovisa (2008-Present)

DC Then: Durham College has grown to more than 30,000 students.

Fun Fact: Before arriving at Durham College, Lovisa spent almost 22 years at Confederation College. Lovisa, a northerner who grew up in the small town of Fort Frances, Ont. (population of 8,000) once owned a men's clothing store, operated a home-based marketing company for a number of years and has held seven different positions within the college system. Building from a strong foundation cultivated by the leadership of our presidents, Durham College continues the tradition of success. Our past, present and future success will be celebrated in this year's "Building Something Amazing" 50th anniversary.

Looking back... at Durham College's other fantastic presidents



Leah Myers (2006-2008)

DC Then: In 2007, the City of Oshawa declared Sept. 18 as Durham College Day in honour of the college's 40th anniversary.

Fun Fact: Leah Myers worked directly with Dalton McGuinty during her time with the Ontario government. She was also the assistant deputy minister of Health, Social & Education Policy in the Cabinet Office.

Gary Polonsky (1988-2008)

DC Then: The Whitby campus opened in 1993. During his time as president, Gary Polonsky tripled the enrolment and built the Student Centre, Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre and campus residences.

Fun Fact: Polonsky is the only Canadian to have been president concurrently of both a college and university (as the founding president of UOIT in 2001). He is also the longest serving president of the college, serving as president for 18 years. Polonsky also worked for Confederation College prior to arriving at Durham.



Mel Garland (1980-1988)

DC Then: Durham College expanded on building a robotics lab and increased levels of technology in class. Mel Garland also expanded programs in engineering and the trades during his presidency.

Fun Fact: Mel Garland was a second world war veteran. He was a Spitfire pilot from 1941-1945, and was shot down, captured and escaped from German troops.



Dr. Gordon Willey (1967-1980)

DC Then: In 1967, Durham College was comprised of 16 portable classrooms, had a staff of 14, and only 205 students!

Fun Fact: Dr. Gordon E. Willey, affectionately known as 'Doc', was an engineer by trade.



BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Durham College changed to fulfill the demands of students from 1967 to 1980. Here, we reflect on the college's history through the first decade and two of the school's founders.

STORY BY NATASHA **HATHERLY** AND MELANIE **RICHARD**
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

Two of the most influential founders of Durham College (DC) were Edward Plunket (E.P) Taylor and Gordon Willey.

E.P. Taylor, Durham College's land donor

E.P. Taylor is more than just the local watering hole on campus. The man behind the name gave his land to the city where Durham College (DC) stands today. Taylor affectionately known as "Eddie" to his family and friends was a famous breeder of thoroughbred race horses, which led him to his discovery. While breeding horses, Taylor and his wife purchased Windfield Farms, and when the Board of Governors was looking for land for the college, he recommended some of his property at the north end of Oshawa.

With other community leaders, Taylor had a dream of bringing a college into Oshawa but at the time there was no location big enough to accommodate what would be a growing campus. Taylor volunteered at DC with the Board of Governors and had the idea of putting the college on the southwest corner of Conlin Road and Simcoe St. N. On Sept.18, 1967 Durham College opened its doors for studies to begin. This day is now known as Durham College Day.

With 16 portable classrooms, 14 staff members and 205 students, Durham College took off toward a bright future. Initially, there were only three departments of study. They were Applied Arts, Business, and Technology. The Simcoe Building was built later that year. In 1968 the north half of the Simcoe Building was built and in 1969 the south half was completed.



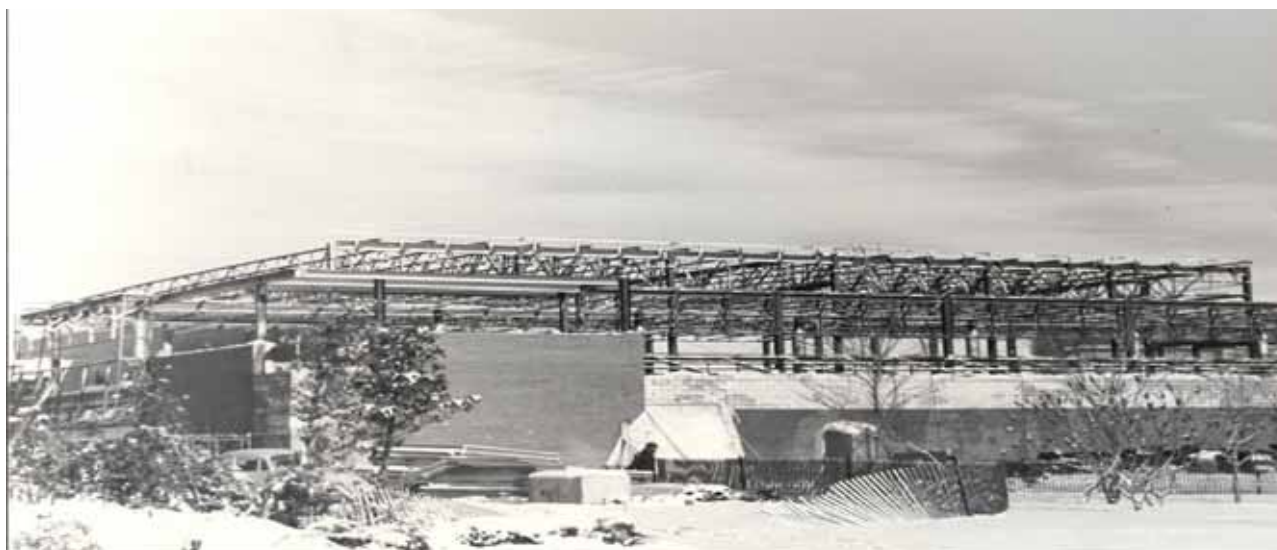
The original 16 portables of Durham College in 1967 before the construction of the Gordon Willey Building. Willey was always on the premises watching over the construction of the portables and the building that bears his name today.

Gordon Willey, Durham College's first president

From the beginning, Gordon Willey was a constant presence on campus. Although there have been many additions to the college over 50 years, the original structure is still visible from every angle on campus. Dr. Gordon Willey a.k.a Doc, was the first president of Durham College from 1967 to 1980.

On the college's 10th anniversary, DC welcomed the Health Sciences and Adult Training departments. In 1974 the college was home to the first Regional Municipality of Durham office. This was sparked by members of the college Board of Commissioners who helped make the decision. By 1976 enrollment was up to 1,250 students.

DC has grown quite a bit in the last 50 years and is predicted to double its growth in the next 50 years as well. 🍀



Durham College's Gordon Willey building being constructed in 1969.

Cultivating curiosity



The Campus Library was visited by over 500,000 students and loaned more than 20,000 items to Durham College students in the 2014-15 school year.

STORY AND PHOTO BY ELYSE CARNEY

What started as a small collection of nursing books at Oshawa General Hospital 50 years ago has flourished into a library with over 48,000 volumes of print literature alone. The Campus Library, located on Durham College's Oshawa campus, has evolved greatly since Mae Dyke, one of the college's first employees, founded it in 1965.

Trish Johns-Wilson has been a librarian at the Campus Library for 20 years now and can attest personally to the tremendous changes the library has made. "For old alumni, the library used to be a tiny space, but as the college grew and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology came on board, we had to grow," explains Johns-Wilson.

«When I can help students find what they need, there's a little spark that goes off in their eyes.»

Over the years of growth and development, serving the students of Durham College effectively continues to be the library's greatest priority. The library has an online database of over 300,000 electronic resources accessible to students all day, even off-campus. And, it has more open hours than any other in Ontario, 94 hours per week, which is for the best, according to Johns-Wilson.



Campus librarian Trish Johns-Wilson has watched Durham College's library grow from its tiny space into the new facility shared by the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in the span of 20 years.

"This beautiful building is heavily used, for a lot of different reasons," she explains. "Students use this as a study space and a research space, sometimes at the prompting of their professor," she adds with a laugh.

"I've seen a lot of change during my time here," says Johns-Wilson. "Hair styles may change, clothing may change, but my role as a librarian remains the same. When I can help students find what they need, there's often a little spark that goes off in their eyes. That's my favourite part of my job, and it hasn't changed in 20 years." ☞

A CAREER CONNECTING COLLEGE ALUMNI

Lori Connor retires after nearly 30 years supporting Durham College alumni

STORY AND PHOTOS BY EMILY MEEK

Imagine it's the day before an interview and your potential employer wants you to prove that you've graduated. There's no way of getting a transcript and without proof you may not get your dream job. Who do you call? For Durham College alumni over the last 20 years, that person to call has been Lori Connor, the alumni development officer for the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

Connor has worked for Durham College (DC) for nearly 30 years in departments including the Ontario Skills Development Office and Career Development. In her integral roles, Connor has had the unique opportunity of working with DC students and alumni at various stages of their careers and watching them achieve success.

When she first began her career as an alumni officer, Connor worked with the Alumni Board of Directors to implement affinity programs to increase outreach for alumni. Those affinity programs include alumni benefits with affinity partners such as TD Meloche Monnex, Manulife Financial and MBNA MasterCard.

"With these three affinity partners, the Alumni Association gets revenue that allows us to run programs for our alumni and graduating students," explains Connor. "The affinity revenue is instrumental in allowing us to run events such as the Etiquette Dinner."

The Etiquette Dinner is hosted by the DC Alumni Association and allows graduating students to learn how to act appropriately when dining in a business setting. Thanks to Connor's efforts in generating revenue through affinity programs, this event costs graduating students only \$20 to attend.

Connor has also connected alumni not only in the Durham Region but throughout Canada as well. In fact, Connor hosted DC alumni in Calgary during a "Wild West Reunion" where four colleges participated in bringing their alumni together for a night of food, fun and networking.

"Those connections you make when you attend an alumni event are important because a) you may do business with them down the road b) you may have done business with them before or c) you may get a job opportunity through those networking sessions," says Connor. "And networking is so important for recent grads."



Lori Connor (left), alumni development officer at Durham College for over 20 years, enjoys a night at the Etiquette Dinner for graduating students on Nov. 14, 2016. Although Connor is retiring, her legacy of creating enjoyable events for DC students and alumni will create many lasting memories.

Connor was also particularly proud of being a part of Durham College's 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2007, which included events such as the unveiling of the Alumni Wall of Distinction.

As Durham College prepares for its next milestone of 50 years, Connor celebrates an important milestone of her own – retirement. Although she is looking forward to a retirement filled with relaxation and travel, she still has high hopes for the success of alumni.

"I just hope our alumni continue to stay connected to Durham College because it's a great way to hear what's going on, meet your fellow alumni, and network," says Connor.

"I've truly loved my job over the years. It has given me great pleasure knowing I have helped so many alumni."

After years of dedication to the Alumni office making connections with students, alumni and staff, many people including colleague Sally Hillis are recognizing her efforts.

"Lori has been dedicated to our alumni for over 20 years and has always taken the extra steps to do what she can for our grads. She has a special way of connecting with people and is an important liaison to students and alumni," says Hillis. "Lori is a valuable member of our team and we will miss her." ❧

LORI CONNOR CORNER

Over the span of her career, Connor's friendly disposition combined with a hardworking attitude contributed to her positive reputation with Durham College students, alumni, members of the Durham College Alumni Association Board of Directors and fellow colleagues in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

"Lori has demonstrated dedication and loyalty to Durham College in her many years of service. With her 20 years of service to the Alumni department, she has acquired a wealth of information about its history and has been an important resource for our graduates. I have truly enjoyed working with Lori and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life."

-Sally Hillis, senior alumni development officer, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

"It's not very often that you find somebody that's committed a good portion of their life to an organization. After committing 20 years to Durham College, Lori truly 'bleeds green' and it's clear that she has loved what she does. She's that friendly, welcoming face with a wealth of knowledge and a clear dedication for the school. I think it's going to be hard to fill her shoes."

-Heather Bulman, Durham College Alumni Association Board of Directors, Class of 2015

"Lori really is the heart and soul of the department. She is always full of ideas and excitement and you can tell how much she has loved working for Durham College. You have to have somebody like Lori who is passionate about the alumni in that role, and she is leaving behind a quite a lasting legacy. I wish her well in her retirement."

-Chris Vale, president of the Durham College Alumni Association Board of Directors, Class of 2003

50TH ANNIVERSARY... DC THROUGH THE DECADES

REMEMBERING THE 80s

STORY AND PHOTO BY: CURTIS HEAVRIN



Anthony Lepizzera, 1985 DC graduate of the Mechanical Technology program.

Semi-retired Durham College graduate Anthony Lepizzera looks back on his time spent at the Oshawa campus with a happy sense of nostalgia. Lepizzera graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Technology program in 1985. After graduating he went on to work in the automotive field, working at Oshawa Pattern and Model for a number of years.

Lepizzera reflects on his time spent on campus, "I remember knowing everyone.

You got to know fellow students as well as the professors because the college had a more intimate feeling."

Today, he still keeps in contact with a number of his fellow classmates, a few of which have turned into life-long friendships.

"My most memorable moment was when myself and a few of my classmates won a car-pushing contest," recalls Lepizzera. "The professors set up an obstacle course and the team who pushed the car through it in the fastest time, won."

“I remember knowing everyone. You got to know fellow students as well as the professors because the college had a more intimate feeling.”

Today, Lepizzera is a hobby farmer in north Durham where he lives with his son, Sam and his dog, Ruby.

Durham College has drastically changed over the past few decades," says Lepizzera. "I think it is great that Durham Region students have access to education so close to home and I am excited to see how the campus continues to grow." 📖



Connect marks the construction of a new campus, when Durham College and UOIT were brought together 12 years ago.
Photo provided by Edward Falkenberg.

CAMPUS ART

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MICAELA MAY

When entering the Durham College campus, it is hard not to notice the artwork. Although many walk by and admire each piece, few stop to think about what each exhibit means. Each artist designed their piece to bring inspiration and direction to students.

Connect

Connect, the five-metre circular stainless steel art installation at the entrance of Durham College (DC), has become an iconic representation of the college and university.

Edward Falkenberg was commissioned to document the union of DC and UOIT through art. His piece, Connect, was the first to be commissioned for a series documenting the union of the two schools.

After graduating from the Ontario College of Art in 1965, Falkenberg began his successful career as a sculptor. He taught three-dimensional design at Durham College in 1980 and 1981. Years later, that relationship with the college may have been part of his inspiration for the piece, which was installed in 2005.

"In school and in life we all rely on each other for support and the fulfillment of life," says Falkenberg. "Inspiration comes in an instant out of the blue, so to speak.

"Inspiration is also elusive," he adds. "You think you have a good idea to put forward, but then you find it wasn't so good after all, or you are unable to bring it to the forefront and the idea loses its momentum. The search, for inspiration, starts all over again."

The six-segmented ring represents the connections between each student, the students to the professors and teachers, as well as the connection between the disciplines and the surrounding community, businesses and the world.

Clearly, the idea for Connect resonated, because it continues to welcome students to the campus over a decade after installation.

Medicine Wheel

“The Medicine Wheel (*below*) is an important teaching and learning tool in Anishnawbe culture,” says Julie Pigeon, Aboriginal Student advisor at Durham College’s Aboriginal Centre. “We [Durham College] are on Anishnawbe territory so it’s important that we respect, highlight and understand them.”

“Durham’s own Medicine Wheel can be found in the bus loop at the front of the school. The wheel contains four colours – white, yellow, red and black.”

Durham’s own Medicine Wheel can be found in the bus loop at the front of the school. The wheel contains four colours – white, yellow, red and black. White faces north, with the other colours facing east, south and west respectively. There are some negative connotations with education in Indigenous cultures due to the residential schools so, it is important to Indigenise the campus to help Indigenous students feel comfortable, says Pigeon.

When the Aboriginal Centre staff decided to create the medicine wheel, they enlisted the campus facilities team to help. The team gathered the materials and constructed the piece to the standards given to them. The Medicine Wheel provides a symbol Aboriginal students can identify with. Many students may just see a piece of art, but to those with context it has a deeper meaning.



The Medicine Wheel serves the purpose of indigenising the Durham College campus. Although it looks like a typical rock display, it holds a much deeper meaning for many. This art piece is unique because it was designed by the Aboriginal Student Centre and created by the facilities team at Durham College.



The Compass stands tall, urging students to look toward the future. The labour of love designed by Darlene Bolahood was created to inspire students.

The Compass

Looking down makes it difficult to plan for the future. The Compass (above) serves as a reminder for students to look up and look ahead. Life is full of choices, and Darlene Bolahood made a visual representation with the Compass. Bolahood has always been passionate about passing her skills on to students. Her passion inspired her to develop the computer animation program at Durham College in 2003. This gave Bolahood the link she needed to propose The Compass to the former Durham College president, Gary Polonsky.

“There were both technical and aesthetic challenges,” says Bolahood. “First of all it had to be strong and functional, but they also had to be able to transport and assemble it so the veins and panels wouldn’t break.”

“There were both technical and aesthetic challenges,” says Bolahood. “First of all it had to be strong and functional, but they also had to be able to transport and assemble it so the veins and panels wouldn’t break.”

Bolahood outsourced the construction of the frame to a shop in Cobourg, while she painted the panels on campus. After many phone calls and meetings with the shop, the piece came together. Sept. 21, 2005 was a memorable day for Durham College students as they couldn’t help but look up and toward the future. ☞

A New Nest

for the Aboriginal Student Centre

STORY AND PHOTO BY KALLYSTA KLOSE

After just five years of operation, the Aboriginal Student Centre, *Suswaaning Endaajig*, or “nest away from home,” is anticipating relocation to the new Centre for Collaborative Education (CFCE).

The \$40-million project is expected to be completed in 2018. The new centre will boast multiple levels, 75,000 square feet of space and modernized facilities. However, its construction means the demolition of something very dear to many people, including those at the Aboriginal Centre: the Simcoe Building.

For Peggy Forbes and Julie Pigeon, student advisors at the ASC, it is bittersweet. Forbes and Pigeon work full-time at the centre, which provides services such as coaching, workshops and referrals for Aboriginal students, but Forbes says, “We don’t turn anyone away, really.”

The ASC has been in talks with the CFCE’s architects since July, working to develop a new centre to serve Aboriginal students, but the Simcoe Building is the only home that the ASC has ever known.

“When we originally started, we were not so content to be placed in this old, archaic building,” says Pigeon. “After taking the time to create this space, we are happy to be here. We have a larger piece of real estate, which is nice too.”

Adds Forbes, “We are actually quite pleased to be a little more remote because it is not as busy as somewhere like the Gordon Willey building.”

So how are plans for the ASC’s new space in the CFCE progressing?

New windows, wall murals, medicine wheel-themed floor tiles and a full kitchen are among the highlights of the ASC’s new space. The centre will also be on the ground floor, have the same amount of room as the Simcoe Building centre, and be Smudge-friendly.

“Our name means ‘nest away from home’ so it really is intended to be a safe space for students to feel at home.”

The Aboriginal Student Centre fulfills an important role in the academic community, so it is imperative staff and students feel comfortable in the new building.

“We acknowledge and respect our Indigenous students by letting them know that there is a safe place on campus where their culture is honoured, respected and highlighted,” says Pigeon.

“We want to provide a space that is familiar to them,” Forbes adds. “Oftentimes, students are overwhelmed because it is their first time away from home and they come from small communities. To them, Oshawa is a big city.”

Pigeon continues, “Our name means ‘nest away from home’ so it really is intended to be a safe space for students to feel at home.”

Cassie-Jean Dillon, an Aboriginal student who often visits the centre agrees.

“School is a very regimented environment, which is entirely different from what we are used to,” says Dillon. “But this spot makes us feel comfortable.”



Peggy Forbes (right) is a driving force behind the Aboriginal Student Centre, along with fellow coworker and student advisor Julie Pigeon (not pictured). The pair have been working at the centre since its 2011 opening. Forbes, along with her colleague James Gage (left), loves welcoming new visitors to the centre.

The Aboriginal Student Centre is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is currently located in the Simcoe Building, Room 1264.



Linda Marco



Architecture Counsel Inc. and Montgomery Sisam Architects design a visual blueprint of the Centre for Collaborative Education as they construct the new facility.

GOODBYE SIMCOE BUILDING, HELLO CENTRE FOR COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION

BY DAISY RAUDALES

PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

Durham College will replace its aging Simcoe Building with its new Centre for Collaborative Education (CFCE). Located at the Oshawa campus, the new three-storey facility will introduce innovative programs, groundbreaking facilities and collaborative spaces, including creative spaces, event spaces and even napping spaces to help students succeed in all aspects of their education.

“The appeal of the CFCE is about more than a beautiful building – it’s about what will be housed in the building,” explains Linda Marco, associate vice-president of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

“It will serve as an educational access point for students while bringing together local, Indigenous and global community groups and members of key business sectors. It is being designed to reflect and address the needs of both students and the community, including the desire for more collaborative learning and social spaces,” adds Marco.

The education centre will introduce a variety of new services including global classrooms that will enable students and faculty to engage in conversations with over 40 countries around the world. This will benefit students, as it will allow them to interact with skilled educators, leaders, and global experts worldwide to gain the knowledge they need to become successful.

“The Centre for Collaborative Education is the next step in DC’s evolution. It allows us to build something in celebration of our 50th anniversary as we build a legacy for the college for the next 50 years,” says DC President Don Lovisa.

A number of facilities will also be introduced, including a Centre for Indigenous Peoples, an Entrepreneurship Centre and state-of-the art health science classrooms and labs.

The Centre for Indigenous Peoples will offer spaces that accommodate cultural practices, allowing students to feel welcome in an inclusive environment. Students will also be able to prepare for the continuation of post-secondary education, through the foundation programs offered at the Centre for Collaborative Education.

The health science facilities will house a spa suite and patient care laboratories with innovative technologies.

This new centre will allow students to enjoy the programs they love, while feeling comfortable in a collaborative environment where they can grow in education and create an even greater college experience.

“It is wonderful project that will benefit students, employees, alumni, and the broader community and will give us the opportunity to honor the past while looking to the future,” Lovisa says.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CFCE

- New building will have a total of 75,000 square feet
- Construction will take about 18 to 24 months
- Will be introduced by Spring 2018
- Costs about \$40 million to establish
- Has received \$22 million in funding from provincial government and \$13 million from federal government
- Is the single largest investment by two levels of government in the college’s history

REMINISCE with REFLECTIONS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MADELAINE **DANTAS**, SARAH **POWER**, AND EMMA **WELLS**

In celebration of Durham College's 50th birthday, we've collected memories of students, alumni and faculty. Look for these amazing moments on the 'Memory Map' on the following page. Read on to discover what makes Durham College such a unique and unforgettable place to learn.



Maddy Grixti
Advertising and Marketing
Communications
Second Year Student

"My favourite memory would have to be from my first year at Durham. You know how at the beginning of the year you don't know anyone and it's kind of awkward? Well, one Monday after class, a bunch of people from my program decided to go to the school's pub, E.P. Taylor's. After a few drinks, the group of us decided we should participate in the Karaoke Night at the bar. After that night, a bunch of us ended up becoming great friends. Before we knew it, we were going to karaoke every Monday after our marketing

class. I never sang, but I learned that a bunch of my friends and classmates were actually really talented. It was so much fun, and something I won't ever forget. But for sure, that first Monday was the night that really brought us all together and established my awesome friend group."

"I think my favourite memory was probably during frosh week of my first year. I had just moved into residence, and Durham College had this big concert going on: CampusFest. The concert was in the big grass area outside UOIT; I think it's called Polonsky Commons. Anyways, there were a bunch of big headliners performing like DJ Wolfgang Gartner and this cool Australian DJ named Tommy Trash. The crowd was so riled up, and it was such an amazing experience. It was the start of school, and basically that was how everyone in my program met. During the concert, I met a guy named Jesse who is still one of my good friends. My program has been close ever since that night. We are all one block, so it definitely was the start of the little family that we have become over our three years together."



Mike Grisch
Architectural Technology
Third-Year Student



Sydney Dwyer
Paralegal Grad Certificate
Alumni
Working at Legal Aid Ontario

"My most cherished memory from Durham College is how kind and caring my professors were. Prior to my time at Durham, I attended university for four years. When I started college, I immediately noticed that I didn't feel like a number; I was treated as an individual who was encouraged to do my best and be successful. One professor in particular, Dalton Burger, had a positive impact on my Durham College experience. During Semester 1, I did poorly on one of my first tests

even though I actively participated in class and understood the material. Dalton recognized that my grade didn't match my work ethic, and asked me to visit his office to discuss the test. After I explained to him that I wasn't comfortable in test-writing environments, he offered to let me to re-write the test without a time a constraint. This time, I received a grade that was almost 30 per cent higher than my original mark. Although Dalton wasn't able to change my official grade, he was able to reassure me that I did understand the content, which substantially increased my confidence in the classroom. I was an honour roll student by second semester and I will always appreciate how much he cared. Professors like Dalton are the main reason I recommend Durham College."

"My experience at Durham College was incredibly positive. Before attending the school, I struggled to express my enthusiasm for creativity and art because I had yet to find an environment that supported these passions. At Durham College, not only were there ample faculties geared toward my field of interest, but I quickly discovered that I was surrounded by people who inspired me to better myself and further explore my interests. During my time in the Graphic Design program, I inherited a sense of belonging and purpose amongst my peers. The friendly competition, the spirited debates, and watching my classmates grow and develop into who they really wanted to be made attending class feel like less of a task and more like an exciting adventure of self-discovery. My favourite memory of Durham



Miguel Lovery
Graphic Design
Advanced Diploma Alumni
Working at Bell Media
(Photo supplied LOVERY)

College was realizing that there was a supportive space for me to express my creativity and be myself. I have carried the lessons I learned in the classroom, both academic and personal, into my life outside of school and I will always attribute my success to my time at Durham College.”



Chantal James
Club and society coordinator
The Student Association
at Durham College

“My greatest memory from my time here at Durham College is definitely the first year I attended Pangea. It was 2014, and when I saw it I knew it was something to behold. Pangea is a cultural performance show that’s hosted every March in the gym, and it’s absolutely amazing. It’s run entirely by students – they organize it, they participate in it, and they emcee it. The Student Association facilitates, but all the grunt work is done by the students themselves.

There are dances and fashion shows and singing pieces; it’s kind of like a talent show, but culturally based. Seeing it all come together and the passion and the blood, sweat and tears the students put into their performances was incredible. The stage was packed. The gym was at capacity. It was very cool to see so much school pride. Students show up in droves and everyone loves sampling foods before the performance. It’s usually travel themed, so it’s like you’re touring the world. When you come, you get a boarding pass and that’s your ticket. You get a passport that gets stamped off on at each food booth and there are huge balloon arches when you walk in. It’s very colourful. I feel

as though it really represents what is happening on campus. Just bringing together and celebrating all these different cultures we’ve got going on at Durham.”

“So, my fondest memory would have to be our official grand opening of the Aboriginal Student Centre in November of 2011. We planned and set up the whole thing and invited all sorts of important people from around the Aboriginal community, like local reserves and chiefs. Gerard Sagassige, an Elder, came to speak as did the president of the college, Don Lovisa. We had it catered with traditional Aboriginal food, and there were drummers and dancers and the whole thing took place under a huge tent. And there was cedar, one of our Sacred Medicines, lining the sidewalks on the way to the space. There were decorations on all of the tables, and the Durham College Aboriginal Advisory Circle attended. Anybody who was interested could come and afterward people were invited back to take a tour of the new student centre. It was a big deal for us; it was the first step. We have students who come from far away, and it’s quite the culture shock to go from a small Aboriginal community to a “big city” like Oshawa. We want them to know they are welcome here. Even our name, Suswaaning Endaajig, which translates to ‘nest away from home,’ is meant to make them feel supported so they can be successful during their time here at Durham College.”



Peggy Forbes
Aboriginal student advisor
The Aboriginal Student Centre at
Durham College



MEMORY MAP

1. Karaoke Night at E.P. Taylor’s.
2. CampusFest at Polonsky Commons.
3. Re-write at the Moot Court.
4. Creative licence in the photo studio.
5. Pangea in the gym.
6. Grand opening behind the Simcoe building.



The Durham College Alumni Association Board of Directors assists in providing programs and services to enhance alumni experiences. Front row from left to right Shane Cicchine, Elaine Garnett (vice president), Chris Vale (president), Vanessa Hughes 2nd row: Sally Hillis (senior alumni development officer), Kevin Campbell, Robert Kowal, Jonathan Hurter, Meredith Dodge. Missing from photo: Nicole Blackman, Heather Bulman, Matisse Hamel-Nelis, Michele Roberts

Shaping the DC Community

STORY BY ALYSSA CONDELLO

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Graduating from college is an important life milestone but it can also be a scary step. At Durham College, the Durham College Alumni Association (DCAA) strives to support and improve experiences and to provide programs and activities that can regularly serve its alumni.

The DCAA includes more than 76,000 graduates who have gone on to outstanding career success within the community and beyond. The Association is represented by a group of elected representatives that make up a board of directors. Their main responsibility is to maintain communication with alumni and keep them connected with the DC community through events they create and attend, as well as guest speaking opportunities.

One notable Durham College alumni is also the vice-president of the DCAA Board of Directors. Elaine Garnett has dedicated not only time but also experiences to help other Durham College alumni. And, she consistently gives back to the DC community.

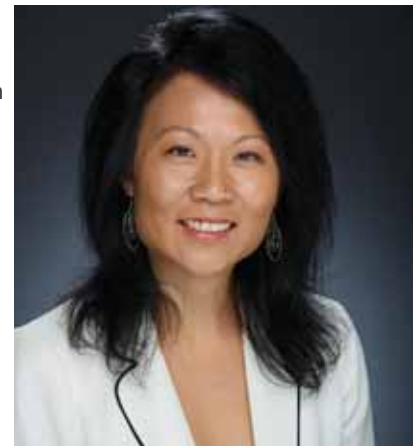
“Being on the Board is a great way to stay connected to the college and the community. After all, Durham College gave me a running start in my career,” she says. “So it feels amazing to come back and be part of the DCAA, knowing we are providing services

and support to today’s students.

“Right now, I’m most excited about the fresh faces that have joined as directors on the Board, adding to our talent pool. With Durham College entering its 50th anniversary, we are poised for an exciting year of ideas, collaboration and celebration.”

The DCAA Board of Directors is busy helping plan and prepare the campus for celebratory activities for all alumni to participate in.

Alumni can keep updated on everything going on with the Alumni Association and its Board by following them on Twitter @Alumni_DC. 📱



Elaine Garnett, vice-president of the Durham College Alumni Board of Directors, is a successful Durham College graduate working with the municipal government.

THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITE PLACES

BY SHALYNN MORTILLARO
PHOTOS BY SHALYNN MORTILLARO

Choosing a favourite place on campus is no easy task. Faculty members, staff, and students, cover every corner of Durham College from the Simcoe building all the way to the South Village Residence. Walking the hallways means being consistently met with intelligent and passionate individuals working hard to maintain Durham College's reputation as a leading college in Ontario. When speaking with staff, faculty, and students, one fact emerges: Durham College is more than just a place.



Megan Pickell

Student support technician for the School of Media, Art and Design.

Place: Media Loans Office.

On why it's great: "It [the media loans office] is basically considered the hub of the school (Media, Art and Design). Hundreds of students rotate through here on a daily basis so it's great to be in such a happening place," says Pickell. "There's always music playing, and there's generally a party in here. This is my home away from home."

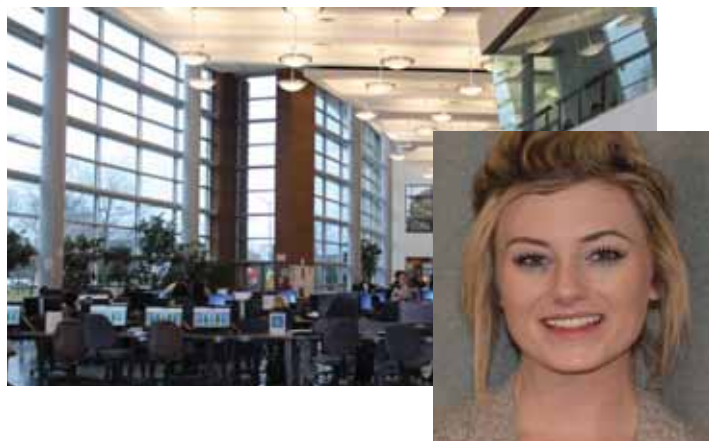


Trish Johns-Wilson

Reference librarian.

Place: Library.

On why it's great: "It's all things to all people," says Johns-Wilson. "If you're looking for quiet study we have it, if you're looking for group study, we have it, research assistance... this place is always here. People tend to want to come spend time in the library." Johns-Wilson adds: "Our mandate is we're here to help and that translates."



Jenna Greene

First-year student.

Place: Computer Commons.

On why it's great: "I have anxiety that tends to flare up surrounding tests and assignments. The collaborative energy in the Computer Commons helps me," says Greene. "Something about having a place to work alongside other students who are feeling similar emotions puts me at ease; it reminds me that we're all in this together." ☺



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