

**MEET ALEX JANSEN:
MULTIMEDIA
MAVERICK**

WINTER 2014 | VOLUME 81

Durham College Alumni Magazine

Reflections

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



It has been a year of successes for your Alumni Association since this past fall. As President of your Alumni Association I am pleased to report that the board has been working with the community, Durham College, together with new and current partners to provide you with new events and benefits. Stay tuned for our website being updated as we add to our benefits and social media exposure.


Our successes include:

- Increasing both scholarship and bursary contributions for current students (including children of alumni)

- Enjoying our first successful sponsorship of an Oshawa Generals Game for alumni in January where we were able to connect with our alumni community
- Contributing to the Campus Holiday food drive for our campus community
- Attending the Sports Hall of Fame event in November which allowed us to unite with former alumni

We will continue to work with Durham College to promote your Alumni Association to graduates throughout the country and beyond. We're also looking ahead — our 50th anniversary is only three years away.

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

I encourage you to share any memories, successes or input which can assist us in improving the role of your Alumni Association. 

Sincerely,

Lesley Wagner

Legal Administration – Class of 1985

REFLECTIONS

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Jayde Naklicki (right), shows off some of her yummy gluten-free treats.

Treats

Sweet success for PR grad-turned-baker

STORY BY LIZZIE CLARKE

PHOTOS BY BOB MONGRAIN



There is a sweeter side to life, and it's gluten-free. Just ask Jayde Naklicki, a graduate of the Public Relations program who remains on the fast track to PR success. However, her long-term goal is to be rolling in dough, literally.

Yes, Naklicki wants to become a baker.

The Newcastle, Ont. resident graduated in 2010 and in just three years found herself where most Public Relations graduates can only dream. She was awarded an eight-month contract as the Public Affairs communications co-ordinator with Ontario Power Generation.

Then came another contract and more success, this time with the 407 East Development Group as the communications co-ordinator. There, she is responsible for many important tasks, including dealing with the public's inquiries and complaints, planning public information centres, and preparing media releases. She has also been a spokesperson for 407 on local radio.

"I'm thankful to have found a job in public relations

where I can continue to grow and strengthen my skills," says Naklicki. "My ultimate goal would be to use my public relations skills toward my business of gluten-free baking and promote healthy living through cooking classes and delicious products. Eventually, I'd love to own my own bakery."

Naklicki has always been interested in event planning, blogs and writing. That's what brought her through the doors of Durham College, where she developed the skills to succeed as a PR practitioner. But now, three years after graduating, Naklicki wants to stick her finger in a different pie.

Naklicki, 23, who has suffered with celiac disease her whole life, has already started to follow her new-found passion to be Durham Region's next gluten-free baker. She has launched her own business called Mayde by Jayde. Running both a website and cooking classes, she specializes in catering to individuals with celiac disease, diabetes, specific diets, and lactose and soy allergies. Naklicki intends to use her public relations experience to help promote her products and develop great online presence.

that can't be beat



The ultimate goal for Mayde by Jayde, though, is for Naklicki to own her own café and help those who are looking for a healthy diet but don't know how to make it tasty. In the meantime, she continues her blogs, website, recipes and cooking classes while she balances two great careers. She is even considering going back to school to become a nutritionist so she can help those who require special diets even more.

Her success started at Durham College, where she was encouraged to dream big and never give up.

"I am so grateful to Durham College and the experiences I had," says Naklicki. "I went to school for Public Relations and was successful because of incredible professors and their belief in me to do well. I am proud to be an alumni of Durham College." 🍷

“I went to school for Public Relations and was successful because of incredible professors and their belief in me to do well.”

For more information about Naklicki's gluten-free foods, visit:
www.maydebyjayde.com

HORROR AT HOME

STORY AND PHOTO BY TIALA ARSENAULT

Growing older can sometimes be a horrific experience. For Tobin Elliott, a 1988 Durham College Graphic Design graduate now working at Telus Communications, the concept is as scary as a monster under the bed.

As a horror writer, Elliott weaves worrisome works of terrible people doing dreadful things. Turning the most mundane experiences into spooky stories, he primarily draws his book ideas from real life experiences as a father and husband. To propagate the lessons he has learned as a writer, Elliott teaches a creative writing course at Durham College.

The master of macabre's most recently published work exemplifies the family man's real-life inspiration. *The Wrong*, released on Aug. 22, 2013, tells the story of a father who has a son and daughter and is turning 50, much like the author himself. Until things take a turn towards the crazy, Elliott says his life is mirrored within the pages. Where a piece of furniture is mentioned, it is the same one residing in his home. Inspiration for his numerous works comes from almost anywhere, like songs or incidents that have happened to him. This blurs the lines of fact and fiction.

Often, the line becomes skewed by "playing the what if game," he says. "When my daughter was in Grade 1 or 2, very young, I dropped her off at school one morning. My wife got a call from the school asking if we could say why our daughter was absent. So four hours later they're saying she didn't show up for school even though I dropped her off. It's terrifying. Turns out the teacher just missed her in attendance — but what if?"

As for the reason his stories always involve shock and dismay, catharsis drives the pen to the paper. When he was growing up, his family situation was less than ideal. The self-described insecure and ridiculously shy child watched his father deal with alcoholism while his brother struggled with drugs. In this sense, he says, his stories are dark because, "then I can control the demons. That's really what it comes down to. Instead of everything controlling me I can finally get a handle on it. And it helps me to maybe get a little more understanding of it."

He believes that people enjoy horror because it takes them out of their own reality. They are reading about somebody who is way worse off than they are, which might make them feel better about themselves. He also compares it to the experience of riding a roller coaster. "You get on there and you scream your brains out and you're terrified, but then when you walk away you say, 'I survived that.'"

Since 2000, Tobin has taught a creative writing course every Monday night at Durham College. His approach to the role of tutor is honesty about the writing process. He says most students expect to compose masterpieces, not realizing the effort it takes to avoid errors along the way.

"I've done every mistake you can make," Elliott admits, "and I'm going to lay them all out for you so you don't make them." After 13 years, there are times when Elliott questions whether he's still bringing value to the course. Inevitably,


this is when a student will approach him to articulate their enjoyment of the 12-week course. To add to the rewarding experience, the professor has seen eight of his past students published.

On top of everything else, he was a founding board member of the Writers' Community of Simcoe County, and continues to be an active member of the Writers' Community of Durham Region. When discussing the topics only authors will understand, he delights in being able to identify with other

people who spend so much time in solitude, receiving honest feedback and tips, or simply support.

In the coming year, the author will have his hands full with two releases, *Prison Break*, a short story in the *Expiry Date*

anthology, and *No Hope*, the novel-length sequel to *Vanishing Hope*. The stories, the first published by Edge Science Fiction & Fantasy Publishing, and the second published by Burning Effigy, will surely keep readers satiated until the next nefarious novel is released.

All of his three published books can be purchased through Elliott's personal website, tobinelliott.com. 



Graphic Design grad Tobin Elliott surrounds himself with possible inspiration for his next chilling work.

“I can control the demons. That’s really what it comes down to. Instead of everything controlling me, I can finally get a handle on it.”

"CARTOONIST WANTED"

A CRAIGSLIST SUCCESS STORY

BY TAWNIA PAPPIN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATARINA ANDRIOPOULOS

Creative, ambitious and innovative. These three words describe Graphic Design graduate Katarina Andriopoulos to a T. And since graduating from Durham College in 2012, she has been putting all three of these attributes to practice.

A published author, illustrator and freelance graphic designer, Andriopoulos has been both enthusiastic and determined when it comes to her career. Not surprisingly, she has been extremely successful in the past year and a half.

The faculty in the School of Media, Art & Design at Durham College has had a great influence on Andriopoulos's career and she still values their advice. She is incredibly grateful for all of her mentors' hard work and support, and for always pushing her to do her best, she says.

One day, while job searching on Craigslist, Andriopoulos stumbled upon an ad titled "cartoonist wanted." Having never drawn comics before, she took a leap of faith and replied to the ad, which led to meeting Jewel Kats, an award-winning Canadian writer who had a plan up her sleeve. Competing against 70 other applicants, Andriopoulos caught Kats' eye with her quirky rendition of Kats as a cartoon character, which resulted in a beautiful partnership.

"Even if there's a lot of competition for a job you really want, you should always still give it a shot because you just never know," Andriopoulos says. "Jewel and I have been working together ever since I came across that Craigslist ad, developing a very close professional relationship."

Kats, self-described diva and author of the award-winning *DitzAbleD Princess* comic strip, lives with osteopenia, arthritis and persistent bowel troubles due to a life-altering car accident. She has embraced her disabilities and made her life story into an inspiring career, creating a revolutionary comic with the help of Andriopoulos and editor Victor Volkman. As a team, they have designed a work of art that can be found on bookshelves across North America.

"It has been a great experience. It's amazing to work with someone who truly appreciates art and is very creative, like myself," Andriopoulos says of Kats. "DitzAbleD Princess has given me the opportunity to meet and talk with so many different people




Graphic Design graduate Katarina Andriopoulos illustrated *DitzAbleD Princess*, a graphic novel that is now sold at bookstores across the country.

that I otherwise would not have had the chance to meet. As you could imagine, publishing and promoting a book is a lot of hard work, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. We have encountered everything from rejection and insults, to praise and reward."

Clearly, Andriopoulos has reached her career goals in a short time. Since working on *DitzAbleD Princess*, she has had the opportunity to meet some of her biggest fans during book signings at the Museum of DisABILITY in New York City, the World's Biggest Bookstore in Toronto and the 2013 FanExpo in Toronto. Some of her drawings have been featured on WKBW Buffalo News, as well as in the *Toronto Star* and national online reviews.

"All of that is amazing, but honestly, getting to meet the people who are touched by the comic and understand our work is the best part," Andriopoulos says. "The first time a fan asked me for my autograph I found it bizarre. I remember looking at them and thinking, 'Is this some kind of joke?'"

But it's no joke. Andriopoulos is living proof that following your dreams can really pay off. So, as she says, do what you love and shoot for the stars. Oh, and never forget about Craigslist. 



Check out Andriopoulos's favourite episode of *DitzAbleD Princess* at www.tapastic.com/episode/1899 and visit her portfolio at www.KatarinasPortfolio.com.

PR graduate
Rachael Wraith
works as a senior
communications
officer with the
Town of Ajax
where she applies
sustainable
practices in her
community.



BY KATHERINE SHEPPARD
PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHAEL WRAITH

Making Environmental Change One Project At A Time

*“As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world, as in being able to remake ourselves.”
— Gandhi*

For Rachael Wraith, this quote beautifully expresses her personal mantra, whether she is teaching yoga, or defending the environment. As senior communications officer with the Town of Ajax, Wraith is able to apply sustainable practices in her community.

Her environmental achievements include being the communications and program manager for the environmental not-for-profit group Durham Sustain Ability. While there she managed the We Have The Power sustainability program. She also delivered the ecoDriver program in Durham for Green Communities Canada, implementing the Think Outside the Car Sustainable Transportation program. In addition, Wraith sits on the board of directors for EcoSpark.

“Making positive changes in the environment has always been close to my heart,” says Wraith. “Every little change that people do will make a difference. We want the world to last for our children and their children too.”


Last year Wraith was named one of Canada’s top 25 Environmentalists Under 25 for the third consecutive year by The Starfish Canada. The Starfish is an organization focused on inspiring young people to make a difference in their local environment.

A campaign that likely helped to land her a spot on the Top 25 list was the ecoDriver program. It targeted high school students, and promoted three core messages of walking, public transportation, and carpooling. The program was replicated and funded by Metrolinx Community Development. Metrolinx is a Toronto area agency that focuses on improving transit, sustainability and quality of life.

“The program [ecoDriver] promotes three core messages: to use alternatives to fossil fuel transportation, drive a fuel-efficient vehicle and drive less,” says Wraith. “We promoted the messages through media relations, hosting tire pressure clinics, workshops and static displays. The program was able to secure funding to develop, co-ordinate and execute the ‘Eco Driver for Youth’ pilot project in April 2011,” says Wraith. “The program successfully expanded in the fall of 2011 to York Region. Remarkably, the program was delivered to 350 high school students on April 30, 2012.”

The Starfish award is not the only honour she has received. As project manager for the We Have The Power campaign, Wraith along with her colleagues from Durham Sustain Ability accepted the Irene Kock Education/Communication Award in 2011 presented by the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

“The We Have The Power program focused on reducing and conserving in four categories, water and energy conservation, sustainable transportation and waste reduction,” she says. “It resulted in over 1,500 people taking a pledge to reduce in those four areas and collectively reduced Greenhouse Gas emissions by over 53,000 tonnes across the region.”

Before beginning her career, Wraith studied Public Relations at Durham College, graduating in 2007. While attending college, her passion for positive environmental change was ignited when she spent the summer between first and second year volunteering at Greenpeace. That volunteer work later landed her an internship. Working at Greenpeace was the beginning of Wraith’s determination to improve the environment. Who knows where that determination will bring her next. 

Photography student focuses on creating happy tails

PHOTO AND STORY
BY MEAGHAN NEWHEY



Andree Wagar, second-year Photography student, spends quality time with her dog, Ty. When she's not in class, she can be found volunteering with TAGS.

Pawticular Training

Durham College student Andree Wagar may love being in the second year of her Digital Photography program but she remains even more focused on her first love — animals, especially dogs.

Although photography has been a life-long passion for Wagar, man's best friend ultimately trumps everything. Her love for dogs comes from a lifetime of exposure, and more recently, her volunteer work with The Animal Guardian Society (TAGS).

"TAGS is a volunteer-based, animal rescue organization that focuses mostly on dogs and cats. I joined TAGS in January of 2003 and have experience in all aspects of the organization. My favourite is training," says Wagar.

Over the past 11 years, Wagar has been in charge of placing animals in their new homes and has sat on the TAGS executive board. Currently, she is training dogs in the organization's adoption program. Each dog that is brought to TAGS goes through a lengthy, but essential process, which includes eight weeks of training classes to ensure that the dog's behaviour is appropriate and most compatible for its new family, and vice versa.

"It is crucial that each adopted pet and owner participate in the behavioural management classes because we believe that the most important aspect of an adoption is to have a well-mannered family pet," says Wagar.

Dogs and cats come from all over Canada and the United States, usually from kill shelters, puppy mills or other surrender situations. TAGS then tries to find such pets their new forever home. The organization does not have a main

headquarters, so the volunteers will often take the dogs to their own homes on fostering contracts. This is when Wagar steps into the spotlight. She deals with adoption applications, goes on home visits of prospective owners and then begins the training process, usually alongside TAGS founder Kathy Asling.

In fact, Wagar even adopted her own dog from TAGS. Ty is a seven-year-old terrier mix that has a great obsession with birds. He came to TAGS when he was just seven months old and Wagar couldn't resist his bouncy personality.

"When people ask me his breed, I am quick to respond with 'Red-Bird Terrier,' although it is only an imaginary breed I made up one day. He is red, he likes birds and he is a Terrier of some sort, so it seemed to fit," says Wagar.

Similarly, TAGS has been a great fit for the Durham College family. Heather Davidson, wife of Photography professor John Davidson, also volunteers at the organization.

"This is a wonderful group of volunteers who are devoted to helping abandoned animals get into the right home for them, not just any home," says Heather. "We are also committed to educating about animal abuse in its many forms, animal rights and wellness. For us, it's all about the animals. They have no voice so we speak and advocate for them. Adopt don't shop." 🐾

For more information about The Animal Guardian Society, visit www.animalguardian.org.

Warning: *Graphic Content*

Durham grad uses unconventional media to reach younger audience

BY LAURA MCKENNA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX JANSEN

He's worked to distribute academy-award nominated films, produced a non-fiction graphic novel touted as one of 2010's best books, and created a national stir with a video game that was falsely accused of encouraging players to blow up pipelines.

Alex Jansen is no stranger to success – or a little controversy. But through it all, he has his sights set on spreading the word about social issues through whatever medium his audience engages with: graphic novels, animated documentaries, video games or otherwise.

Most recently, the Durham College Marketing grad has been breaking new ground through his multimedia company, Pop Sandbox, founded in 2009.

"I'm somewhat experimental and like to explore new ground. One of the exciting things that we're doing is to try to engage an audience outside of the traditional documentary film."

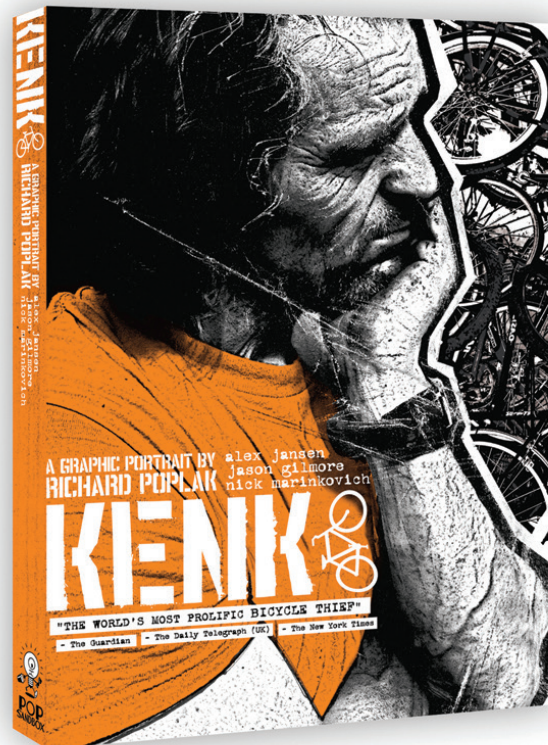
His most recent project, *Pipe Trouble*, created a stir in the media after it was released as a counterpart to a TVO documentary about the oil and gas industry. The game has the player build a pipeline around forests, farmlands and eventually rural communities. The

player must balance the demands of the oil and gas company with environmental and public concerns about the project. Jansen's goal was to challenge players to consider the real-life concerns that surround the oil and gas industry while driving awareness to the companion documentary. However, the game generated some unexpected attention when the premier of Ontario was asked about a taxpayer-funded game where the player's goal was to bomb pipelines. This entirely false

accusation escalated into higher levels of government across provinces. Politicians demanded apologies despite having never played the game.

"I would be equally enraged about the game that they were upset about, but that's simply not the game that exists," says Jansen. "However, it was interesting because it ultimately prompted not only the discussion that we had hoped around the energy debate, but it led into a larger discussion around game literacy and outdated assumptions around the video game medium."

The controversy has since been dispelled through a second wave of corrective media coverage as well as an independent review conducted by the former head of the CRTC finding that "*Pipe Trouble* does not support, glamorize or advocate violence in any way... The game is designed to make you think, and it does." *Pipe Trouble* has recently been showcased at the Games for Change Conference in New York and the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France.



Jansen's project *KENK: The world's most prolific bicycle thief* was dubbed one of the best books of 2010 by *Quill and Quire* magazine.



Alex Jansen is the founder of multimedia company Pop Sandbox. Bottom: Pipe Trouble arcade cabinets were placed in high traffic locations to promote the game and its companion documentary.

The game is not the only work of Jansen's that has created a buzz in the media. Pop Sandbox's first project, *KENK: The world's most prolific bicycle thief*, sold out its first edition in two weeks, and was dubbed one of the best books of 2010 by Quill and Quire magazine. The 300-page graphic portrait of Torontonians Igor Kenk is described as a "highbred of comic book meets long-form journalism meets documentary film."

Through graphic novels and video games, the company reaches a younger audience than the traditional documentary.

"Through these projects we are able to speak to 18 to 35 year olds," says Jansen. "We speak directly to an audience with the single worst voter turnout in Canada to help engage them in subjects that they may not otherwise be engaged with."

Jansen's work at Pop Sandbox is just one of the ways he reaches this audience. He also teaches a Business and Media course at Queen's University. In developing this course, he looked to his experiences in the film industry.

Before developing Pop Sandbox, Jansen worked for Mongrel Media, a film distribution company. Similar to his work now, the company specialized in non-fiction and social issue films such as *The Corporation*, *Manufactured Landscapes*, *Crude Awakening* and Oscar-nominated *Jesus Camp*, among many others.

It was no accident that Jansen got involved with Mongrel Media. After co-producing a feature film, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2001, Jansen suffered a great disappointment. The film was sold to a distributor who made little effort to support its release, and it soon disappeared.

"It made me wonder how that happens and made me want to learn more," says Jansen. "I wanted to learn the distribution side so that when I went back into producing I would be able to retain rights and retain control of the projects so the same thing wouldn't happen again."

Looking at Jansen's past, it's obvious he has always been driven by the desire to learn and do more. After graduating

from Durham College with a perfect GPA, he went on to the film program at Queen's University with the hope of getting into production. Finding the program didn't offer exposure to certain areas of the industry, Jansen decided to look for out-side opportunities and experience.

"I got involved with a little arthouse cinema, and it was a great way to kind of get my feet wet," he explains. "One of the challenges in Kingston is you are a little more remote. There wasn't as much of the industry going on there. So with a mind to creating my own opportunities, I started a film festival out of the Screening Room."

The Kingston Canadian Film Festival is now in its 14th year and is celebrated as the largest all-Canadian film festival. Since then, Jansen's aspirations have obviously changed to include more than just film, but the vision behind it is still the same.

"When I chose to start into film 15 years ago, it was very much that was the most powerful medium of our time, but I think that's changed," says Jansen. "I'm not a programmer and yet it's now within means to be able to, with a small team, produce a video game and find distribution. We are able to tackle issues with different media that we never would have been able to in the past."

Jansen plans to continue to reach out to new audiences through these media. His company is currently working with the National Film Board to produce *KENK* as an animated film. In the upcoming year, Pop Sandbox will also be releasing *Sparrow Song*, a graphic memoir surrounding the residential school system. 



Jessica Ronald runs
to the finish line
of the Ironman
triathlon in Mont
Tremblant, Que.



“Iron Woman” takes Australia

BY MICAELA TURCO

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA RONALD

Skating at full speed to take a shot on net, she lost her balance and went knee first into the boards. But the broken right femur Jessica Ronald suffered didn't stop her from pursuing her dreams. After receiving therapy and learning how to walk again, she went on to playing in the women's provincial semi-finals. That was in 2006, but the 2012 Advertising grad continues to show that grit in the face of challenges.

In August 2012, Ronald completed one of the world's toughest triathlons - the Ironman in Mont Tremblant, Que. The race consists of three events: a 3.8 km swim, 180 km bicycle ride and a 42.2 km foot race to the finish line.

Along with her Ajax Pickering Triathlon Club teammates, she signed up a year before the race, paying \$750 to attend. However, eight months prior to the race, Jessica started to have leg and back complications from her femur surgery.

“I found out my leg was made 1.2 cm longer, which made it difficult to train, especially on the bike,” Ronald said, “I was supposed to do a lot more training, so I went into the race thinking I would only do half.” But that wasn't in the cards. With the support of her teammates, she pushed through the pain and completed the full race in 14 hours and 58 minutes, coming third place in the 18 to 24 female age category.

“I think I was one of the last people in the group [the Ajax Pickering Triathlon Club] to cross the finish line, and even after such a long day my teammates stayed to cheer me on,” said Ronald. “It was the most amazing experience I have ever had in my entire life and I would not change it one bit. Everything is mental. You can pretty much do anything, you just have to put your mind to it.”

Ronald took on another challenge in 2013 when she packed her bags and moved to Australia to complete a Communications degree at Griffith University. Initially, leaving Canada was tough. She had only been away from her family for two weeks in her life.

“You don't know anyone here and trying to find a place was pretty difficult. You just have to get yourself out there and make new friends,” she said. Today she is feeling so comfortable in her new home she's considering the idea of permanently living in Australia.

Before moving Down Under, Ronald worked at St. Joseph Communications as a production co-ordinator for popular magazines such as Wedding Bells and Toronto Life. She says Durham College provided her with the skills she needs for her future. Today her main goal is to complete her degree in Australia in hopes of working for an advertising agency or another publication company in the future. 📺



Advertising grad Jessica Ronald holds her Ironman award for coming in third place in the 18-24 age group for women.

SCORING BIG FOR ALZHEIMER'S



Durham College alumni Rob Weir (left) jokes around with hockey legend Gordie Howe.

BY JULIA LATANSKI

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB WEIR

If you can recall the glory years of hockey legends like Gordie Howe, Bobby Orr and Wayne Gretzky you are more fortunate than over 500,000 Canadians that struggle with Alzheimer's. This disease does not discriminate and has even impacted hockey legend Gordie Howe. Vivid memories of hoisting the Stanley Cup amongst a cheering crowd are slowly being erased because of the disease. To combat this frustrating and serious illness a determined Durham College Advertising graduate, Rob Weir, has teamed with NHL superstars to face off against Alzheimer's by organizing the annual Scotiabank Pro-Am Tournament.

After his father passed away in 1993 from a heart attack during a recreational game of hockey, Weir channeled his energy into building awareness and fundraising for health issues. After graduating in 1994, this hockey fan first put his efforts into the development of Hockey for Heart, an adult recreational hockey tournament that has raised \$2.1 million for research to help the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Today, Weir funnels his passion for hockey and health into his position as the event specialist for the Scotiabank Pro-Am for Alzheimer's in support of the Baycrest Hospital in Toronto. The tournament runs May 1-3, and lets fans hit the ice with some of the greatest hockey legends. As the event specialist, Weir, and his team put a great amount of effort and planning into making this affair a success.


"I have seen all the work that is done on a daily basis and this may help future generations not have to deal with the effects of Alzheimer's," says Weir. "There are so many amazing

things I see here at Baycrest that it makes me proud to be involved."

The event specialist is no rookie when it comes to fundraising, and even after 19 years in the environment, including one at Baycrest, Weir recognizes that the atmosphere in the hockey rink during a fundraiser is not one of an ordinary game. The driving force behind the Scotiabank Pro-Am is undoubtedly the participation of hockey heroes. Weir says that these hockey superstars are really nothing more than down-to-earth, relatable individuals who are supporting a cause that they are passionate about.

"For me, to see big name CEOs come to this event with their hockey bag and literally turn into school kids when they see Wendel Clark is amazing," says Weir. "They were big heroes when these guys were kids, but by the end of the weekend they are buddies."

With the help of the hockey legends, the Durham College graduate is optimistic about increasing awareness and funding for Alzheimer's, especially since the disease has impacted some major players in the hockey world. Weir believes that the participation and passion of hockey legends such as Darcy Tucker, Doug Gilmour and even Gordie Howe himself is a significant factor in making this event successful.

"They look forward to it and they are very gracious with their time and effort," says Weir. "They have truly been a huge reason why we can raise over \$2.2 million." 

THE ART OF *Finding Yourself*

PHOTO AND STORY BY
MADISON ELLIOTT

What you initially take in is the flaming red hair, the tattoos and the obvious work ethic. What you walk away with is the image of a unique, family-oriented, passionate woman with a clear sense of who she is and what she loves. Today, Susan Typert is a successful businesswoman who owns her own award-winning company, Black Cat Advertising. While her success is undeniable, Typert is the first to admit it was not an easy road getting there and the lessons she has learned along the way have been far more rewarding.

After graduating from Graphic Design in '88, Typert worked for a company that eventually went bankrupt and was looking for work. It was during a job interview that she realized she wanted to start her own business. "It just hit me, being arrogant and 25, that's what I'm going to do and I zipped up my portfolio and I walked out of the interview." She got on the subway, went straight to her uncle's print shop and rented office space. "I had a carpet and a phone." Her first client was music company EMI.

That was 1992. Now, 21 years later, Typert is running a steady business in Scarborough, employing 15 people, with an impressive range of clients from financial to educational institutions, and deals mainly with client relations and creative

direction. Her company is a multiple CUES (Credit Union Executives Society) and Trillium award winner for results-related advertising and marketing campaigns, as well as a recent College Marketing Innovation award winner.

Over the years she has learned you need to surround yourself with people you want to work with. Embracing new technology was as critically important as managing staff and clients, she said. Print work was the company's main focus 10 years ago. Today they do everything from web design to video and much more. The company has worked on some great campaigns, including the Humber Business School's campaign uniquely highlighting their postgraduate programs for university students.

When Typert enrolled in the Graphic Design program at Durham College, she didn't fully understand what she was getting herself into, she admits.


"I remember them specifically saying 'if you're here to do fine arts this is not the program for you.' And I remember thinking, 'I'll still do fine arts.' I just came in and did whatever I wanted anyway." After her first year however, she quickly learned that fine arts would not be on her agenda, at least not for the time being.

Typert rediscovered herself in art two decades later. Her talent for pastel work as well as her tattoos and her creative mind for advertising are huge driving forces when it comes to this. In her "pastel therapy," which she started about five years ago, she found what makes her happy.

"In pastel there's something about the chalk, and that gritty, gritty paper and that sound that...triggers something in your brain...of peacefulness." In fact, just recently Typert has begun to consider putting her art in a gallery. She also chose body art as a way to remember her parents with her memorial tattoo.

"I thought, if I mark it...I don't have to fear not being able to remember it. As soon as I marked it in this way, it set my brain free and I was able to move on with my life - almost like a rebirth."

As far as her future goals are concerned, she has some aspirations for Black Cat, such as implementing new technologies, but mostly she reserves her goals for her children. "I think most of my dreams now are for my kids. To find the same type of passion, to find the same type of goal in life and the same type of success you get from really carving it out on your own."

It is safe to say that the arrogant 25-year-old is gone. She has been replaced by a confident woman who has made art her life, from her chosen profession, to her own body, and the passion she hopes to pass on to her children. Susan Typert has made her life her own work of art. 

Graphic Design grad Susan Typert understands the work that goes into building a company.



a woman ON A MISSION

BY TAYLOR CUNNINGHAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON FORBES

Imagine seeing the joy of a small child colouring with a crayon for the first time. This is an experience that recent Durham College graduate Sharon Forbes describes as something she will never forget.

Forbes graduated from the post-graduate Advanced Law Enforcement and Investigations program in 2011. She was born in Luampa, Zambia where her parents worked as missionaries. Early in her childhood, Forbes was exposed to great poverty, sickness, violence, and depravity through the lives of her Zambian friends. At age six, Forbes moved back to Canada and grew up in London, Ont. Following her graduation, she decided she wanted to give back and do something for those in need. So she packed herself up and moved to Chennai, India to join a Non-Government Organization called the International Justice Mission (IJM). The purpose of this mission is to help rescue people from bonded slavery.

“It has opened my eyes to the possibility of slavery happening worldwide.”

Forbes worked as an Investigations Intern at the IJM for two years, officially finishing in February 2012. Alongside national staff and other interns she helped free some of those who had taken money loans and were unable to pay them back. Such people are forced to work in brick kilns, rice mills or rock quarries. They are not allowed to leave, go to the marketplace or work anywhere else to pay off their debt faster. They are paid very little or nothing at all and usually they end up moving their entire family into the facilities to help work off their debt. These bonded slaves are beaten, starved and physically, sexually and verbally abused each day. The most victimized group of society tends to be in the lowest caste in India — people who are uneducated and are still often known as the “untouchables.”

Being exposed to such horrors on a daily basis can certainly take its toll, but Forbes points out that missions aren't without




Advanced Law Enforcement and Investigations grad Sharon Forbes sparkles in her traditional sari during a mission to Chennai, India.

their high points,

“The most rewarding part of my job was after a rescue operation playing with the little kids. Giving them colouring books, crayons and blank paper — most had never had a crayon and didn't know what to do at first. Once they watched me colour a bit they tried and then loved it and coloured every page in their books,” Forbes says. “One of the most amazing things was holding a seven-day-old baby while on a rescue mission and looking at him knowing that this little baby will never know the horror of slavery because on that day his life had been changed forever.”

Travelling to India and working with IJM has offered Forbes tremendous opportunities and has given her a worldwide view. Although not preparing for any missions in the near future, she does plan on using her experiences as her driving force in her current job.

“It has opened my eyes to the possibility of slavery happening worldwide,” says Forbes, who is now determined to fight for human rights in Canada. “I'm looking forward to a career that is being a voice for the voiceless, whatever that may entail.”

In March 2012, Forbes left IJM and completed six months of boot camp with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police before starting work with the force in September of that same year. She is presently stationed in British Columbia and works on general duty, handling the 911 calls that come in daily. Not surprisingly, when not attending to calls she works closely with community members building partnerships and helping make the community a safer place for all. 

The Construction of a *MILLIONAIRE*

STORY AND PHOTO
BY NATALIE WEBER

Durham College Business grad hailed as region's youngest landlord

Many people have the misconception that success, and financial independence, must follow graduation. However, Philippe Alberigo, a 2013 UOIT Business graduate who bridged from Durham College's Business program, had found this success well before completing his academic studies, effectively managing two small businesses and becoming Durham Region's youngest landlord.

Alberigo was born into the business world. His parents owned a family restaurant in Whitby, Ont., where from a young age he would assist in washing dishes and serving tables. While in Grade 11, he started his first business cleaning corporate buildings and even made \$6,000 in one summer. During his second year at Durham College, Alberigo continued to pursue his entrepreneurial ambitions by starting his second business, the Book Bank. He would facilitate the purchasing and selling of students' used textbooks for those trying to avoid buying expensive new ones. During his first year of bridging into UOIT, Alberigo still was not satisfied. From the knowledge he gained from the Durham Business program, he felt confident enough to purchase his first rental property — at just 20 years old.

"I found that the bridging program was a great transition. The two schools are on the same campus so there is a lot of communication between them. The classes are close and the students are close," says Alberigo. "Durham College teachers offer a lot of support. To this day, I still go see half a dozen of my old teachers and ask for advice and tell them how things are going. You will always have that support at Durham, even after you graduate."

Now owning three additional properties, Alberigo had turned down many job offers before accepting his current position at Toronto Dominion (TD) Bank's head office. By exercising patience and perseverance, he has landed his ideal starting position rather than impatiently accepting his first offer. As he says, a common mistake made by graduates is to succumb to the overwhelming desire to accept the first offer that comes along, which can result in less financial compensation and increase the risk of job dissatisfaction.

"After graduation, I had offers with [companies such as] Sun Life Investors Group, Sun Life Financial and Hewlett Packard, which I declined because I wanted to start off strong. I don't believe in accepting the first offer because there could be something better waiting around the corner," says Alberigo.

"I accepted the credit analyst position at TD's head office, but I'm also still looking to expand my real estate portfolio.




Philippe Alberigo stands in front of one of his three income properties in Whitby, Ont.

I'm aiming for 25 houses by age 25. I purchased three more properties over the summer and I have them all rented out now. I plan on purchasing one every couple of months."

By exhibiting drive, dedication and ambition, the 21-year-old has already achieved a great deal for one so young. He believes that the ability to learn new skills and utilize them in a successful manner is integral to accomplishing one's goals. While every business venture, big or small, carries some form of risk, the knowledge and confidence that Alberigo acquired in part due to the guidance of his professors, helped him succeed where most would be too afraid to try.

"As a student, Philippe had an intellectual curiosity and an eagerness to participate in class discussions. This served him well in his studies and will continue to serve him well in his career," says Ingrid Brand, Marketing Professor at Durham College. "His enthusiasm and 'can do' attitude has helped him achieve success so far and I have no doubt that it will continue to propel him in the direction that he wants to go."

One thing is for sure — Alberigo and professors like Brand are proving that the foundation for success is knowledge. All you need to add is a little nerve and a lot of determination. 

Rockstar Changes His Tune

BY STEPHANIE DUFFY
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRAD SMITH

Long hair, bright lights, a screaming crowd – these aren't things usually associated with software development. But for a period in Brad Smith's life, before he became a Durham College Computer Systems Technology graduate, it was the only thing he knew.

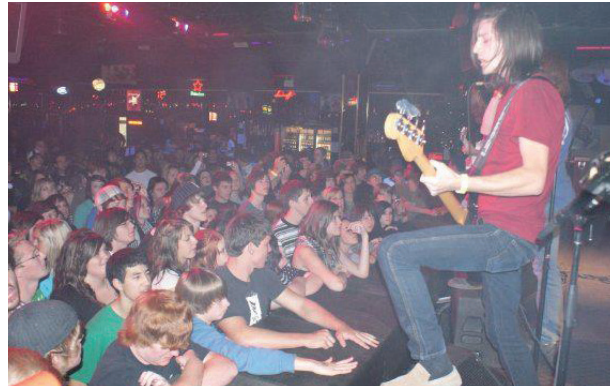
Smith had always looked up to his older brother Mike. Although the age gap between them was seven years, the two had always been close. Smith was constantly inspired by his brother's musical talent and would watch him play as often as possible. When he turned 16, his brother gave him his old bass guitar. Learning to play opened up doors to some life-changing experiences.

During high school, playing in a band called Carousel helped Smith perfect his skills and become confident in his musical abilities. The band played many local venues, including The Dungeon, a popular Oshawa venue that has since closed. There he met – and opened for – These Silhouettes, a well-known Ontario band that signed with the Underground Operations record label. The two bands often shared the stage and, as their relationship grew, they began jamming and collaborating together. Then one day, These Silhouettes was looking for a new member.

"They needed a new bass player because their guy switched to guitar," says Smith. "They were holding auditions. After sharing the stage so often and getting to know one another musically, I thought it would be a great opportunity to advance my career. And because we had played so many shows together, I knew all of their songs. I played a few for them and that was it."

One week later they were on the road, touring across Canada in a 15-passenger van pulling their equipment behind them in a trailer. They all took turns driving, sleeping, and otherwise passing the time on the way to the next city, where they would play their show and hang out with the other bands before moving on again. Along the way, they played shows with Alexisonfire and Lights, bands he admired and had grown up listening to. Indeed, Smith found himself living a lifestyle he had never expected, doing something he really loved.

"I thought it was great to be in a new town every day and be able to see new places, hear new music, and play for big crowds," recalls Smith. "There were many positives about touring Canada, but all the money we made went into maintaining the van. We lived on peanut butter and jam sandwiches, and I didn't like jam, so it was just peanut butter all the time."



Computer Systems Technology grad Brad Smith toured all over Canada with his band, These Silhouettes.



Smith has traded in his bass guitar and long hair, and now works as a software developer at AME Learning.

After a year and a number of tours as bassist for These Silhouettes, Smith decided that although it had been a great experience, band life wasn't for him, and in 2009 he left the band to study Computer Systems Technology at Durham College. Smith had always had a love of computers, and knew that getting an education and a job would give him the financial stability that playing in a band wouldn't.

"Ten bucks a day wasn't cutting it anymore," says Smith. "It's hard to make it in the music industry these days. It made more sense to go to back to school so that I could support myself. I've been lucky to be able to work my way into a good position now, in a field I'm interested in."

Smith graduated in 2011, and now works as a software developer for AME Learning, a financial literacy company. Although happy with the choice he made to further his education, he will always look back fondly on his band days and know he has been able to experience a life that many others can only imagine. 🎸

How do you spell team? F-A-M-I-L-Y

BY MIKE GUERARD

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PETERBOROUGH PETES

Whether he's travelling on the road, locked away in his office working to ensure success for his 25 young players, or with his wife and young son, Sports Administration graduate Michael Oke believes there is one common bond — family.

Family is important both at the rink and away from it. The ability to work together and respect each other is a very important aspect of any relationship, be it at the rink or at home.

When it comes to mentoring his adopted hockey kids, the general manager of the Peterborough Petes remembers that each player is unique and fulfills a specific role in the family unit. While helping each player to live up to their role, Oke instills the values of hard work and leadership, which will stay with his hockey kids after they leave the arena.

As the Petes' GM, Oke feels it's important that everyone involved, from the office staff to the coaches and support staff, knows their families are an important part of the organization. During the course of a season, it's not always wins and happy times. There are many stressful moments. When families are involved, they better understand what each member of the team is going through. Most importantly, the family members get to share in the victories and better understand the hardships, so they can provide encouragement and support during the hard times.

"In the hockey industry you have to have a supportive family," says Oke. "They have to be understanding that it does take a lot of time, it's a lot of time away from home."


There is a lot of travel for a hockey veteran like Oke. He has visited every province and territory in Canada. As a coach, he has guided young players in Trenton, Waterloo, and Oshawa. On Valentine's Day 2013, after four months as the interim general manager, Oke officially took charge of the Peterborough Petes.

Before joining the Petes in 2010, Oke served for four years as the General Manager and Chief Scout with the International Scouting Service (ISS). Prior to working for the ISS, Oke spent two years as director of player personnel for the Oshawa Generals.

"Hockey has given me tremendous amounts of opportunity to see different parts of the world, meet a lot of great people and go to unique places," says Oke. One of those great people he met while visiting his friend at Wilfrid Laurier University was future wife Julie. Coming full circle, Oke would join the Laurier family himself, serving as assistant coach from 2000 to 2004.

Always wanting to work in the hockey industry, he graduated from the Sports Administration program at Durham College in 1998. At college, Oke found a supportive family unit. Even today, he fondly remembers professors Don Fraser, Barry Reid, Ernie Rainbow, and Paul De Sousa.

"I still remember chatting with professor Sherry Bassin back then. We talked quite often about hockey and he was able to provide me with valuable insights that I still utilize today in some of the different aspects of my job," says Oke.

Wherever hockey takes Oke, he will go with his own loving family and with an open embrace for the new members of his hockey clan. 



Sports Admin. grad Michael Oke, his son Cole and wife Julie, getting ready for the game.

“Hockey has given me tremendous amounts of opportunity to see different parts of the world, meet a lot of great people and go to unique places.”



Peterborough Petes' GM Michael Oke watches his adopted family in action.

Boyes will be Boyes

BY KYLA NORRIS
PHOTO BY IAN GOODALL

With household name hockey stars like Crosby, Ovechkin and the Sedin twins, it's no wonder young boys (and girls) are so adamant about playing in the NHL. But when playing doesn't pan out, then what? Michael Boyes is living proof that a dream of working in hockey doesn't have to stop at being a player.

As assistant equipment manager for the Oshawa Generals the 22-year-old Sport Management grad is continuing to hone his skills on the job, and he's learning from the best – his dad. Bryan Boyes is well known in the Canadian hockey community as Generals head athletic trainer and equipment manager as well as six-time World Junior equipment manager for Canada.

"It's pretty cool, you know. Not everyone gets to go to work every day with their dad. He's been in the business for 30-plus years now so he knows everything that's going on. He's a great guy to learn from. Everyone always tells me I'm learning from the best, and that's definitely true. With all the World Juniors and hockey events he's been to, I couldn't be learning from a better person."

The opportunities this assistant equipment manager is receiving are ones he wouldn't have dreamt of seven years ago when he started his journey as a volunteer for his dad with the Oshawa Generals. In the summer of 2013 he worked in Calgary with Hockey Canada's Program of Excellence Goaltending Camp as their equipment manager. In addition, he spent time in Nova Scotia with Hockey Canada and Team Ontario in December 2013 for the Under 17 Tournament.

He has also travelled all over North America including Vancouver, Orlando and Las Vegas. Michael has worked with several members of the Oshawa Generals who have successfully transitioned into the NHL such as John Tavares (New York Islanders) and Boone Jenner (Columbus Blue Jackets.)

"Michael has grown to be a true professional in his work as an equipment manager and has already gained the utmost respect of his peers. His character and dedication has already lead to opportunities with Hockey Canada, and the Ontario Hockey League. He'll soon be a leader in his field," says Bryan Boyes.

Michael's extensive résumé has caught the eye of several people in the hockey community, including some NHL teams who showed interest in working with him in the near future. There is no doubt that his dream of being a part of the greatest game on earth has become a reality.

"With my dad being in the Generals organization for my whole life, the only thing I know is hockey. Growing up in a dressing room, being around a team atmosphere my whole life makes every other job seem foreign."

On the job he has picked up tasks such as skate sharpening, equipment repairs and setting up the dressing room on game days. When figuring out stick budgets and other finances, he uses the marketing and accounting knowledge he learned in the Sports Management program.

"To wake up and go to the rink every day – doesn't get much better than that." 



Durham College Sport Management grad and Oshawa Generals assistant equipment manager Michael Boyes (Right) works with his father, Oshawa Generals head athletic trainer Bryan Boyes (Left).

RENEWING ENERGY *at HOME* *and HOPE in HAITI*

BY MAGGIE GOLDSTEIN

PHOTO COURTESY OF EDDY RACINE

In January 1998 a colossal ice storm crippled southern Quebec, leaving thousands of people without electricity for weeks during the coldest months of the winter.

Eddy Racine, while volunteering with the Montreal Fire Department, was among the first responders trying to locate and rescue the elderly in the Montreal ice storm. “The city was shut down for days. Those big towers that hold electrical cables, they buckled under the weight of the ice, crumbling like paper to the ground. I mean power was out everywhere,” said the Renewable Energy Technician grad. This outage resulted in a house-to-house search for those in need, a challenge that Racine faced willingly and head on, because of a defined moral compass that calls him to action. Racine was a 2013 Durham College Alumni of Distinction Award winner for his work with renewable energy along with his determination to give back to the communities that have given him so much.

This moral compass is the same one that inspired Racine to join the Canadian Armed Forces Militia 2RCA at age 17 and the same drive that propelled this father of three to go back to school and rewrite his career path. Having left customer service at IBM to focus on renewable energy, Racine gives back to his community by helping others develop solar power. One project he is working on is a 100-kilowatt solar farm north of Kingston. Racine believes that we are all part of the solution when it comes to renewable energy. When discussing his time in Montreal from the perspective of his new career, Racine says “if we only had more autonomous power.” Through initiatives like the Feed-In-Tariff program, anyone can farm solar power to use to power their own homes, and perhaps to provide power to others.


Racine believes we are all charged with giving back to our communities. It’s a firm family belief that he

embraces through his work with renewable energy, and through his personal life volunteering with Fedeb D’Haiti, an organization developed to help rebuild in Haiti. “I want to help build sustainable communities and rebuild for the children of Haiti, but of course it’s for everybody,” says Racine, “so we want to teach kids how to take care of themselves. And whatever we provide to them we’re teaching them that wherever you go you need to come back and provide a thank-you to your community.” Racine and his family continue to give back to the community they are from in Haiti by immersing themselves in these projects, sharing the workload one month at a time.

His commitment to these causes earned Racine the alumni of distinction award this year. “It was a humbling experience to be honest with you. Simply because to me it validates your hard work and lets you know that you are always being looked at by others. That should make us ask ourselves ‘how do I want to be seen and remembered?’ All I could say is wow!

It’s humbling that I would be thought of that way,” he said. Racine credits his professors at Durham College for giving him the basic skills and knowledge to succeed in renewable energy. Being part of the first graduating class of the Renewable Energy Technician Program gave Racine a unique experience in the program.

“The leadership opportunities were amazing. Every time I needed something, my professors encouraged and supported the team that I worked with. I didn’t think that I had impacted them or the school as much as they had impacted me.”

Excited about receiving this award, Racine hopes to continue achieving success in his career at Westburne Electric as well as furthering his impact with Fedeb D’Haiti and anywhere he is called to service. 



Eddy Racine, Renewable Energy Technician grad, receives an Alumni of Distinction Award for his volunteer work.

Fuelled by positive *ENERGY*

BY JARAH CRAWFORD
DURHAM COLLEGE FILE PHOTO

Imagine setting life-long goals, then achieving every single one within two short years. For Durham College graduate Kevin Campbell, this is the case.

Campbell, 30, has been following his passion and focusing on his successful career path since graduating from the Renewable Energy Technician program in 2011. As a member of the program's inaugural class, Campbell was determined to succeed. All of his hard work eventually paid off and won him both an Alumni of Distinction Award and a position as a project co-ordinator in the energy division with the Bondfield Construction Company in Concord, Ont.

“Graduating from Durham College and winning the Alumnus of Distinction award are definitely my two biggest accomplishments.”

Having a 10-year construction background, Campbell had always strived to further his knowledge of the industry. After working for these previous years in the roofing industry, he decided he would take on solar roofing, since both have numerous similarities. Given the opportunity to return to school, thanks to the province's second-career program, Campbell jumped at the chance.



Kevin Campbell, graduate of the Renewable Energy Technician program in 2011, accepts an Alumni of Distinction award.

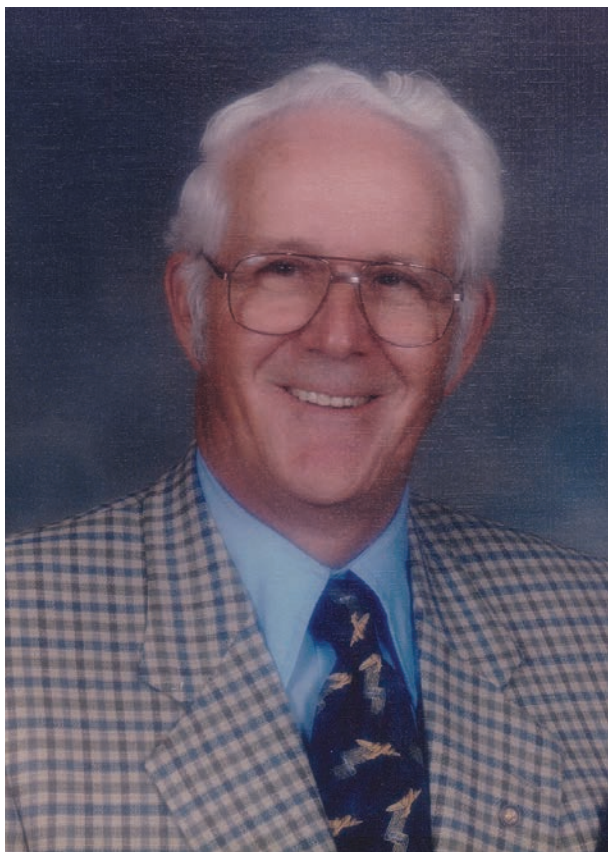
“[The Renewable Energy Technician Program] was the most interesting program to take at the time. I felt it was the one I could really excel in because it was new, and I knew I would find a really good job afterwards,” says Campbell. “I also had to take something that could be finished within two years, so it was the most comprehensive and interesting for me.”

These days, as an outstanding construction manager with a lot on his plate, Campbell manages everything from initial budgeting to allocating manpower, negotiating contracts, purchasing equipment, managing clients, and overseeing projects to final completion. His passionate drive within the industry, and his loyalty to Durham College, have had such positive influences on him that he gives back to the college as much as possible by taking on students for mandatory placements.

The young construction manager's long-range goal is to situate himself as the first-ever construction manager for the energy division at Bondfield and lead the way for new workers who may look up to him. In the meantime, receiving the Alumnus of Distinction Award remains Campbell's largest achievement to date.

“Rising to the role of a construction manager very fast is huge, but the Alumnus of Distinction is an actual award dedicated to me and my success,” he says. “Graduating from Durham College and winning the Alumnus of Distinction award are definitely my two biggest accomplishments.”

Legacy of LEARNING



*Arthur Alan
Harvey Strike,
former member of
the Durham College
Board of Governors,
always put others
before himself.*

BY ERIN LENNOX

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN STRIKE

A graduate of the Osgoode Hall Law School of Toronto's York University in 1953, Al Strike found himself wanting to make a change in the lives of students who shared the same interest. As an eventual member of the Board of Governors he brought that same desire to Durham College.

Strike was always looking for a way to help students in the School of Justice and Emergency Services achieve greatness. For many years he donated money to the annual scholarship ceremony while devising new ways to bring in funds for the school.

Strike, who passed away on May 23, 2013 at the age of 85, was well known for his involvement in the Durham College community. He played a major role in coming up with ways to get more people involved with, and aware of, "his" school. He even went to great lengths to hold fundraising campaigns in order to expand programs and create brighter futures for Justice and Emergency Services students.

"Al Strike [was] a very long supporter of Durham College and UOIT. He donated to the Durham College Scholarship ceremony annually for many years. He [also] worked on many fundraising campaigns for Durham College and in particular our Creating Futures Campaign," says David Chambers, president, Durham College Foundation and associate vice-president, Office of Development.


Strike worked closely with the Creating Futures Campaign, an initiative to create brighter futures and opportunities for

students. He not only contributed to fundraising campaigns for students but also established a scholarship that is awarded to a Legal Administration student each school year.

Considered a leader by many, Strike served as the president of the Northumberland Durham Board of Education. He also was president and member of the Rotary Club of Bowmanville, and a founding member of the Bowmanville Business Improvement Area. In addition to being on the Board of Governors at Durham College, he was the fundraising chair for the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Valleys 2000, a group working to rehabilitate two Bowmanville river valleys.

“Al Strike was a very long
supporter of Durham College
and UOIT”

Strike was an important member of the Durham College community. He was a founding member of the Durham College Board of Governors, sitting on the board from 1966 to 1972, and again from 1972 to 1977.

As Lori Connor, alumni officer at Durham College, says, "He was a vibrant member of the Durham Region and we will miss him." 

alumni UPDATE

1972

WAYNE ANDREWS

Civil Technician

lives in Keswick with his wife Holly. He has one granddaughter, five-year-old Brielle who lives in Oshawa with Wayne's son and his wife Sarah. Wayne retired in August, 2013, from the Town of East Gwillimbury where he was the Manager of Operations and Fleet.

1993

JACQUES BRISON

Business – General

lives in Ajax with his wife, Andrea. He currently works in Concord for PPG Architectural Coatings as a Customer Service Manager.

2009

JAIME SPARKES

Sport Management

lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He currently works for the Winnipeg Goldeyes as an Account Executive. Jamie also started his own company called Sparkes Productions and he runs different events across North America.

2001

RAYMOND COLLINS

Fire & Emergency Services

lives in Bowmanville with his wife Lauren, their five-year-old son Noah, and their two-year-old daughter Nevaeh. Raymond is working as a Road Supervisor at Shield Fire Protection.

2002

SCOTT RODMORE

Computer Systems Technology

lives in Toronto. Scott is currently working as Realtor & Sales Representative at Keller Williams Referred Realty in Toronto.

2013

TREVOR PATRICK FERNANDES

Environmental Technology

lives in Brantford. He is currently working at Newalta in Brantford as an Operator 3.

In Memoriam

MICHAEL PEGG

Sports Administration, 1998

With great sadness we regret to announce the sudden passing of Michael David Pegg, at the age of 36 years, on November 29, 2013 at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket. Beloved husband of Kim and dear son of David and Louise Pegg. Mike was a 10-year veteran of the York Regional Police.

GERRY PETTIT

Retiree of Durham College & Inductee of the Durham College & OCAA Sports Halls of Fame

Peacefully with family by his side at Credit Valley Hospital on Thursday, November 28th, 2013, in his 80th year. Gerry Pettit began his career at Durham College as an administrator in November of 1969. During his lengthy career at Durham College, he held numerous roles including director of Admissions and head coach of the varsity hockey and golf programs and was the first-ever head coach of the men's basketball team.



Gerry (right above, with soccer coach Vaso Vujanovic) enjoyed his greatest coaching accomplishments over a 25-year period with the golf program that included winning back-to-back championships in 1988 and 1989. Gerry officially retired from the college in 1993 and was inducted into the Durham College Sports Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2007.

A memorial sports bursary has been established in Gerry's memory. Honorary donations are welcomed.

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*No purchase required. Contest organized jointly with Primm Insurance Company and open to members, employees and other eligible persons belonging to employer, professional and alumni groups which have an agreement with and are entitled to group rates from the organizers. Contest ends on October 31, 2013. Draw on November 22, 2013. One (1) prize to be won. The winner may choose between a Lexus ES 300h hybrid (approximate MSRP of \$58,902 which includes freight, pre-delivery inspection, fees and applicable taxes) or \$60,000 in Canadian funds. Skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at melochemonnex.com/contest.

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