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FAREWELL TO  
THE AD MAN  
PROFESSOR BILL MERRIOTT RETIRES

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, DURHAM COLLEGE

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Another academic year is underway and we have many exciting initiatives happening at our Oshawa and Whitby campuses including the construction of our new Student Services building, the renovations and

updates to the Gordon Willey building and phases 2 and 3 of our Whitby campus expansion and refurbishment.

In addition, we welcomed more than 7,000 full-time students to classes in September; launched a \$3-million fundraising campaign to support our Whitby campus expansion; introduced several new programs; and will soon recognize our top academic scholars at our annual fall scholarship ceremony.

There is also our fall convocation ceremony when we recognize the hard work and dedication of our graduates. I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments to date and more than confident of the future greatness they will go on to achieve as they join our more than 51,000 alumni.

All you really need to do is read through this issue of Reflections to get a clear sense of the many ways our alumni make us proud. For example, there's Advertising graduate Rachele Webb who is working to protect our environment through her role as creative director and co-creator of Ecocentric Guide, an online source for eco-friendly products. Nursing graduate Lynda Vanden Kroonenberg who is dedicated to the health-care field and being an advocate for patients. Public Relations graduate and breast cancer survivor Sharon Todd who, as the communications chair of the Canadian Cancer Society, was instrumental in helping to bring the popular Relay for

Life, a 12-hour team walk for cancer research, to Oshawa, Ont.

These are just some examples of the many ways our alumni achieve excellence in their careers, maintain busy and full personal lives and stay committed to helping their communities. I encourage you to take a look at the pages that follow and be proud of your Durham College heritage, just as we are proud of you.

Of course if you have your own success share, please let us know by contacting Lori Connor, alumni officer, at 905.721.2000 ext. 3035 or [lori.connor@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:lori.connor@durhamcollege.ca).

Sincerely,

**Don Lovisa**  
President, Durham College

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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It's hard to believe that we have already begun another academic year. It seems like yesterday that I was at our spring convocation ceremonies, handing out our Alumni of Distinction Awards and congratulating

our latest group of graduates. Now it's October and our fall convocation ceremonies are upon us. Once again, I am so happy to welcome a new class of Durham College graduates to our family.

For more than 40 years our alumni have achieved significant milestones and as you read this edition of Reflections, you will learn about several former students who have taken their Durham College education and used it to make a name

for themselves while supporting the communities in which they live and work.

They have set and achieved goals including building and developing businesses from the ground up. Some bravely returned to school to begin an entirely new career. Others followed their athletic dreams, confident their Durham College education would be there to guide them when the time came.

While reading these stories provides great satisfaction, I truly enjoy having the opportunity to meet with our alumni face-to-face and hearing firsthand what exactly made their educational experience at Durham College so enjoyable.

As I look forward, I look forward to the new stories of success and triumph that will fill the pages of Reflections for years to come. Now that we're 51,000 alumni strong, I can only anticipate what our next 50,000 alumni will accomplish.

It's with the future in mind that I strongly encourage you not to forget where you come from. Whether you return to our campuses to take in a varsity sports game or to say hello to an old faculty member, don't be a stranger. Our doors are always open!

Cheers,

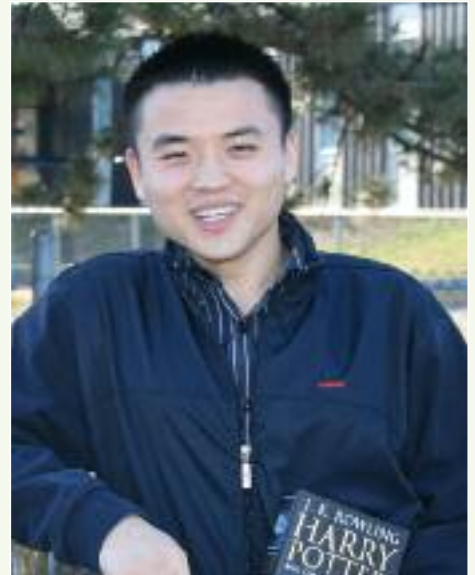
**Lillian Jacoby**  
Legal Administration, class of 1976  
President, Durham College  
Alumni Association



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# THE EARTH WARRIOR

by Amanda Thede

GOING GREEN IS MERELY A FIGURE OF speech in a world where almost everyone is trying to do their part in saving the planet. For Advertising graduate Rachelle Webb, going green is more than just a way of life.

Alongside her partner, Mary Georgio, Webb created Ecocentric Guide, an online source for local, indie and organic products and services, which launched in January 2009. Webb's role as creative director and co-editor provides her with a chance to find, promote and market businesses in the community that are doing their best for the environment.

"It's about getting in with the community. Really digging in, going out and meeting people to discover the artisans who are out there," she explains. "Discovering them, interviewing them and interacting with the people who are doing it with style and making the world a better place."

On her website you can find products that have to do with fashion, food, décor, skin care, travel, children's products and much more. Some of the brands featured include Roots Canada and its organic cotton T-shirts as well as Nourishteas, a company that makes loose-leaf teas that promote health. In total, the website showcases more than 90 eco-friendly products, businesses and services.

Webb's innate passion for the planet ignited during the few years she spent in San Francisco, Calif. After returning to Whitby, she enrolled in the Advertising program at Durham College. While at Durham, she began working part-time in the Hired Career Services department and went on to volunteer for many on-campus student life events such as the annual Career Fair and Orientation Week. Through working in the Hired Career Services office, she learned much more than she anticipated and her knowledge of the job market before graduation gave her an advantage when searching for a job.

"The opportunity to work for the work experts granted me exclusive, in-depth knowledge of the job markets and irreplaceable experience in career preparation," said Webb. "Angie, Janette, Linda, Mary, Anna, Tara and the whole



PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOCENTRIC GUIDE



Advertising graduate Rachelle Webb is creative director and co-creator of Ecocentric Guide, an online source for eco-friendly products that launched in January 2009.

crew in the Hired Career Services department were always behind me. I emerged beyond equipped as a grad and they are an unrivalled resource to students."

After graduating in 2007, Webb worked at a couple of different marketing agencies before becoming an entrepreneur, encouraging the green movement within the community.

In February, her website spotlighted The GreenShows, a collaboration of fashion designers included in Eco Fashion Week in New York City, U.S. Canadian designers included Thieves from Toronto, Ont. from Halifax, N.S., both of which put an emphasis on eco-fabrics such as organic wool, cotton, bamboo and peace silk, which is fabric

made from the cocoons of silk worms that have been allowed to complete their life cycle instead of being killed in the silk-making process.

"What it's really all about is giving back. Thinking global and acting local," said Webb. "We're in the midst of a renaissance in human consciousness. We all want a better world and this is just my humble contribution. I am grateful each day to be able to spread the love. We all have the ability to affect change and if I can make a difference using the skills I acquired through my education, that's all the better."

# DREAM TAKES GRAD TO NEW HEIGHTS

by Corinna Andrews

"GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. This is your captain speaking. I have the pleasure of flying with WestJet's finest today. The weather is sunny, beautiful and the ride should be smooth all the way to our destination. We'll be climbing up to 40,000 feet and please be mindful about the seatbelt sign that is located above your head. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to ask one of your flight attendants. Now sit back and relax and enjoy the WestJet hospitality!"

This is an all too familiar spiel for Kim Wilcox as she flies to destinations across North America with WestJet Airlines as a flight attendant. But flying is a new career for her. She initially attended Durham College for a Bookkeeper/Typist course when the college was a much smaller school and years later returned to take the Office Administration program, graduating in 1993. Since then she has held various office jobs including working for Ontario Power Generation and its contractors.

Before Wilcox attended college she dreamed of being a flight attendant but was discouraged to discover that there was a five-foot two-inch height requirement for the job. Standing a mere five foot one, she gave up on making her dream a reality. It wasn't until 26 years later that she took her first crack at it, when the height requirement was lowered by one inch.

"I decided I wanted to be a flight attendant and I wasn't going to let anything stop me this time," said Wilcox. "I got a job with a little charter airline in Calgary called North Cariboo Air."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM WILCOX

**Despite flying frequently in her new career, graduate Kim Wilcox maintains a close relationship with her 21-year-old son Joshua, a recent Vancouver Film School graduate.**

Wilcox travelled on a 39-passenger plane doing charters. Mostly it would fly people up to the oil rigs north of Fort McMurray, Alta., but once it flew hockey commentator Don Cherry and the Stanley Cup as well as the premiers of the Atlantic provinces.

After working on charters, Wilcox landed a job in March 2007 at a bigger airline – WestJet. There was no need to go back to school as training was provided although she did endure an extensive interview process to test her customer service skills.

While flying with WestJet these past few years, Wilcox has met celebrities like Paul Brandt, Willie Mack, Bif Naked and Simon Collins (Phil Collins' son) and a number of other interesting passengers, a select few with whom she still keeps in touch.

Despite its many perks, the job can be exhausting, and she admits things can go wrong in the air. Her biggest crisis was a distressed woman with severe mental illness. It was up to the flight attendants to keep the woman calm without alarming the other passengers.

Though Wilcox has had some minor setbacks in life, she does have some words of wisdom for anyone who is attending school, is a recent graduate, or is even middle-aged.

"Learn to manage your money and follow your dreams," she said. Wilcox admits that being a flight attendant doesn't pay well but it's great if you like to meet people, make new friends and travel. She now lives in Calgary, Alta. and has one son, Joshua, who graduated from the Vancouver Film School in Vancouver, B.C. in April.



# DURHAM LORDS HELP FUNDRAISE FOR THE FUTURE

by Christina Embleton

Student athlete Kyle MacKinnon, a Durham College baseball player, grew a moustache during the Movember event to raise funds for Prostate Cancer Canada.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

SCHOOL IS COOL. That's the message that Durham College athletes bring to local elementary school children during their healthy-living School is Cool tour.

The tour is a community outreach program that has Durham College varsity athletes visiting elementary schools in Durham Region to talk to kids about the importance of education, athletics and living a healthy lifestyle. Athletes describe what it's like to play sports while focusing on education. They also talk about the importance of studying, respecting teachers and other students and staying physically active.

"Every (varsity) team does a tour of elementary schools to promote healthy living. The athletes take part in an assembly to talk to students about staying in school and getting good grades, and share their experiences growing up," said Scott Dennis, the sports information and marketing co-ordinator at Durham College.

The teams visited between 25 and 30 schools by February and continued their visits after that. In some cases, elementary school teachers call the college's Athletics department to invite a team to assist with teaching a gym class for a specific unit. For instance, the volleyball teams might work with kids when they're taking their volleyball unit.

The athletes however, don't just visit schools they also pitch in during fundraising events. Last November, Durham College baseball player Kyle MacKinnon took part in the Movember challenge, which focused attention on raising funds for prostate cancer.

The athlete promoted the cause by growing a moustache throughout November and raising money for Prostate Cancer Canada.

"Fundraising for local charities is something the athletes came up with on their own. When they have an idea for a fundraiser or event to help out an organization, the teams do everything they can to make it happen," said Dennis. Last year the men's volleyball team participated in the Think Pink event, selling raffle tickets for a pink prize pack to raise money for breast cancer research.

In addition, the men's basketball team and the Caribbean and African Student Association teamed up with the Samuel Dalembert Foundation last year to help support the Haiti earthquake relief effort. At each Durham College basketball home game, the Lords accepted donations for the foundation and its work in Haiti. The team also held a raffle for an Adidas/National Basketball Association prize pack, with all proceeds going toward the cause.

"The teams host a number of community days at their regular season home games. Anyone who has attended a home game has probably seen a minor sports team or choir perform before or prior to a game," added Dennis. "Kids get to play and perform in front of the crowd and they get to meet some of the players."

There is no doubt that the Durham Lords love and care about their community. With so many fundraisers and charity events going on, it is easy to see how these young athletes are making a difference not only to the future of the charities they support, but to the future of the students that they assist and teach.

# ACCOUNTING FOR SUCCESS

by Jessica McComb

WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED IN OSHAWA, Ont., David Gao, now a successful Durham College Accounting graduate, was barely able to utter a coherent sentence in English.

For some, his goal of earning a college diploma in Canada might have seemed as far away as Gao's home in China. That's where the 23-year-old's irrepressible optimism came in handy. Not easily discouraged, Gao overcame the language barrier and launched a career for himself in Canada.

In September 2005, he enrolled in the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at Durham College. A second-language training program that graduates approximately 50 students per year, EAP is designed to prepare students for successful entry into college. The program was an essential stepping-stone to Gao's success and adjustment to life in Canada.

"When I first arrived in Canada, I didn't know anybody. The EAP teachers taught me the language but they also taught me about the culture here," said Gao. "It was very hard, especially in the beginning. I always had to bring my electronic translator with me everywhere I went because all I really knew were the basics such as, I know, I like and I want. As soon as I got to the EAP program everything got much better, my vocabulary increased and so did my understanding."

For Gao, the most beneficial parts of the EAP program were the small classes and the support of the program's professors. With classes of 10 to 12 students, slacking off was definitely not an option.

"When I first started, I was in Level 2 and for two or three weeks I had two teachers working with me every day. For me that was the most valuable experience," said Gao. "They gave me so much attention in that class."

According to Sarah Sinclair, the college's EAP program co-ordinator and one of Gao's professors, the program introduces students to what it's like to be at a North American college since international students are often unfamiliar with what is considered acceptable at the post-secondary level in Canada.

"For example, the concept of plagiarism is often viewed quite differently in other countries than it is in North America. In some cultures it can even be considered a sign of respect," said Sinclair. "But

international students have a really hard time understanding why it's wrong here."

Although the main focus of the EAP program is scholastics, Sinclair feels the support of the college's professors doesn't stop there. Since many international students are here on their own, they often turn to their EAP professors for non-academic help, such as dealing with landlord problems, partying roommates or understanding why people decorate their yards with tombstones, skeletons and body parts on Halloween.

"One of the greatest compliments we get is that a lot of the students walk away from the program knowing they can always count on the support of their teachers," added Sinclair. "Someone they can come to for help and advice or someone who can help them get through situations they don't know how to handle. A lot of what we do isn't just academic."

With the encouragement of their professors, many EAP students are able to take habits learned in the classroom and apply them to everyday life. For Gao, practising reading at school has spilled over to a lifelong habit.

"My professor (Sinclair) taught me to start reading novels. She told me not to try and find the meaning of each word I didn't understand but just to keep reading," said Gao. "At the beginning, I would never make it past the first chapter. But I tried to just keep reading, and now I'm almost finished the seventh Harry Potter book and its 600 pages! I like it and I'm in the habit of doing it now."

Although the EAP program helped Gao acquire important skills like reading, writing and communicating, for him, the most valuable skill he gained was confidence. "The EAP program gave me a lot of courage to do everything I needed to. Even in

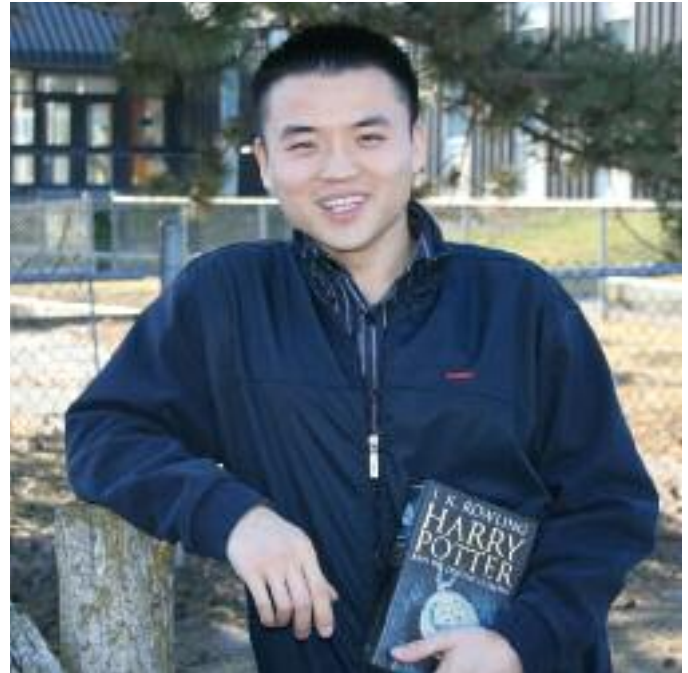


PHOTO BY JESSICA MCCOMB

**Accounting graduate David Gao completed the English for Academic Purposes program, overcoming a language barrier and developing a love for reading.**

college, sometimes I would do better than my other English classmates," he said. "They know the language but they don't know the grammar like I do. EAP made me feel like I was prepared."

Indeed, after completing the EAP program in October 2006, Gao continued down the road to success by pursuing a three-year diploma in Accounting, graduating from Durham College with honours in 2009. After graduation he signed a contract with Illuminated, an LED lighting company in Oshawa. At the end of the contract, Gao wasted no time getting back in the game. He quickly landed a job with BottomLine Payroll and Bookkeeping in Ajax, Ont. and is now working full-time as a bookkeeper and payroll specialist.

# MEDIATING HER WAY TO A NEW CAREER

by Laura Whyte

WHEN KAREN LE BLANC WAS A Journalism student she missed many classes to attend court proceedings and support battles on behalf of her three children.

Since graduating in 2008, she's managed to blend what she learned from those experiences with her communication training and the result is her recent success as a family mediator.

As a mediator, Le Blanc helps families going through separation or divorce have difficult conversations and reach new, workable agreements instead of having to battle their differences out in costly, time-consuming court proceedings.

The mediation process negotiates sensitive subjects like child custody support and the division of property with a goal to create a fair agreement. Once a couple has come to an agreement, Le Blanc is responsible for composing a memorandum of understanding, which eventually becomes the separation agreement so a separation or divorce process moves along smoothly.

As a fresh addition to the mediation services profession, Le Blanc was shocked when she received an invitation to an exclusive gathering called the Home Court Advantage Summit. With more than 120 judges, lawyers, mediators, mental health professionals and members of the public in attendance, the summit evolved from an in-depth position paper full of recommendations for fixing the previously confusing, slow and expensive separation and divorce process.

It was written by the Ontario Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario and the Ontario

Association for Family Mediation and submitted to the Attorney General of Ontario in the early spring of 2009.

The summit offers a final set of recommendations to improve the family law process in Ontario by providing early information, directing parties to the appropriate alternative dispute resolution avenues, providing better access to legal information and developing a streamlined and focused court process. Implementation of some of the changes began on March 1, which left LeBlanc at ease knowing Ontarians could have alternative options to nasty court battles.

"I couldn't believe this was the way the family court system was dealing with things. Mediation was the answer to how couples should separate," said Le Blanc. "Being able to be a part of Canadian family law history was so rewarding."

Initially, Le Blanc was a self-taught moderator for friends and family dealing with separation issues, drawing on the knowledge gained from her own painful struggles and years of devastating court proceedings. She quickly realized she had all the tools and personal experience to become a family mediator and after extensive research, found a growing need for mediators in Ontario's family law system.

Within three months of graduating from Durham College, she enrolled in the Conflict Management and Mediation advanced certificate program at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, where she was taught by one of the best of the field, Dr. Barbara Landau, a psychologist, lawyer, accredited family mediator and arbitrator.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN LE BLANC

Once she graduated, Le Blanc wasted no time opening up her own mediation services practice in her hometown of Port Perry, Ont.

"The interview skills taught in the Journalism program were so beneficial to me – to be able to sit down and articulate clearly what other people's feelings are in writing," said Le Blanc. "Having an exceptional amount of writing and interviewing experience through the Journalism program has made my new career path a straight-forward transition."

With a new perspective on the family mediation profession, Le Blanc hopes to expand her services in the future so her unhappy past can be used as a learning tool for other Canadians struggling with family court disputes.

## DURHAM COLLEGE MEDIATION – ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE) PROGRAM

The one-year Mediation – Alternative Dispute Resolution graduate certificate program is designed for individuals with previous education or work experience who are looking to gain the skills and knowledge required to deal effectively with conflict in various settings including:

- Advocacy;
- Community;
- Education;
- Healthcare;
- Human resources; and
- Justice.

The program also offers an in-house practicum that enables students to participate in the operation of campus mediation services as well as an outside practicum with a relevant organization.



# WORTH EVERY PENNY

by Stephanie Maxwell

AH, THE COLLEGE YEARS. The new-found friends, the independence, the lifetime of memories. What could stop someone from wanting all of these things? Nothing. It's not that some people don't want to attend; it's that many can't afford to.

Statistics Canada reports that 32 per cent of individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 say they aren't attending post-secondary education solely for this reason. That's unfortunate, because studies show that individuals who complete post-secondary education earn more and have less chance of being unemployed.

**“It feels great that my hard work was recognized and it pushes me to want to do even better next semester,”**

Of course, when it comes to paying for college, there's a big difference between living at home or away from home. For a student living with mom and dad, college can cost a relatively manageable \$5,000 for tuition, books and fees. For a student who has to leave home, annual costs can escalate to \$11,000 or higher according to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Durham College offers a Financial Aid and Awards office that helps students cover the costs of going to college. Some services it offers include the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and other government financial aid programs; bursaries; student awards and scholarships such as in-course scholarships for academic excellence; donor awards from members of the community; and external awards from outside sources.

The 2009 scholarship ceremony, held last November, awarded 159 in-course scholarships, valued at \$117,500 in total, to students from the Oshawa and Whitby campuses for their exceptional achievements.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE



Durham College students (above) gathered on November 13, 2009 for the college's annual scholarship ceremony where \$117,500 was awarded for academic excellence. College President Don Lovisa (left), was there to acknowledge the students for their achievements.

Some scholarships are available to any student. For example, the \$1,000 Durham College Alumni Award can be given to any Durham College student who achieves academic excellence. Other scholarships and awards are tailored to students in specific programs such as the \$300 Durham Region Law Association Award, which goes to a Legal Administration student for achieving academic excellence in his or her first year. Not only do these kinds of awards help students financially, they also give students a reason to work hard.

“It feels great that my hard work was recognized and it pushes me to want to do even better next semester,” said Carolyn Jobse, a first-year Advertising student, about her \$500 scholarship for academic excellence. “It was an unexpected bonus that is greatly appreciated.”

Full-time students in need of financial support can also apply for bursaries including an access bursary for first-year students and a returning student bursary for students who complete a student financial profile.

The college also offers financial aid counselling, on-campus employment programs, living accommodations, short-term assistance and tuition deferrals to help students cover the costs of their education. Information about how to apply for scholarships and bursaries and how much money is granted for each award can be found on the Durham College website.

“I don't think that many students are aware of what's available to them,” said Paul Bishop, registrar. “If they were to do more research into what scholarships are available – not only at Durham – they would find there are a lot of sponsorship programs out there.”

Graduate Lynda Vanden Kroonenberg attended Durham College for Nursing. A generation later, her sons Ben (left) and Luke (right) have also walked the campus as students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG VANDEN KROONENBERG

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Alicia Baksh

WHEN NURSING IS THE TOPIC, there is no mistaking the passion that Lynda Vanden Kroonenberg displays. It's a devotion that some may call a love affair judging by her spirited stories.

That devotion also includes her alma mater. After attending Durham College as a Nursing student then working for about 20 years, she returned to Durham College as a part-time nursing educator. A generation after she graduated, attending the college has turned into a family affair, as both of her sons are Durhamites.

Kroonenberg is now a nurse and patient care specialist at Lakeridge Health Corporation in Oshawa, Ont.

"Honestly, for me I love, love, love nursing. Love it," said Kroonenberg. "And I love professional practice. I love that we aren't just responsible to our employers – we are responsible to the public. We are accountable to the public. We have to do what's right for people and advocate for them. And they're so sick they can't even stick up for themselves or ask questions. They need help to get through the confusing and daunting experience of visiting the hospital."

Kroonenberg went headfirst into post-secondary education in 1979 right after high school. At that time Nursing was a one-year program. She has continued to take nursing courses throughout her career because nurses are life-long learners and she feels that too much knowledge is never a bad thing.

"I've gone to school at Durham College for years," she said. "I took continuing education courses, all kinds. I took an Oncology Nursing certificate program, which was huge for me, where I learned about cancer patients and health assessments. I even took a computer course there."

Her sons, Ben and Luke Kroonenberg, must have inherited the Durham College bug as they have both attended the school. Ben Kroonenberg is a recent graduate of the Mechanical Engineering Technology program who is working to secure a position in the electrical field and Luke Kroonenberg is a Music Business Management student who recently took a semester off to tour with his band, The Ocean Buried.

As it was for their mother, Durham College was their first choice when picking a school to attend since they had heard good comments from their mom about her Durham College experience. Kroonenberg says she felt secure knowing that her children were receiving an education that largely included content directly applicable to their fields.

She also knew the teachers would be experienced and could walk the talk about what they taught. For her, an important part of her college experience was learning from professors who had worked in the field. "Based on what we've heard at our supper table, these are people that understand or have a good sound knowledge base about the industry," she said.

"It sounds to me that they honestly want to help people in their area that are interested in music business. This goes for Ben's program as well."



Business graduate Terry Arscott (left) gets his hands dirty with employee Ron Ingram (right) at a Bobcaygeon, Ont. job site.

## FROM SUITS TO OVERALLS

by Amanda Peters

THE DURHAM LORDS, THE GENOSHA Hotel and the Kinsmen Centre. The mention of these words alone is enough to send any Durham College alumni of 30 years or more through a whirlwind of memories.

"I remember after winning one important hockey game, the whole team and I ended up back at the hotel to celebrate our win," said Terry Arscott, a former Durham Lord. "We had all been called onto the stage to chug our victory beers. I was 17 at the time and thrilled for that underage cup of glory to hit my lips. No one asked and I never told. It wasn't until the team and I were saying cheers that I noticed my father sitting at the back of the bar glaring at me. I don't think I've ever chugged a beer so fast."

Arscott, who is also a 1972 General Business graduate, fondly remembers those nights at once-popular hot spots. When he left the college, General Business diploma in hand, he didn't know the variety of career paths that could unfold from that piece of paper.

In 1993, while working in the marketing department of Canadian Wholesale Marine, Arscott developed a business plan for his

future. From that plan came a new lifetime endeavour, Arscott Aggregates and Construction, which grew up from the bottom of a gravel pit to become an industry leader for the City of the Kawartha Lakes.

The company supplies a variety of high-quality soil, gravel and aggregates for residential, commercial, forestry, agricultural, recreational, road and waterfront development purposes. It also installs septic tanks with the company's heavy and modern equipment ensuring less risk and a high standard of care during installation and construction.

"I went to school with Terry and when I needed work to be done on my property I remembered hearing about his aggregation services," said Bob Peters, a City of Kawartha Lakes resident and a 1973 Durham College Business Administration graduate. "Now that the work is finished if you looked at the land, you would never recognize it as the same place. I constantly have people asking who reconstructed my property because the work Arscott Aggregates and Construction did is breathtaking."

While the company has three full-time employees, Arscott recruits part-time workers for more complicated or labour-intensive contracts. Because every job is different, he calls it one of the least mundane careers.

"Every day has been a challenge. From struggling to put together the finances that would get the business off the ground, to buying quality equipment that'll get the job done right," he said. "It's gratifying to know that one day I can do all of my office paperwork, and if I get tired of that I can work in the shop. Then, when I get fed up working in the shop, I can go digging in the pit with the boys. I love the different hats I get to wear while on the job. It's a great stress reliever."

The experiences Arscott encountered during his time at Durham College set him up for his present successes. Septic tanks and gravel pits may not have an apparent relation to general business studies, but it was his accounting and marketing background that set the groundwork for his entrepreneurial achievements.

Arscott's involvement in college sports also gave him a leg up in managing his own business. Playing team sports helped build leadership and teamwork skills and helped him understand that working together with a team toward a common goal takes patience, practice and persistence to ensure jobs are completed effectively and safely.

"Playing college hockey helped to make me a well-rounded person," said Arscott. "It is so important to be optimistic every day. As the leader of all operations I need to have a positive attitude, which rubs off on my employees. This approach directly relates to the days I played team sports at Durham."

A proud industry leader within his community, he believes every job is important as all projects start as an eyesore and end as a thing of beauty. He says he approaches all projects with the same attention because the work is a reflection of the company. This attitude makes for happy customers and has increased his customer base to include large-scale government contracts.

"Because of Arscott Aggregates and Construction, I finally have my dream home," said Peters\*. "It makes me extremely happy to see the success of my old friend and my fellow Durham College alumni. Go Lords Go!"

*\*Graduate Bob Peters is the father of public relations student Amanda Peters, who wrote this story*



# CARVING HIS WAY TO SOCHI

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by Amanda McCauley

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE BARLOW



Steve Barlow, a Machinist graduate and Canadian snowboard racer, began boarding at the age of eight. After competing on the World Cup circuit he is now a contender for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

RED COURSE, READY. BLUE COURSE, READY. ATTENTION. Three beeps and three flashes of red light. The gates open with a fourth beep and it's all downhill from there for Machinist graduate and snowboarder Steve Barlow.

For the past two years, Barlow has been living for the snow. His summer months are spent working to earn the money he needs to stay on the hills and dreaming of winter when he can be back on the slopes. After a bold move from a machinist career in Ontario to training full-time as a competitive snowboard racer in Calgary, Alta. Barlow has been showing the world why it is worth it to follow his dream.

Since making that move, he has been racing across North America and Europe and his riding has greatly improved. Barlow earned a second-place ranking and his first podium in a NOR-AM race in Quebec last season and four more top-five positions at other Nor-Am and International Ski Federation competitions.

These achievements moved him into the fifth ranking in Canada and earned him the position of first alternate to the national team. This nomination gave him the opportunity to compete in World Cup events alongside some of his own idols and the chance to qualify for the national snowboard team at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

After racing at a World Cup event at Stoneham, Que. on January 24, the Olympic snowboard team was announced. Unfortunately, Barlow did not make the cut, but he was nominated to be a forerunner for the Olympic races, an opportunity that is given to athletes seen as possible contenders for the next winter games. This allowed him to experience a run on the Olympic course in front of thousands of spectators moments before the athletes started the competition.

"I've been riding in World Cups against all the greatest riders in the world," said Barlow. "It's been a great experience but it's also a little difficult and frustrating to be a rookie on the circuit and a small fish in a big pond – not getting the results I'd like. But when you have a good run and see where you stack up against some of the best riders in the world, it's a really great feeling."

That great feeling began at a very young age for Barlow. At the age of eight, after seeing his friend (and 2010 Olympic competitor) Matt Morison snowboarding, Barlow's interest was piqued and he strapped on a board.

A few years later he began racing competitively and saw positive results. He was soon named to the Ontario Provincial Team and competed at a level that enabled his coaches to see that he showed the promise of top finishes and podiums.

"When I started competing I had no real expectations," said Barlow. "It was just fun to ride with other kids and get better. I had no real long-term dreams or goals at that time because I honestly don't think that I was all that good in the beginning."

Although he may not have thought he was all that good, Barlow improved significantly during his training and competing. However, in 2006 he decided to take time out of racing to go to college. He earned his certificate in the Machinist Apprenticeship program at Durham College's Whitby campus before heading back to the slopes

"I'm actually a rare case," said Barlow. "Most of the athletes on my team have not received any education past high school. But it's a hard decision either way. Going to school helps to set you up for whenever your athletic career comes to an end because athletes' bodies can only hold up until a certain age. But it's hard to make the choice to delay the start of your athletic career and watch younger full-time athletes pass you by."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA BIES

**Graduate Steve Barlow races down the slopes in Stoneham, Que. in a World Cup race the day before the 2010 Olympic snowboard team was announced. His performance during the season earned him the spot of forerunner at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.**

Throughout his education, he occasionally competed at east coast races and coached the Brimacombe (formerly Mount Kirby) snowboard race team on weekends. And while he could have easily continued down this career path, Barlow knew in his heart that he belonged on the hills. After encouragement from his coach and his dad, he decided to pursue competitive racing. He moved across the country to Calgary to train full-time with a private team and the national development team.

Since his move to Calgary, Barlow has had the strongest growth in his ranking of any Canadian snowboard racer. In 2009, he placed fourth at the Canadian Championships and sixth at the North American Championships. With his experiences in the past year and the opportunities that lie before him, competing in the 2014 Winter Olympics is one more challenge that Barlow may try to conquer.

"For where I am right now, it's a big honour to have been a part of the Olympics in front of all those people," he added. "Hopefully it's something I can use going forward to Sochi."



Durham College graduate and breast cancer survivor Sharon Todd (right) and her husband Mike.

Above (in ball cap, left of centre) Sharon walks in the Relay for Life.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARON TODD

## A BATTLE WORTH FIGHTING

by Josh Terry

RETURNING TO SCHOOL WHILE WORKING FULL-TIME AND caring for a family is no easy task. Neither is battling a rare form of breast cancer. Durham College graduate Sharon Todd has done both and succeeded each time.

Todd returned to school in 2000 to study Public Relations at Durham College. While juggling a busy course load, maintaining a home and a full slate of clients as an equity representative with The Merchandising Group and later as a public relations consultant with Wilson Associates, Todd became involved with the Canadian Cancer Society through the not-for-profit placement component of the Public Relations program.

As the communications chair of the society, she was instrumental in helping to bring the popular Relay for Life, a 12-hour team walk for cancer research, to Oshawa, Ont.

In 2005, Todd joined the Investment Planning Counsel as its marketing and office manager, while continuing her involvement with the Durham branch of the society, helping to organize the annual Relay for Life and entering her own team in the event.

In 2005, she helped expand the Relay for Life into her hometown of Bowmanville, Ont. and brought together a large contingent of students from Bowmanville High School, under the organization of her daughter Sandy, to participate in the event as well.

"Our relay team is like a family," said Todd. "It grows bigger each year but the core group has been there since the beginning. And it's really a support group. Some of these people don't see each other aside from the relay but they know they can depend on each other throughout the year. That's what makes the Relay for Life such an important event. It brings together a group I know I can rely on no matter what."

In 2008, the Relay for Life took on special meaning for her. After seeing an unusually high number of family members battle cancer, including 17 with breast cancer, Todd was diagnosed with metaplastic carcinoma, a form of cancer that only occurs in 0.06 per cent of the population.

"After seeing so many family members and friends go through cancer, I knew it was something I was going to have to deal with myself at some point," said Todd. "It was a fact I carried in my back pocket, so to speak, and when it was time to deal with it, I decided to treat it like any other project."

While some may be surprised that Todd tackled her disease head-on, her 22-year-old daughter Sandy, a student at Sir Sandford Fleming College, wasn't surprised.

"Life changes when cancer comes," said the younger Todd. "It changes your priorities. While people fight over petty things, my mom had to fight for her life. It was no surprise for us to see her tackle it with such strength. She strived to stay as positive as she could, not just for herself, but those around her. She's an incredible inspiration."

Todd has been cancer-free since January 2009 and was able to return to the Relay for Life in June 2009 to walk the first lap, which is dedicated to survivors of cancer. She was joined by her sister, a fellow breast cancer survivor, and her daughter.

"It was a good moment," said Todd, "To walk with so many others who had the same journey as me and to have my team on the sidelines supporting us all. That is what the relay is all about."

Her involvement with the Canadian Cancer Society has only increased since her battle with cancer. In addition to working with the Relay for Life, Todd also organizes the society's annual daffodil sales in the Bowmanville area.

Her battle has also increased her zest for life. To add to the excitement of becoming cancer-free, Todd welcomed a new addition to the family – granddaughter Miah – in February. She believes Miah's arrival brings her journey full circle. "After staring death in the face, welcoming new life has brought extra joy," she added.





Rik Davie, managing editor of the Scugog Standard, finds himself in the oddest places running a community newspaper. Here he wrestles with a lion cub from the Northwood Zoo prior to shooting a Name the Cub photo for the Port Perry, Ont. paper.

## REWRITING HIS CAREER

by Laura Blaker

BEFORE ENROLLING IN DURHAM COLLEGE'S Journalism program, crafting and shaping wood was Rik Davie's career. When knee problems became too much to handle, he decided it was time for a new path – one that could transform his writing like a piece of wood, shaping and molding it and making it his own.

Today, Davie is the founding publisher and managing editor of the Scugog Standard. After only five years, it has become the largest independently owned weekly newspaper in Durham Region and been awarded five national and eight provincial newspaper awards, including receiving the Canadian Community Newspaper Association Award for spot news photography in 2006. The paper won for its coverage of a fatal fire on Cradle Street in Port Perry, Ont.

That being said, the paper's reporting has garnered more than plaques on a wall. "We've been covering a story about a local war hero and because of that story, the city would like to name a park in his honour," said Davie. "It's great that he is getting recognition because of a story we published. Another story is one I've been following since 1974. The Smith homicide is the oldest unsolved murder in Durham Region, so having followed it for so long only makes it more interesting when there's new information presented that I can write about."

Prior to beginning at the Scugog Standard, Davie worked at the Port Perry Star as a staff reporter, photographer and assistant editor. When it changed ownership, he and his wife led a core group of people who formed the Scugog Standard five years ago. With the help of a consortium of business people, the paper has created more than 20 full- and part-time jobs and become a market leader in its area.

"Local newspapers are the only growing area in the newspaper business as there is no other source for local content," said Davie. "The Internet has had the least effect on community newspapers. Online newspapers such as the Toronto Star or Toronto Sun are writing about world issues.

Community newspapers offer front porch news to local residents about what matters to them and what is happening locally. That information isn't available anywhere else."

Before starting his newspaper career, Davie started at Durham College as a mature student in the fall of 1995. Although the Journalism program was new to him, writing wasn't. Even before his first semester began, the native of Toronto, Ont. had a head start on his classmates. He had already been published in Blue Line, the national police magazine, and in Education Today, the national school board magazine. During his college years, he also won the Ontario

Community Newspaper Award for student writing for his coverage of the Gagnon Sports store murder trial.

After graduating from the Journalism program with honours in 1998, Davie worked as a freelance writer, building his reputation by covering police and the courts for the Durham Post and the Lindsay Post. He was also an on-air reporter for CHEX television before moving to the Port Perry Star where he covered the police, education and the municipal government.

Davie takes great pride in leading a local newspaper with a circulation of 13,000. The Standard also produces 13 other business and government publications.

"While cable news and the Internet are taking over the delivery of national and international events, no one has found a better way to deliver very locally focused news in areas including the municipal government, education and health care than the community newspaper," he added. "It continues to be the only area of expansion in the newspaper world."



## CAREER FAIR CONNECTS STUDENTS TO JOBS

by Elizabeth McLeod

ABOUT 1,000 DURHAM COLLEGE AND University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) students attended the college's 13th annual Career Fair on campus last February where they had the chance to visit with leading businesses to discuss employment opportunities.

The event featured 40 exhibitors representing local, provincial and national companies and gave students an invaluable opportunity to network face-to-face with potential employers and gave recruiters a chance to share the many benefits their companies offer to employees. Co-ordinated by the Hired Career Services department, the event is designed to help students find full-time, part-time, internship, co-op, contract and summer employment in their fields of study.

"The career fair is a great way for students to get their face in front of the employer ahead of a thousand potential candidates," said Angie Paisley, volunteer co-ordinator and the former senior career advisor for Durham College. "They get to see first-hand what they can do with their diploma or degree and see the many opportunities that are available to them."

The career fair has also proven to be successful when it comes to students landing jobs. Two to three per cent of students say they were offered a job on the spot, just from networking.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM COLLEGE

Students circulate at the Career Fair to visit with leading businesses and get an in-depth look at potential jobs.

"Students need to learn how to network so they can realize the employer is a person," said Paisley. "The employer is looking to the student just as much as the student is looking to the employer. It gives them a cold contact and the valuable skills to meet someone in the industry of their choice."

Planning for the fair begins four to six months in advance with the venue being booked a year ahead of time. As volunteer co-ordinator, Paisley had her hands full working with students eager to lend a hand. This year, she had 30 student volunteers setting up and tearing down the event and Law and Security students providing event security.

Paisley organizes all of the tasks for the volunteers including working at the registration table and co-ordinating name tags, guided tours and floaters. "It's not just students visiting the career fair who get noticed," said Paisley. "Employers are continually commenting on how amazing the volunteers are."

Not only is the career fair a boon for students, it also benefits employers. It's an economical way to get in front of a thousand potential candidates, and it provides the benefits of on-campus recruiting and establishing a long-lasting relationship with Hired Career Services.

"Employers are essentially all about branding, and what better way to sell their

brand than to students who are potential consumers who are considering working there," said Paisley.

The main focus of the event remains on student success. Take Mechanical Engineering Technician student Melissa Kloosterhof for example. She had never visited the career fair before and, to her surprise, she found many companies that offered the exact position she was looking for. If it weren't for her in-depth discussion with a representative from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited she never would have learned about the job opportunities available and applied.

"I would say to any student that they should attend the career fair to get an opportunity to take a look and see where their diploma can take them," says Paisley. "Whether it's further education or a job, at least they'll see the rewards of all their hard work and that they were successful in achieving their goals."



A bird garden in Shiraz, Persia offers a photo opportunity to a journalism student who belongs to Globalstudentjournalists.net.

"THIS IS A FANTASTIC PICTURE," SAID Alana Rodrigues, a Books and Media student from the University of Toronto. "I love how you've captured the parrot as the focal point but still have the other photographers surrounding it. It's visually appealing. It makes me wonder whether they are other photojournalists like yourself or tourists. You should definitely post more pictures."



Durham College Professor Anna Rodrigues, creator of Globalstudentjournalist.net, approves members, stories and audio and video clips several times daily.

This is just one of many positive comments posted from one student to another on a new social community website created by one of Durham College's own. Anna Rodrigues, a Journalism professor, has taken the initiative to create a website dedicated to journalism students across the world. Globalstudentjournalists.net is a controlled website designed for undergraduates to upload their writing, audio clips, photos and links to video files to share with others. It is also a way to teach Durham College students about online social communities.

In the third year of the college's Journalism program, students learn about online journalism including becoming administrators of the website and determining who will be permitted membership, which stories are appropriate for publishing and what comments and photos are acceptable for posting.

"I was struggling with teaching students about how to use Facebook in the classroom but in a newsroom context," said Rodrigues. "They know how to use it for social purposes but I wanted to teach about online social community monitoring, which you really need when you're out in the working industry."

The website went live in early August 2009 but was in the works for about a year. Funding for the site's construction came from Durham College's Innovation Centre.

## GOING GLOBAL – ONLINE COMMUNITY LAUNCHES FOR STUDENT JOURNALISTS WORLDWIDE

by Nicola Tait

By December, approximately 433 members from 11 different countries belonged to the site. On average 10 to 15 people a day from all over the world become new members but the numbers are higher if somebody tweets about the website on Twitter or blogs about it. When this happens, there might be about 25 people who register that day.

"I contacted a blogger in New York City so she wrote a story about the site," said Rodrigues. "Her story was picked up by a few other websites and at one point, the online social editor for the New York Times sent out a tweet about it. That's when I had about 100 people register. It was huge that day."

There are people that belong to the site from Brazil, Australia, Canada, Italy, India and even Mozambique, just to name a few places. The word is spreading to student journalists around the world, not just through other students and bloggers, but through Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Students are registering daily and the site is growing. With comments like "Wow, this seems like a really interesting project," it's no surprise.



# FROM ROOFER TO IT DIRECTOR

by Kim Schaab



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BROWN

BEING A ROOFER IS TOUGH, PHYSICAL work that can take its toll on the body. Graduate John Brown learned that first-hand from the age of 13 when he spent his summers working for the roofing business his dad started and his brother eventually took over.

“The pay was good and helped me finance my college education but the days were long and hard on the body,” said Brown. “It became my motivation to get out of the trades.”

He knew something better for him had to be out there. He found that something through a Finance diploma from Durham College. Today, Brown works for Agrium Inc. in Calgary, Alta. as the director of IT Applications. Agrium is a supplier, marketer and producer of agricultural products, nutrients and industrial products.

He started in the company’s Finance department in 1992. By 1997, Brown faced his biggest challenge when the company needed to find a solution to a poorly implemented sales and transportation computer system that was putting a serious strain on customer and vendor relations. Brown was asked to join a small group to evaluate and recommend a fix for the problem. The group made 19 key recommendations and he was asked to lead the implementation of the changes. By mid-1998, the system was working properly and it has now served Agrium well for more than a decade. His biggest challenge turned into his most satisfying accomplishment.

His most interesting assignment then came a year later. Agrium was part of a partnership to build and operate a nitrogen-fertilizer plant in Argentina and Brown’s original assignment was a three-week visit to help select the operational system.

After returning to Calgary and recommending a sales and transportation module, he was sent back to Argentina

to ensure proper start-up of the system before the plant opened – an eight-month stint. Those eight months stretched into another year working with the Finance department. In total, he spent approximately 31 months in Argentina where he learned Spanish and visited neighbouring countries. While there, his colleagues repeatedly heard him say “If you don’t have fun it’s your own fault.”

“Living in a Spanish culture and learning a new language was exciting but to be a Canadian living in a city of approximately 14 million people was an eye-opener to say the least,” he said. “Eating lunch as your main meal of the day and then not having dinner until about 9 p.m. was a difficult change in schedule to get used to. I also had the opportunity to visit many parts of Argentina and neighbouring countries like Uruguay, Chile, Brazil and Paraguay. I found Argentina to be as diverse geographically from north to south as Canada is from east to west.”

He has fond memories of the people he met in Argentina and says he would recommend South America as a destination for anyone bit by the travel bug.

While Brown’s two biggest moments with Agrium happened when he was in Finance, he has since transitioned into information technology (IT) and worked his way up the corporate ladder to director of IT Applications.

“Finance was a lot of routine work with regular set cycles, ensuring integrity of the information, validating and auditing,” said Brown. “IT is always changing with what becomes available and partnering to implement new technologies with different groups and departments. The work changes with each new project. It’s dynamic.”

Depending on assignments, Brown could be working with employees in Argentina to match a system there to

the North American system, leading solution-finding groups to stabilize the company’s computer systems or simply working with a new department or equipment.

He launched his career by using the career services at Durham College, which introduced him to a position with Ralston Purina – far away from the roofing business. Starting out in finance with the company, his first month’s salary was what he made in a week of roofing but the travel and career growth opportunities provided by his new profession made the switch worth it.

Brown joined Agrium two weeks after he left Ralston Purina. Though he left that company after a project that moved him from Ontario to Calgary, he enjoyed the opportunities it provided. His position at Ralston Purina included working in Ontario, Nova Scotia and the state of New York, U.S.

As it was his first position out of college, it allowed him to grow in his field. While there, he went from junior accounting clerk to financial services manager. Ralston Purina was also where he first dabbled in IT, something that had always interested him.

Both companies Brown has worked with since graduation have been in the agricultural field, because he wanted his work to mean something.

“I didn’t want money to be my product,” said Brown. “With Agrium being in agriculture, it is helping farmers grow food.”

Brown says he has no intention of leaving Agrium. Not only has it given him a dynamic career, it also gives him significant time off during the summer to visit his cottage north of Belleville, Ont. Though, should he be offered another stint like the one in Argentina, Brown says he wouldn’t turn it down.

# WORKING WITHIN THE SPORT CIRCLE

by Lindsay Taylor

ANTHONY SAUVÉ LEFT DURHAM COLLEGE in 2004, Sports Administration diploma in hand. That and his understanding of Aboriginal culture helped him land a job with the Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) as their manager of the National Aboriginal Coaching and Leadership Program (NACLCP).

ASC is Canada's national voice for Aboriginal Peoples, bringing together the interests of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people through sport and recreation. The organization provides programming in athlete and coaching development as well as recognition of excellence.

As manager, Sauv  oversees the training and development of aboriginal learning facilitators and building the capacity of aboriginal coaching across Canada. His other responsibilities include the National Aboriginal Excellence Awards, the Aboriginal Athlete Assistance fund and the Aboriginal Apprentice Coaching Program.

Sauv  found his job doing an online job search. At the time he was working as a regional sport leader for the M tis Nation of Ontario and felt he needed a bigger challenge in his career. Once he saw the ASC job posting he knew immediately that he wanted the position.

"I obtained the job largely due to the fact that I had received a diploma in Sports Administration," said Sauv . "I also had prior coaching experience with knowledge of the Canadian sport system. I had knowledge of the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) and a good understanding of Aboriginal culture, which is critical in a position like this."

The Aboriginal Sport Circle focuses on the 16 sports offered by the North American Indigenous Games and works in partnership with the Canada Games Council through the Aboriginal Apprentice Coach program. On the coaching certification side, Sauv  works closely with the Coaching Association of Canada and puts his efforts into helping aboriginal coaches gain their NCCP certification in sports like hockey, basketball, softball, volleyball and soccer.

For Sauv , his job means a lot of cultural diversity, fun and travel, not to mention giving him valuable experience on the national level.

"Things have fallen into place nicely. I started with the ASC in January 2007 as a coaching co-ordinator and now I find myself managing the program," says Sauv . "I had a five-year plan when I left Durham College and my goal by Year 5 was simply to be working in my field. By Year 4 I was in a position where I could implement changes so it has worked out well."

As for the future, he plans to stick to his sports career and reach for the stars along the way. "I will continue to work in sport administration although I wish to pursue my real passion of scouting, said Sauv . "I see myself scouting as an amateur or professional by 2015. My plan is to kick-start this by taking an eight-week scouting course. As they say – play hard and dream big."



Sports Administration graduate Anthony Sauv  currently works in Ottawa, Ont. for the Aboriginal Sport Circle.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY SAUV 

# A TRUE INDUSTRY SHARK

by Meeka Marsolais

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JOHN GALE MIGHT consist of overseeing the design of signage for the Sharks at Stingray Bay exhibit, dealing with photographers and managing the design elements that go along with a big event like the opening of the Polar Bear exhibit. Gale is the graphics supervisor at the Toronto Zoo and has been there for the past two years.

Among his many projects at the zoo, Gale has been asked to redesign the visitor site map, design a new front entrance sign, develop concept designs for a new penguin exhibit and work closely with the zoo's webmaster on the redesign of the overall zoo website. Gale and his small design team is a busy studio all year round.

Prior to working at the zoo, he ran his own business, Gale Design. During that time his company won the Design and Print award presented by Applied Arts, Canada's premier visual communication magazine, for a promotional piece done for a commercial photographer. Along with the award, Gale Design earned a large contract with Lowe's, the home improvement company.

Having your own business is both demanding and rewarding, and Gale said he launched Gale Design because he wanted to experience the freedom of being his own boss. He began his career with a co-op placement in the Design department at Canadian Tire's head office where he quickly learned the business side

of design. Shortly after working for various agencies in Toronto, Ont., Gale Design was born.

"I learned that it is important to network and continuously promote your business wherever you are," said the award-winner on owning his own business. "It can also be an advantage to be an expert in one area such as retail design, package design or a branding specialist. This can set you apart from all the other generalist designers out there."

Gale began exploring his career options in the Mechanical Engineering program. Quickly learning that he wanted to take another direction in life, he enrolled in the Advertising program, taught by Professor Bill Merriott, where his knack for design shone through. During his two years at Durham College, Gale received the Creative Award. Discovering his gift and passion for design led him to enroll in the Graphic Design program at George Brown College and his learning didn't stop when he graduated.

"I've learned a lot from my work, throughout my various jobs," said Gale. "I continue to take on new and interesting projects on a freelance basis as they come up."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN GALE

Graduate John Gale found his passion for graphic design while studying Advertising at Durham College. He is now the graphics supervisor for the Toronto Zoo.

Who knows what the future will hold for this accomplished designer. His plans include continuing his role at the zoo, tackling new freelance projects and maybe even teaching design someday. With more than 20 years of experience in graphic design, teaching would be a great way to give back. For now he plans to keep zoo visitors wanting more with his compelling designs.



Above is the billboard designed by Gale for the opening of the 'Sharks at Stingray Bay' exhibit taking place at the Toronto Zoo.



From left, Dawn Salter, Bill Merriott and Kevan Drinkwalter, professors in the Advertising program at Durham College, reminisce about their pasts together as teacher and student and enjoy their last day of classes for the spring semester.

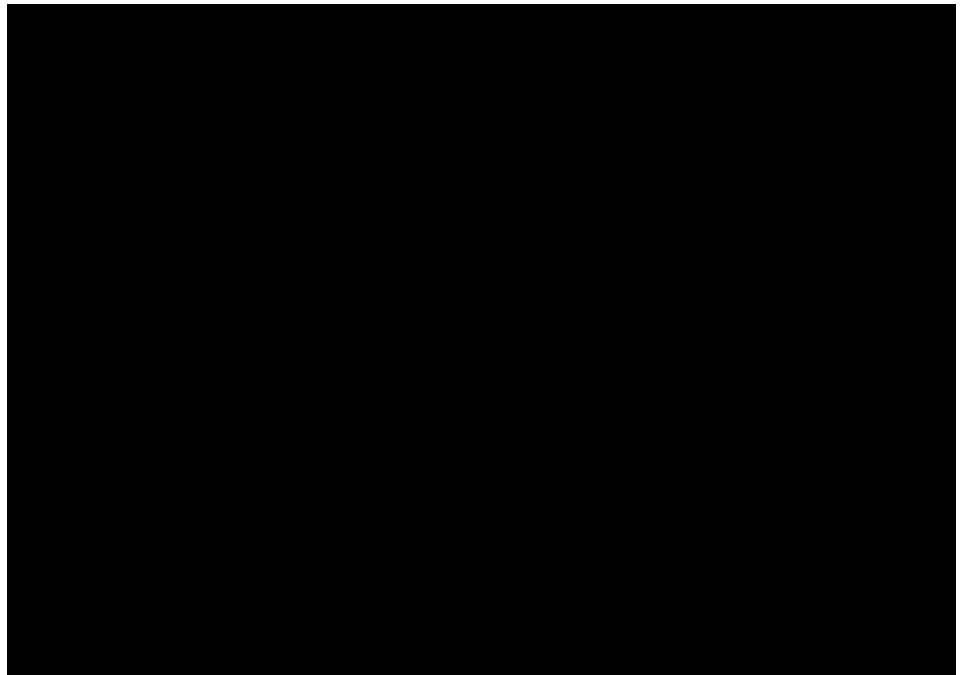


PHOTO BY NICOLA TAIT

## TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS IN THE MAKING

by Nicola Tait

WHEN HE ARRIVED AT DURHAM COLLEGE in 1983, Bill Merriott had one goal for himself – to teach. In the last 27 years, he has done much more. Newly retired, Merriott left Durham College with a lasting impression.

The Advertising program co-ordinator for 26 of those 27 years, Merriott grew the program from two years in length to three and from 40 students to 150. The award-winning program is also one of 16 that are over-subscribed at the college. All this, because he loves to teach.

“I went into teaching because I wanted to do something that I liked,” said Merriott. “I wanted to do something that was meaningful to me. Reconstructing the Advertising program is just a by-product of that.”

When he started with the program, it focused on sales. He kept the courses that were running when he inherited it but made them more marketing- and advertising-based. He also added a creative component enhanced with the help of Kevan Drinkwalter, professor and one of Merriott’s former Advertising students. The result is a

program that enables students to go into the business or creative sides of the field.

One of the things he is most proud of, although he claims he had little to do with it, is the fact that many program graduates come back to the college to teach. Brent Hudson, Charlotte Hale, Todd McCall, Dawn Salter and Drinkwalter are all now professors or administrators at the college and most are involved with the Advertising program.

“It’s a nice thing for them, (the professors), to be able to say hey guys, as a student I not only sat in the desk you’re in but now I’m up here teaching so I know what it’s like to be in your shoes,” said Merriott.

In addition to being a professor and the program co-ordinator, he was also the sales manager for the school’s newspaper, the Chronicle, for 20 years. Although he says the dynamics of how the ad space is sold haven’t changed much, the creative side and how the ads are produced have, with technology forcing the change. Gone are the days of typesetting copy with a special machine, waxing the columns of type and images and pasting them onto flats (page templates). What used to be a long, hands-on process that sometimes

didn’t end until 11 p.m. on a Friday night is now seamless and normally wraps up by Thursday afternoon.

Prior to coming to Durham College, Merriott found his appetite for teaching while working part-time at Ryerson University for 10 years after discovering that his life-long ambition was no longer in the business rat race but being a father to his young family.

During 15 years in the marketing and advertising world, Merriott also gained experience from places like Warner-Lambert, Bristol-Myers and MacLaren-McCann. He is also a business school graduate from the University of Western Ontario.

While Merriott is now retired, his college career isn’t completely over – he’s teaching one course in the fall semester. The rest of his time he plans to do a lot of travelling and golfing with his wife.

“The reality is everything has its season,” said Merriott. “At some point in time, it’s over, and I’m not sad about it. Everything has its time and it’s my time to say it’s time for other people to do it.”

## RENOVATIONS ON SCHEDULE FOR CONSTRUCTION AT DURHAM COLLEGE OSHAWA AND WHITBY CAMPUSES

WITH THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS STUDYING AT ITS OSHAWA AND WHITBY CAMPUSES, DURHAM COLLEGE IS UNDERGOING CONSTRUCTION AT BOTH LOCATIONS TO PROVIDE NEW AND IMPROVED LEARNING SPACES, LABS AND FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF.



## DURHAM COLLEGE INTRODUCES NEW PROGRAMS FOR FALL 2010

WITH MORE THAN 100 FULL-TIME PROGRAMS OF STUDY, DURHAM COLLEGE HAS OVER 7,000 FULL-TIME STUDENTS INCLUDING MORE THAN 300 SECOND CAREER STUDENTS.



RENOVATIONS AT THE OSHAWA CAMPUS ARE TAKING PLACE inside the Gordon Willey building and include the building of new classrooms and labs to provide students with a more functional learning and working environment. In addition, a new Student Services building is being built beside the current Student Centre with construction scheduled to be completed by December 2010. Serving as a vital first point of access for potential students, current students and graduates, most of the college's student service offerings will be re-located to the new building, which will face Simcoe Street North and run along Commencement Drive, connecting to the Simcoe building.

Phase 2 of the renovations at the Whitby campus are also underway and include increasing the skills training area to accommodate the development of new programs in the skilled trades and energy sectors, expanding student space including the library and computer commons and the introduction of new food services.

The second phase also includes two houses – an older home with dated technology and wiring and a newer home with the latest energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies available, to give students the opportunity to see changes that occur in the construction and building trades sector. After the completion of Phase 2, work on Phase 3 which will focus on food and hospitality.

AS PART OF ITS COMMITMENT TO ENSURING ITS PROGRAMS meet the demands of today's employers, the college introduced several new programs this fall including the new Business – Entrepreneurship and Small Business (compressed) program. This one-year three-semester program is designed to provide students with the skills required to start or manage a small business and become a successful entrepreneur.

Business Fundamentals is also a one-year program where students study the principles of a business organization, accounting, marketing and more. After successful completion of the program, students are then given the option to take one or two additional years of another Business program offered by the college.

Culinary Skills is a one-year program that teaches students the practical culinary skills required to work in a wide range of food service environments and includes a field placement component that is completed at a local restaurant, golf course, hotel or other approved facility.

The college also introduced a new Food Processing Safety Techniques program that reflects the importance of the food processing to Ontario's economy including the importance of following government regulations to ensure the safe production of food.

In addition, several new graduate certificate programs launched in areas including information technology, emergency services and victimology. For more information, please visit [www.durhamcollege.ca/newprograms](http://www.durhamcollege.ca/newprograms).

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## 1983

**VICTORIA PASOWISTY** (nee Reynolds) (Business Administration – Accounting) lives in Bowmanville, Ont. with her husband Kevin and two children, 24-year-old Katelynn and 20-year-old Matthew. Pasowisty works for L. Ritchie Cartage Limited as an intermediate accountant in Toronto, Ont.

## 1986

**JOHN MIDDLETON** (Electronic Engineering Technician) lives in Mississauga, Ont. Middleton works for Acision as the regional director of Canada.

## 1990

**MICHELLE BOUNTROGIANNIS** (nee Duncan) (Office Systems Administration) lives in Brooklin, Ont. with her husband James and three children, 15-year-old Amy, six-year-old Andreas and three-year-old Abigail. Bountrogiannis is the director of Social Programs at the Embassy of the Kingdom of God in Oshawa, Ont.

## 1991

**KAREN LEMONT** (Legal Administration) lives in Walkerton, Ont. with her spouse David and three children, 28-year-old Tracey, 18-year-old Jeff and four-year-old David Jr.

## 1997

**RUTH CAREW** (Business Administration – Accounting) lives in Oshawa with her husband Rossie and three children, 30-year-old Wayne, 26-year-old Amanda and 24-year-old Kenneth. Carew is an administrative assistant for the University of Toronto.

## 1999

**ROBERT CONLEY** (Sports Administration) lives in Ottawa, Ont. and works for Harry Rosen. Conley said “I owe everything I have to Durham College. The confidence gained during my two years took me to levels that will never be duplicated again”.

## 2002

**ERICA HALL** (nee Johnston) (Business Administration – Operations Management) lives in Bowmanville with her husband Jeff and two children, four-year-old Ivy and three-year-old Opal. Hall works for McGraw Hill-Ryerson as a supply chain analyst in Whitby, Ont.

## 2003

**MICHELLE PARKER** (nee Barr) (Human Resources and Human Services Counsellor) lives in Oshawa, with her husband John and two children, 15-year-old Rebecca and four-year-old Noah. Parker is a clinical counsellor for Lasik MD in Whitby.

**LISA HENDERSON** (Legal Administration) lives in Hamilton, Ont. with her spouse Thang and two children, 11-year-old Deirdre and four-month-old Selena. Henderson works as a law clerk for the Hamilton Children’s Aid Society and is currently working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice Studies.

## 2005

**KINGA KOSCIELSKA** (Office Administration – Executive) lives in Oshawa with her husband Joseph. Koscielska is currently working as an instructional designer for the Ministry of Revenue in Oshawa.

## 2007

**MICHAEL MAYNARD** (Legal Administration) lives in Oshawa with his wife Angela and fourteen-month-old child. Maynard is the president and chief executive officer of his own company, The Maynard Group Professional Services Corporation. Since graduating from Durham College he has taught on a part-time basis and co-authored a textbook, Choices in Approaching Conflict, with the help of three other professors from Durham College. Maynard says “attending Durham College was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

## 2009

**HAZEL LYNNE STEWART MOORE** (nee Stewart) (Court and Tribunal Agent) lives in Terra Cotta, Ont. with her husband Jim and three children, 26-year-old Brian, 23-year-old Brent and 19-year-old David. Stewart Moore works as a provincial prosecutor for the Ministry of the Attorney General in Brampton, Ont. Her son Brian graduated from the Industrial Electrician program in June 2010.



**ATTENTION  
ALL ALUMNI**  
– WE NEED YOUR **HELP!**

The Durham College Athletic department is updating its varsity record books for the past 40 years and needs your help! If you know the names of any of the most valuable player award winners for each specific sport **during the 1979-1980 academic year**, please contact Scott Dennis, sports information and marketing co-ordinator, at [scott.dennis@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:scott.dennis@durhamcollege.ca).

Alumni that submit helpful information will receive a Durham Lords prize pack. For the latest information on the Durham Lords, please visit [www.durhamlords.com](http://www.durhamlords.com).



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