



APRIL 2015

**First Robotics  
Canada takes  
over campus**

**Alumni share  
college to career  
experience at  
special event**

**DC students  
chosen to  
support the 2015  
Pan Am/Parapan  
Am Games**



# Programs for September

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NOW

- ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL
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- PROJECT MANAGEMENT (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)
- SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNING
- SPORT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

Do you have a story idea or something to share? Is there anything you would like to read about? We would love to hear from you!

Please email [alumni@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:alumni@durhamcollege.ca) with your comments, questions or suggestions.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- |           |   |           |   |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| <b>04</b> | <b>Message from the president</b>   | <b>18</b> | <b>Durham College alumni recount their roads to success</b>   |
| <b>06</b> | <b>Spring and Fall 2015 graduates get prepared at Countdown to Grad</b>   | <b>20</b> | <b>Brighton students cook up a winning recipe at Durham College's first ever Epic Mac N' Cheese competition</b> |
| <b>08</b> | <b>First Robotics Canada takes over joint DC/UOIT campus</b>              | <b>22</b> | <b>Sport shorts</b><br><i>Durham Lords score strong across the board</i>  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>FastStart DC winners learn how to change the world</b>                 | <b>24</b> | <b>Upcoming events</b><br><i>Spring 2015</i>  |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Durham College tops St. Lawrence, wins first OCAA medal since 1997</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>Alumni benefit of the month</b><br><i>Shagwells, Jostens</i>   |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Verdict in: DC takes second place at Mock Trial Cup</b>                | <b>28</b> | <b>New and notable</b>  |
| <b>16</b> | <b>DC Alumni Association hosts second sold-out etiquette dinner</b>       |           |   |

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The award-winning DC Alumni magazine is written, designed and published by the Communications and Marketing department to complement the Reflections publication prepared three times a year by students in Durham College's (DC) Public Relations program. Both are available by visiting our [Alumni publications page](#).



# Message from the president

We are finally enjoying some warmer weather and with the rising temperatures and retreat of snow and slush comes a push to the finish line for our spring 2015 graduates.

Planning is well underway for [convocation](#) at the beginning of June. As we prepare to celebrate another class of graduating students, I inevitably look to our alumni as examples of graduates who are achieving success once they've moved on from their time at DC.

You all understand first-hand the path our students take from starting their post-secondary education to graduating, which is why we're always thrilled to welcome alumni back to campus to share their knowledge. [Alumni in the Pit](#) is one such opportunity, where current students can learn from past grads who have achieved success in their field. This year we welcomed Amanda De Souza, current DC professor and former senior designer – integrated marketing with Condé Nast's W Magazine and Mike Arsenault, on-camera presenter and field reporter at The Weather Network and the CBC, and baseball novel author. They shared their insight and experiences and answered questions from students, faculty and staff.

For any alumni who want to provide guidance and assist current students on a more continuous basis, I encourage you to consider becoming a member of one of DC's [Program Advisory Committees](#) (PAC). PAC ensures curriculum quality and student and graduate success. As a committee member you will play a vital role in assisting with the development of new programs and the modification of existing programs, to ensure they reflect the current and future needs of both private and public employers.

So as we get ready to say goodbye to our spring grads, we're also welcoming them into the next stage of their relationship with DC as valued alumni. I would encourage all alumni to drop us a line and fill us in on what you've been up to. When we say that at DC success matters, we mean it; this not only applies to our current faculty, staff and students but also to our alumni, new and old alike.

Sincerely,  
Don Lovisa



# Spring and Fall 2015 graduates get prepared at Countdown to Grad

Durham College's (DC) spring and fall 2015 graduates-to-be had the chance to find out everything they need to know about their upcoming graduation during the college's annual [Countdown to Grad](#). Held at the Oshawa and Whitby campuses and Pickering Learning Site (PLS), these events were sponsored by the [DC Alumni Association](#).

Students were invited to stop by for a free slice of pizza and, more importantly, for the opportunity to learn about all things graduation, from alumni benefits and employment services to convocation details. Students also had the chance to enter the [School Cup Challenge](#).

"This is the fourth year we've hosted the Countdown to Grad," said Lori Connor, alumni officer, Durham College. "It's a great way to celebrate our students' upcoming graduation and share relevant information to make sure they feel supported as they transition from DC students to alumni."

The events were held on Tuesday, March 10 (Oshawa campus), Thursday, March 12 (Whitby campus) and Tuesday, March 17 (PLS) with more than 900 students in attendance.

"Now that it's finally here, graduation seems to be a daunting step," said Heather Bulman, a second-year Public Relations student and member of DC's Team Experience. "The opportunity to learn from the Alumni Association really put my mind at ease, and now I can't wait to be a DC alumna. I'm excited to move beyond school and use all that I've learned in the workplace."

For more information about the 2015 graduation please visit the [Spring Convocation page](#).



Countdown to Grad not only gives grads-to-be the information they need to know, but also celebrates their upcoming achievement as they transition from students to alumni.

# First Robotics Canada takes over joint DC/ UOIT campus

From March 12 to 14, high school robotics teams from across Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and New York State descended on Durham College (DC) and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology's (UOIT) Oshawa campus for the 2015 [FIRST® Robotics Competition \(FRC\) Greater Toronto East Regional competition](#). FIRST is an acronym that means For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

The event, a last stop before the [FRC World Championship](#) taking place in St. Louis, Mo. in late April, was free to the public and saw more than 1,000 student participants compete on

more than 45 teams, as they demonstrated their engineering skills and knowledge using the [Recycle Rush<sup>SM</sup> program](#).

The fierce three-day robotics showdown concluded with the alliance of team 2056 (Orchard Park Secondary School), team 2852 (Denis Morris Catholic High School) and team 3710 (Frontenac Secondary School) being crowned champions and earning a coveted spot at the world championship.

“At DC we celebrate the spirit of innovation fostered by these FIRST® Robotics competitions and look forward to hosting this exciting event on our joint campus every year,” said



Don Lovisa, president, Durham College.  
“Competing in the FRC is a great way to prepare students for a post-secondary education in science and technology.”

Competing in head-to-head challenges, teams guided their robots through a recycling-themed game in an attempt to dispose of “litter” and collect as many points as possible during the two-minute-and-30-second match. Within the first 15 seconds, robots operated independently from their drivers to earn points by moving themselves. Competitors were also recognized for robot design excellence, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Competitors also had the opportunity to fine-tune their robots in the Durham College Machine Shop, where DC students and staff were on-hand to assist with the repairs.

“The teams thoroughly enjoyed themselves, their cheers definitely made that obvious,” said Nisarg Sanchela, co-chair for the Greater Toronto East Regional planning committee. “The event was a great success and we look forward for many more to come.”

# FastStart DC winners learn how to change the world

From February 18 to February 20, 11 students from Durham College (DC) and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) traveled to the Starting Point Student Entrepreneurship Conference at St. Mary's University in Halifax, NS. The theme of this year's conference was "Revolutionary Ideas Change the World".

The students attended the conference after entering and winning a contest sponsored by the DC and UOIT [Student Association \(SA\)](#), in partnership with [FastStart DC](#). Entrants had to creatively demonstrate a desire to learn about entrepreneurship or share how they aspired to start their own business. Winners were selected to attend the conference by a panel of experts.

While in Halifax DC's students made a big impact, with attendee Christian Schortemeyer winning \$1,000 total; \$500 for best entrepreneurial idea at the conference and \$500 for being part of a winning team who presented the best idea for solving student debt. DC's Jordan Ella also won \$500 for being part of that team.

"It was truly an inspirational and life changing experience," said Ella. "The conference opened my eyes to a world of opportunity that I had never considered. My plans for the future have been dramatically challenged after being so inspired during my time in Halifax."

FastStart is designed to increase entrepreneurial skills and awareness while also helping students create solid business plans that take their products and services to market – quickly and successfully. It offers progressive programs and provides the tools and resources to connect students with industry leaders and mentors to help them succeed.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

- Vicky Bolduc, [Entrepreneurship and Small Business - Business](#), DC
- Jeremy Coulis, [Entrepreneurship and Small Business - Business](#), DC
- Andrea Di Nardo, [Sport Business Management](#), DC
- Jordan Ella, [Biotechnology – Advanced](#), DC
- Manija Farhat, [Operations - Business](#), DC
- Marco Lo, [Commerce \(Marketing\)](#), UOIT
- Faisal Mirza, [Electrical Engineering](#), UOIT
- Ivanko Nimtsiv, [Human Resources Management](#), DC
- Andrew Eric Prandovszky, [Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology](#), DC
- Christian Schortemeyer, [Marketing – Business Administration](#), DC
- Hatim Yousef, [Mechanical Engineering](#), UOIT

# Durham College tops St. Lawrence, wins first OCAA medal since 1997

It's not often a team gets the chance to avenge a tournament loss in the same weekend.

The [Durham Lords](#) got that chance at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) men's basketball championship, and they didn't waste it as they defeated the St. Lawrence Vikings 66-51 to win the bronze medal in front of their home fans at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre.

It's the Lords' first medal in OCAA men's basketball competition since winning gold in 1997, and they also avenged a 69-65 loss to the Vikings on the opening night of the tournament.

From the opening tipoff, it was evident that, no matter how resilient the Vikings were, a repeat of Friday's quarter-final wasn't in the cards.

Durham, possibly riding the wave of support from its home fans, came out flying as they scored the game's first eight points in a 2:18 stretch. The Lords also played tough defence to open the game, holding the Vikings off the scoreboard for the first 4:05 before Andrew Dawkins connected on a three-pointer.

The Lords had a strong finish to the opening half, closing on an 8-2 run in the final three minutes to take a 30-20 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

The Lords kept the momentum going through the fourth quarter, as they finally wore the thin Vikings roster down before closing out the game with a 9-0 run.



The Durham College Lords ruled at the 2015 OCAA men's basketball championship and took home the gold.

# Verdict in: DC takes second place at Mock Trial Cup

After two days of fierce competition, the judges have made their ruling and awarded this year's Paralegal Mock Trial Cup to Sheridan College, with Durham College (DC) weighing in at a close second.

Taking place over March 6 and 7, paralegal students from colleges across Ontario including DC, Centennial, Algonquin, Seneca, Fleming, Sheridan and Loyalist descended on the Oshawa Court House to showcase their advocacy skills as well as their abilities to argue the law.

"This event is not only a practical, but also a fun way to introduce students to a courtroom setting," said Ana Bernal, professor, [School of Justice & Emergency Services](#). "We would like to thank the professionals who volunteer their time in order to provide a valuable hands-on learning experience."

Students participated in teams of six in front of a panel of real judges and justices in a competition designed to help develop their public speaking and legal research skills while also helping them build self-confidence.

"Durham College's team was extremely happy that we made it to the final round of the competition," said Marty Gobin, a member of DC's Mock Trail Cup team and student in the Paralegal Graduate Certificate program. "This was a great opportunity for the paralegal students because it gave us a chance to test our academic and advocacy skills in front of real judges at a practical level."



Congratulations to Durham College paralegal students who received second place in the 2015 Mock Cup Trial, finishing just behind Sheridan College who took home the win. The Mock Cup Trial provides an opportunity for students in colleges across Ontario to gain real-life experience in a courtroom setting.

# DC Alumni Association hosts second sold-out etiquette dinner

After the first event sold out like hotcakes, the Alumni Association hosted their second etiquette dinner on March 23. Taking place at [Bistro '67](#), Fatima De Valentin, an etiquette consultant, walked guests through a full three-course meal with tips and dos and don'ts, for a fun-filled social learning experience.

“The Alumni Etiquette dinner wasn't just food and rules, it was excellence in the form of etiquette,” said Christian Schortemeyer, a third-year Business Administration Marketing student and member of [Team Experience](#), who attended the dinner. “The unique part about Fatima's talk was that anybody could learn these simple continental dinner tips and tricks.”

Guests received stickers if they made an etiquette error, and the three guests with the most stickers at the end of the evening received a door prize.

We're counting down to Durham College's (DC) 50th anniversary in 2017. Stay connected with us to be in the loop on DC's celebration activities. Update your information [here](#) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).



# Durham College alumni recount their roads to success

Two Durham College (DC) alumni wowed students with stories of their remarkable journeys from college to career at this year's Alumni in the Pit on April 7. The annual event welcomes back former DC students to share their experiences since graduation and provide guidance to those who are about to embark on their own career paths.

This year's event featured, Amanda de Souza, designer and professor, and Mike Arsenault, broadcaster and author, who both graduated from DC in 2008. Though they received very different educations, they had the same advice to share – work hard, volunteer, learn as much as you can (even in that “meaningless” job) and be passionate about everything you do.

“I used to spend my weekends doing a self-defence show for Rogers TV Durham,” said Arsenault, who graduated from the [Sport Business Management – Graduate Certificate](#) program. “They were 12-hour days, but if you enjoy what you do, it's not work. So get your foot in the door.

Even if it's not what you want to do it can still give you answers, it's still valuable experience and it gives you a lot of networking opportunities.”

Mike eventually transitioned into sports writing and broadcasting, and even published a book, [60'6": Balls, Strikes, and Baseball Mortality](#), in 2012. He currently works as a field reporter for The Weather Network and CBC.

De Souza graduated from the [Advertising and Marketing Communications](#) program at DC. She moved to New York City (NYC) where she landed a job as senior designer for [W Magazine](#) and found success as an artist. In fact, [one of her pieces, a decorated piano, was featured in NYC's Central Park](#) as part of a city-wide art exhibit.

“Be passionate about what you're studying,” de Souza said. “Focus on your passion, then use the skills you develop here at DC to pursue what you enjoy. I didn't even realize how many skills I learned in my program until I started applying for jobs, and said, ‘I can do this, and this, and this.’”

Both grads attended DC after completing a university degree to develop more hands-on skills that carried them through a range of exciting opportunities, including de Souza's time as social media manager for Justin Timberlake's restaurant, [Southern Hospitality](#), in Hell's Kitchen, NYC, and Arsenault's gig as editor for two newspapers.

"It's exciting to reconnect with these amazing young people who once stood where our students stand now," said DC President, Don Lovisa. "They have both accomplished great things, and I hope our students were inspired by their tenacity, enthusiasm and drive to follow their dreams. We offer outstanding programs here at DC, and we're proud to have played a role in the success of these two, and so many more, alumni."



Durham College (DC) hosted its annual Alumni in the Pit. This year's event featured Amanda de Souza, designer and professor (left), and Mike Arsenault, broadcaster and author (right), who returned to share their insight about transitioning from college to career. They were introduced by DC President, Don Lovisa (middle).

# Brighton students cook up a winning recipe at Durham College's first ever Epic Mac N' Cheese competition

It was a gouda day at Durham College's (DC) [Centre for Food](#) (CFF) as 13 teams of grade 11 and 12 students faced off in the college's first ever Epic Man N' Cheese competition on Saturday, April 11.

The students developed their own unique twist on the old family favourite using top-quality local ingredients such as smoked duck, Montreal smoked beef, salmon, lobster, fresh vegetables and herbs, and, of course, a range of cheeses including asiago, blue, brie, fontina, colby, cheddar, goat's cheese and more provided by a variety of sponsors.

Each team produced a stunning dish, but the winning recipe was Spicy Mac N' Cheese whipped up by Tamara Pantaleo and Johanna Buttle of East Northumberland Secondary School, in Brighton, Ont. With Muenster cheese, merguez sausage made by the students in DC's [Culinary Skills program](#), cayenne pepper and fresh herbs, it was a combination that couldn't be beat.

"Winning the contest definitely helps me get my name out there in the field and builds confidence in my cooking abilities," said

Tamara Pantaleo. "I plan on going to DC in the fall so it's also nice to already have experience with the culinary program there."

"The competition helped decide my post-secondary path," said Johanna Buttle. "Winning proves that I can succeed with a future in culinary arts."

The winners were chosen by event attendees who enjoyed a sample size portion of each concoction then voted for their top choice. Honourable mentions go to:

## **SECOND PLACE:**

Notre Dame Catholic High School  
Megan McGrath  
Jaelyn Mason

## **SECOND PLACE:**

Patrick Fogarty Catholic Secondary School  
Morgan Mackenzie  
Nic Cranney

## **THIRD PLACE:**

J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate  
Jeni Monette  
Jack Lloyd

“We were thrilled to see so many aspiring chefs cooking up a storm in our kitchens, and the support from the community was outstanding,” said Dave Hawey, chef, professor and coordinator of the culinary programs, at DC. “We’d also like to thank our generous sponsors for donating the ingredients and prizes, which allows the college to reinvest 100 per cent of ticket sales back into student education and training. Several local businesses also purchased tickets to support the event.”

All the cheddar raised at the Epic Mac N’ Cheese Competition will be held in a bursary fund to support students considering a career in culinary, hospitality or special events planning at DC. All students who participated in the competition are eligible to apply for the bursary.



Grade 11 and 12 students from across southern Ontario competed in the first Epic Mac N’ Cheese Competition hosted by Durham College’s Centre for Food. Funds raised at the Epic Mac N’ Cheese Competition will be held in a bursary fund to support students considering a career in culinary, hospitality or special events planning at DC.

## Sports shorts

### THE LORDS FINISH A SEASON OF PERSONAL VICTORY AND TEAM PHILANTHROPY

The courts are quiet and the scores have been tallied after a great season for the Lords that included both playing hard and paying it forward.

On March 24, the Lords faced off against the UOIT Ridgebacks in the fourth annual Charity Cup. The exhibition game saw great sportsmanship from the men's and women's teams, and it was a win-win as all funds supported Their Opportunity, a registered charity that provides families the support to enrol their children in sports programs.

The women's volleyball team brought home silver from the OCAA championships in Ancaster, Ont. putting an end to nine years of missed finals. This victory marks their eleventh podium finish in 31 years.

Wearing bronze around their necks the men's basketball team is walking tall with pride after avenging themselves against the St. Lawrence Vikings. The Lords lost to the Vikings in the previous OCAA championship held at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre, but turned things around and won 66-51 breaking an 18-year podium drought.



The women's volleyball team ended a nine-year streak of missed finals with a silver medal at the 2015 OCAA championships.

# Upcoming events

## SPRING 2015

### Spring Convocation

*General Motors Centre*

Visit the [convocation site](#) for more details.

**Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

- School of Continuing Education
- School of Health and Community Services

**Tuesday, June 9 at 10 a.m.**

- School of Interdisciplinary Studies & Employment Services
- School of Media, Art & Design

**Tuesday, June 9 at 2:30 p.m.**

- Centre for Food
- School of Science & Engineering Technology
- School of Skilled Trades, Apprenticeship and Renewable Technology

**Wednesday, June 10 at 10 a.m.**

- School of Business, IT & Management

**Wednesday, June 10 at 2:30 p.m.**

- School of Justice and Emergency Services.

### Research Day

*Student Services building, Oshawa campus*

Thursday, April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Science Rendezvous

*DC-UOIT shared campus, Oshawa*

Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



# Alumni benefit of the month

## SHAGWELL'S ON THE RIDGE

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### Dine for Less

Alumni enjoy 15 per cent off at Shagwell's on the Ridge

2200 Simcoe St. N.

Located upstairs in the Campus Ice Centre



## CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS

Show your DC spirit by ordering a class ring, and customize it to suit your style.

[Browse the Jostens catalogue.](#)





# New and notable

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## DC HIGHLIGHTS

### **Durham College students chosen to support the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games**

Fifteen Durham College (DC) students have been offered once-in-a-lifetime opportunities this summer to support the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. Three students from the School of Media, Art & Design will assist the CBC in broadcasting the events and 12 students from the School of Skilled Trades, Apprenticeship & Renewable Technology will help build and maintain residences for the athletes.

Three second-year students in DC's Broadcasting for Contemporary Media program, were nominated by their professor and accepted as interns with the CBC following an intensive interview process. Only 30 paid internships are available to post-secondary broadcasting students across Canada.

The remaining 12 are students in DC's Construction Carpentry - Sustainable program and will be working as carpenters and carpentry assistants to build and maintain residences for more than 7,000 athletes who will be participating in the games.

"We are very excited and pleased that our students have this opportunity to gain skills in such a high-profile international event," said Durham College President Don Lovisa. "We have a high calibre of talent at DC, and this opportunity is a testament to the tremendous skills and knowledge of our students. This event will certainly put their abilities to the test, but we know they will excel and shine as ambassadors for our programs, the college and the Region of Durham."

The 2015 Pan Am Games run from July 10 to 26 followed by the Parapan Am Games from August 7 to 15. The Region of Durham is hosting a number of the events that are spread across southern Ontario.

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COLLEGE NEWS

## **DC's Centre for Food claims victory in School Cup Challenge**

With an overall participation of 26.3 per cent, Durham College's (DC) Alumni office is pleased to congratulate the Centre for Food as the victors of the second annual School Cup Challenge!

From March 2 to 19, nearly 600 spring and fall 2015 graduates shared their favourite memories and experiences from their time at DC. Along with the glory of victory, bragging rights and an inscription on the trophy, as winners of the School Cup Challenge, the Centre for Food receives a \$1,000 bursary to award for the 2015-2016 school year.

The School of Science, Engineering & Technology took second with a student participation of 18.9 per cent. A \$500 bursary donated in their name will be awarded to a DC student for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Additionally, Victoria Sykes, a student in the Hospitality Management program (Centre for Food) was the winner of \$500 for sharing her favourite DC experience as part of the challenge.

Amy Branscombe, a student in the Animal Care program (School of Interdisciplinary Studies & Employment Services) was the lucky recipient of a pair of Toronto Maple Leafs tickets.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all of the students who participated!



*Success Matters*

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