

# reflections DURHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



FALL 2011 | VOL. 74

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, DURHAM COLLEGE



Another academic year is underway and with it comes many exciting and new initiatives! We were very pleased to welcome more than 8,400 full-time students to our campuses this fall, many of whom are the first-ever students in a range of new programs we

have introduced to continue meeting the needs of employers and our communities. In addition, our students arrived to find millions of dollars in renovations that have transformed outdated areas into terrific new learning and social space.

As we finished those renovations, we turned our full attention to making Phase 3 expansion a reality

at our Whitby campus. This shovel-ready project will include a 'green-certified' teaching restaurant and support students studying in the fast-growing areas of agriculture, culinary, and hospitality. The final step is to secure funding, including community donations, to support this important project.

As you read through this issue of Reflections, I believe you will be proud of our growing alumni family. I know I am. From musicians like Derek Giberson and Cadence Grace, to entrepreneurs such as Laura Vaillancourt and Michael Maynard, our graduates continue to use the skills they learned at Durham College to find success and their place in the world.

These are just a few examples of how our alumni achieve excellence in their careers and communities. For each of these success stories, I am sure there

are many more and I look forward to reading about them in upcoming editions of Reflections. Whether you are just beginning your career or graduated years ago, I encourage you to be in touch and let us know how you are doing. We'd love to feature you and everything you have accomplished in an upcoming issue.

Sincerely,

Don Lovisa

President, Durham College

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



I hope you enjoyed the hot weather and sunshine of this past summer as much as I did. It seems like a distant memory now that we're busy with another academic year, even though it was only a few short weeks ago.

October is once again upon us and I'm eagerly anticipating our annual fall convocation ceremony where I will happily welcome a new class of Durham College graduates to our alumni family.

For more than 40 years our graduates have made us proud with their accomplishments in their chosen careers, their personal successes and the impact they have made in their communities. As you read this edition of Reflections, you will learn about several former students, possibly people you went to school with, who have taken their college education and have set and achieved professional

and personal goals by working hard and following their dreams.

In addition to the stories included in these pages, I look forward to new stories of success and triumph that will fill future pages of Reflections. With more than 55,000 alumni, I can only imagine what new heights they will reach.

We are always happy to hear about your successes. Our doors are open so drop by and say hello, or send us a message and let us know how you're doing.

Cheers,

Lillian Jacoby

Legal Administration, class of 1976

President, Durham College Alumni Association

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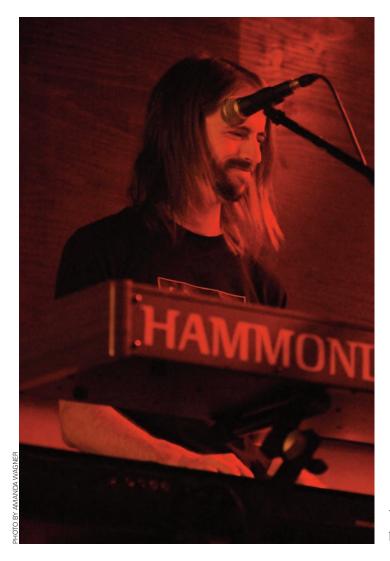
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# KEYS TO HIS SUCCESS

by Laura Baird

HE WALKS OUT ON STAGE IN FRONT OF the live audience; takes a seat at the grand piano; thinks for a split second, and then lets the music flow from his soul, through his fingertips and onto the keys. Musicians regularly improvise with their instruments, but to improvise for a live audience with expectations is different. It's an experience Journalism graduate Derek Giberson introduced to audiences last year in Oshawa and Toronto.

Giberson is a professional keyboardist who plays everything including rock, rhythm and blues, soul, funk, jazz, traditional blues and a little classical. He also offers piano lessons and recently began freelance writing for Muzik Etc., an

industry magazine written by professionals that features product reviews, industry news and professional advice.

"Without journalism, I wouldn't have had the confidence to start writing for the magazine," Giberson admitted.

The writing requests he receives take a lot of self-motivation and initiative. "I pretty much only work under pressure," he said. "So when there is a deadline looming, I have no trouble because panic sets in. The writing itself is not too difficult, it's just getting out there and finding it."

When Giberson graduated from the Journalism program five years ago, print journalism jobs were difficult to come by.

Instead, he was pulled into the music industry by demand, as there is a fairly low supply of professional keyboard players. Giberson has thrived in the music industry, where he now finds himself working with top professionals including Ricky Tillo, guitarist for Lady Gaga; Al Webster, drummer for Colin James and Amanda Marshall; and Dale Russell, who played guitar with The Guess Who for 17 years. In total, Giberson plays more than 170 shows a year.

"I also play a weekly show in Toronto with a guy named Chris Caddell. He has played as Sass Jordan and Colin James's guitar player and his band, The Wreckage, opened for Bon Jovi and Kid Rock at the Air



Journalism graduate and musician Derek Giberson (opposite) plays at one of the more than 170 shows he performs a year. He relaxes during a promotional photo shoot (above).

Canada Centre last summer," Giberson said.

"Being in this position is something that I'm really, really proud of. It's a really good place to be from a professional standpoint. It's a pretty big step that I have made in the last year from playing just the regular club gigs because the people I'm working with are pretty well-respected in the music industry."

On top of working alongside big names, Giberson played on the grand piano, at the McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa in February 2010.

"That was strictly an improvised show," Giberson reveals. "I basically sit down at a piano and just start playing whatever comes to me – which is something I do by myself a lot, but to do it in front of an audience that has a certain expectation, or lack of expectation because they don't know what to expect – that was a big step. I was glad to start that and have it be successful in both Oshawa and Toronto."

Aside from his career in the music industry, dabbling in professional and musical writing and teaching, Giberson spends time with his seven-year-old son and five-year-old daughter, who loves listening to her dad play.

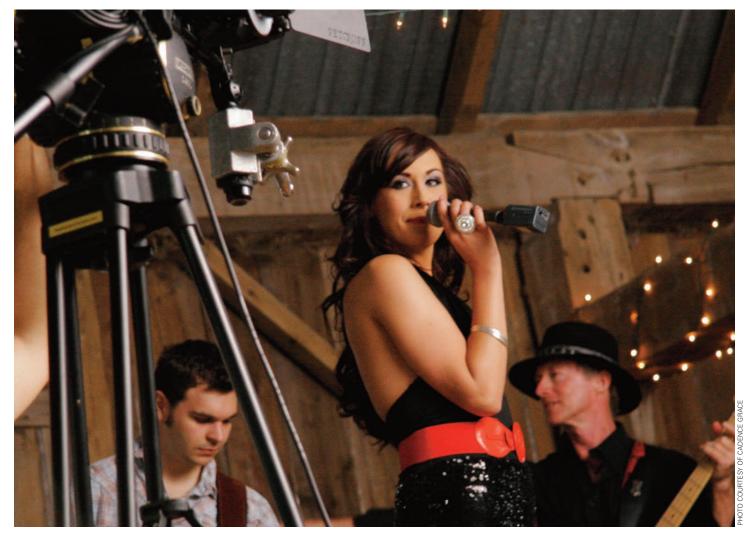
"I would really love to do more of the solo piano shows in the future. I have also had a taste of producing and that is something I would like to do more of," he said. "Something else I want to continue to do is to write for other musicians. I don't feel I could do anything else but music. I think if I tried to pursue something else, I would have spent the rest of my life looking over my shoulder wondering what if? Essentially, music is the thing I love the most."

To learn more about Giberson, view a list of show times and locations or listen to a recording of his improvised music, please visit http://derekgiberson.ca.

# CADENCE GRACES STAGE

by Crystal Hartog

MUSIC BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GRADUATE CADENCE GRACE SHOWS RHYTHMIC FLOW THROUGH HER NEW ALBUM, UNBREAKABLE.



Music Business Management graduate Cadence Grace Leipsig, now a singer-songwriter, shoots her first music video, Living in our Love.



"IT'S A GOOD DAY, RIDING DOWN THE highway, singing along, our life is a song and it's a sweet one when you're riding shotgun. Now that you're in it, don't want to miss one minute, not one minute of living in our love." – excerpt from Living in our Love.

Living in our Love is one of the many unique life tales woven into a song by 25-year-old singer-songwriter and Whitby native, Cadence Grace Leipsig known in the music industry as Cadence Grace. Her single has been enjoying play on radio stations across Canada, and its music video, now airing on Country Music Television (CMT), has been getting great reviews.

The 2006 Music Business Management graduate has spent the last seven years working in the music business. In the beginning, her focus was on publishing and writing music and an early partnership with music publishers Ole helped land her songs in more than 40 television shows and movies including CTV's Degrassi, MTV's The Hills and Disney's Go Figure.

After three years of growing up and finding her own voice, she decided to carve a new path for herself, the one she had always wanted. Her success in

publishing gave her the confidence to pursue a career as an artist and her big break came in 2009, when she appeared on CMT's Karaoke Star as a finalist in the singing competition.

Although she lost the competition, the attention she gained led her to Nashville where she independently wrote and recorded her debut country album Unbreakable, earlier this year. The album consists of 10 tracks that she says truly express who she is. She hopes her work will help define a new generation of Canadian country music. Representing a fresh new look and sound, she is already earning respect from those in the industry. "Cadence (Grace) is a courageous singer with a fresh vision for country music. She has an exceptional voice and style to boot. The Canadian/United States markets will soon be introduced to a unique artist of the highest calibre," said Douglas Romanow, producer of Fire Escape Recording.

Since starting the recording process for her record, she has also established Cadence Grace Enterprises. Having a registered business is a legal way to keep the financial and management aspects of her career separate from her personal life and gives her more opportunities to apply for grants and loans.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIGITAL COCOON

"Educating myself about the intricacies of the music business was one of the best decisions I've made," Cadence said. "Being able to read and draft my own legal documents; create my own business advertisements and album artwork; design and maintain my own website – those are all valuable skills I feel help me to continually move forward."

The program also gave her the tools to write and produce her own music. Her creativity and skills are displayed through her website, www.cadencegrace.com. She designed the website with a country hoedown atmosphere as a sneak peek into her life's journey.

In her hometown of Whitby, she is known as a triple threat because she can act, dance and sing. She has been belting out tunes since the age of two and began singing lessons when she was 11. Since then singing has been her main passion and has led her to where she is today.

"My hopes are to eventually assist other artists through my business and help them accomplish their dreams, just as I am doing now," she said.



# NO DISPUTING GRAD'S SUCCESS

by Shannon De Mello

MEDIATOR, AUTHOR, CONSULTANT, educator and political strategist. For Michael Maynard, work has always been about helping people.

As an expert in conflict and dispute resolution, Maynard provides mediation, alternate dispute resolution (ADR) consulting services, training and coaching to businesses, families, organizations and individuals. As an educator, he has developed and taught a number of post-secondary level professional development and organizational training courses and as an author he has co-written an instructional book titled Choices in Approaching Conflict: Understanding the Practice of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Maynard also taught and developed ADR courses for Durham College's School of Justice & Emergency Services, which led him to open Maynard Mediation and Conflict Management in December 2009.

"From the moment I ventured into the world of alternative dispute resolution, I knew I had found my calling," Maynard said. "Everybody has a role to play in the world and the role of peacemaker has always been mine."

As a mediator, Maynard steps between feuding neighbours or combatant members of communities, workplaces or organizations and helps them redirect their efforts to create positive, mutually beneficial, win/win outcomes for everyone involved.

Before graduating from Durham's Legal

Administration program in 2007, Maynard was asked to join the Toronto office of one of Canada's largest law firms as a litigation law clerk in May 2007. After earning his advanced diploma, he stayed with the firm, working in litigation and dispute resolution and later in government relations and ethics, all the while working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Law from Carleton University in Ottawa.



Mediation is a way to resolve disputes between two or more parties by helping them negotiate their own settlement.

Maynard enjoys challenging himself, taking charge of his potential and working on projects he believes are important. These among others, are the reasons he decided to start his own business. Being close to home and spending more time with his wife and two-year-old son, while using his expertise to provide significant services to his community, are also big factors.

## "It really doesn't get more rewarding than this."

He also provides dynamic and intelligent communications skills and a political campaign consulting service as the owner and principal consultant at Greyfeather Strategies. There he applies his creative thinking and strategic planning skills, offering advice and strategic support to aspiring and veteran politicians during elections.

Owning a business also comes with a tremendous workload, cautioned Maynard.

"In addition to doing the job, there's business administration, marketing and being fully accountable to yourself and all aspects of the work. On top of that, other employees are looking to you for solutions to their problems and answers to their questions."

"But with any challenge also lies the reward of overcoming that challenge," Maynard said. "Every day I do something important; help a family resolve a problem for instance. I feel really good about it, from top to bottom. It really doesn't get more rewarding than this."



Durham College graduate John Middleton has been appointed manager of Acision Canada's operations. Acision, a world leader in mobile data, hired him to open and oversee the company's first Canadian office.

# MESSAGING MAN

by Shane McKenna

WHEN MOST PEOPLE HEAR THE WORD telecommunications, they immediately think of a telephone. This is one misconception that John Middleton, a 1986 graduate of the Electronic Technician program finds himself explaining often, having worked in the telecommunications industry for almost 26 years.

Middleton noticed at an early age that the electronic engineering field was growing rapidly and that there were endless job opportunities which ultimately led him to the Electronic Technician program.

"The program was very hands-on and practical, which prepared me for the industry," said Middleton. "It was also intense because at that time we had to build our own computers but the enthusiasm and level of interest the professors had in the program made it worthwhile."

As he progressed in his career, Middleton continued his education and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Master's degrees in Business Administration and Science. In between studies, he also had the opportunity to work for many big names such as CIBC, AT&T, Nortel, Juniper Networks and Alcatel-Lucent.

Two years ago, Middleton landed a position with Acision, a world leader in mobile data, as the regional director of the company's first Canadian office. Middleton was the first person to be brought on board for the office which opened in Mississauga in 2010. He immediately had to organize the new office, hire a team and start launching products to Canadian customers. His title has since been upgraded to manager, Canadian Operations.

"There is a big market in Canada and a lot of growth in the Canadian telecommunications industry, with a huge opportunity for product evolution to go all-IP next generation networks," said Middleton. "Smartphones are taking over fast in Canada, with more people purchasing smartphones, it's predicted that as many as 68 per cent of Canadians will have one by the end of 2013."

Currently an estimated 65 per cent of Canadians have regular cell phones compared to 80 per cent of Americans. As the market evolves, there will be a huge opportunity for Acision to grow within Canada according to Middleton. Acision is a dominant global player in messaging and continues to strengthen its North American presence by helping both tier

one and regional operators build out their messaging environments. More than 35 per cent of all text messages sent in the world are managed by Acision messaging solutions and Canada is a growing contributor to that number.

"Acision is the best in the industry for messaging products and mobile data. I see tremendous potential in the telecommunications industry and it will continue to grow," said Middleton. "Acision is the leading company in the field and it was a great opportunity for me to help them grow into Canada and for me professionally."

The global company is based in the United Kingdom with offices in Nieuwegein (Netherlands), Prague (Czech Republic), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Singapore and Dubai (United Arab Emirates). He has also travelled all over the United States and Europe.

"In life you have to continue learning all the time," said Middleton. "The telecommunications industry is always changing, and that's something that I've always liked about the industry. I love what I do and I'm one of the few people who can say that I have my dream job."

# FROM BURGERS TO BUDGETS

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE MERYAN MADDEN HAS FOUND HER CALLING AND IS LOVIN IT

by Kaitlyn Da Silva

MERYAN MADDEN IS THE DEFINITION OF DETERMINATION. In 2001, she enrolled in the three-year Business Administration course at Durham College. During that time, she was working part-time at McDonald's' Ritson Road, Oshawa location, attending classes and raising two children with her husband. After three busy years, Madden graduated at the top of her class in 2004.

"Once I decide to do something, I have to finish it," said

Madden. "Having a good support system including my family, friends and professors, made it easy."

Today, Madden can still be found at McDonald's, but instead of working with burgers, she is working with budgets as a general accountant for Wilson Foods, which oversees McDonald's Oshawa market. She is required to balance the general ledgers; sign off on payables; produce monthly reports for the managers, supervisors and owners; and ensure all in-house payroll is correct.

Before she obtained her accountant position, she faced many challenges including becoming a certified general accountant (CGA). Benefiting

from the Durham College diploma, Madden began at the fourth level of the CGA program, which at the time had five levels. After completing all of the CGA courses, she went on to receive a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont.

The combined education earned her a CGA designation. While working to become a CGA, she faced 20 to 30 hours of studying a week. This was not an easy task considering her already busy schedule.

A typical day for Madden started at 5:45 a.m. when she would wake up, get the kids off to their grandmother's and then begin work at 7 a.m. Eight hours later she would pick up the kids from school, prepare dinner, help with piano practice and then spend three to five hours studying. All of this on top of regular appointments, recitals and special occasions. Finally, in October 2010, Madden received her degree from Laurentian and the next

month was admitted into the CGA profession.

"My family and friends knew that I had a very busy schedule," said Madden. "They were very supportive and kept my spirits up."

Throughout her years as a student, she worked part-time at McDonald's performing some administrative tasks. With the CGA goal in mind and a retiring accountant on the horizon, Madden was approached for the soon-to-be-vacant accountant position.

"A large part of my success is owed to the Durham College professors – they were amazing," said Madden. "I reflect back on Durham College with a lot of good memories."

After 10 years of school, Madden's hard work and dedication has unquestionably

paid off. She took on the challenges of raising a family, getting an education and working part-time without hesitation. Her perseverance throughout her years at Durham College certainly did not go unnoticed by her fellow students.

"I am so proud of her," said Vicky Tallon, a former classmate. "She is an inspiration to both young and mature students."



McDonald's, located on Ritson Road in Oshawa, is a second home to graduate Meryan Madden, certified general accountant.

# TURNING EVENTS INTO BUSINESS

by Krista Duke



Laura Vaillancourt (left) and her business partner, Louise Fradet-Clark, work together at their office in downtown Oshawa to plan corporate events.

DURING THE DARKEST DAYS OF THE recent economic downturn, entrepreneur Laura Vaillancourt thought a turn of events was in order. That's when she and her partner, Louise Fradet-Clark, launched the events and public relations (PR) services business, A Turn of Events. The two women focus mainly on planning corporate functions like conferences, seminars and symposiums.

Along with her partner, Vaillancourt, a 1986 Public Relations graduate, also provide clients with PR and marketing services. Vaillancourt has experience in marketing, selling advertising and working in PR for the not-for-profit sector.

"We're like a package deal for companies," said Vaillancourt. "You have to supply what the market demands. The public relations and advertising skills that I learned at Durham College continue to get implemented wherever I go."

Before her event-planning career began, Vaillancourt took the liberty of turning a local sidewalk sale in downtown Oshawa into a fundraiser just outside her husband's store. The event was three days long and raised money for The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). A local radio station was also set up outside the store to cover the event, which helped raise both awareness and money.

"It was really satisfying, because my family has a real connection to SickKids," said Vaillancourt, whose sister spent a long time there as an infant. "So that event was in honour of my family, for the generosity of SickKids. It was time to give back."

She started gaining her PR experience while at Durham College. Between first and second year, Vaillancourt scored a work placement at PR firm Burson Marstellar in Toronto. After graduating, she worked at a conference production company in Toronto called the Institute for International Research.

Later in her career, she was able to branch out into the non-profit sector while working at the Eastview Boys and Girls club shortly before she co-founded A Turn of Events. The interpersonal and writing skills she learned in school and throughout her career are among the most valuable skills she's attained, while her wide range of jobs have all laid the foundation for running her own business now, she added.

"I really value my writing skills. They are needed so much in the world of PR," she said. "When I went into the course, I thought of myself as a writer, but pretty much had to throw all of my rules out and re-learn how to write for the business world. It's a skill that's used every single day."

Earlier this year, A Turn of Events planned the 2011 Oshawa Mayor's Gala for September. The black-tie event was expected to see 350 guests and raise money for the 54-year-old Ontario Philharmonic symphony, based in Oshawa.

A Turn of Events has been open for a year and a half and the company continues to expand. "We hope to get more companies, provincially and nationally," said Vaillancourt.



# CREATING TECHNOLOGY TODAY, SAVING LIVES TOMORROW

by Christopher Cabral

Professor Richard Tidman is working on a project that has the potential to revolutionize the Canadian health-care system.

IMAGINE A HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM where information about medical devices and technology is readily available; where a nurse in an intensive care unit could save lives by tapping into an information database available in the same room as a patient; or an administrator could see what other hospitals around the province are purchasing. It's no small feat but thanks to a research project being conducted by Durham College professor Richard Tidman, these dreams could one day become reality.

Tidman is the principal investigator for the Bio-Medical Devices Knowledge Portal, a health-technology management application based on global standards for unique device identification and information exchange. Established by Durham College and the private medical sector and funded by the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII) and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, the portal's main objective is to provide a standardized framework for exchanging information about medical devices to clinicians, risk management workers, biomedical engineering technologists and administrators.

"This project has the potential to change the future of health care," said Tidman. "It will have a profound impact on us all as patients and taxpayers. There is no single way in modern medicine, unless someone develops an absolute breakthrough in a clinical practice, that we can provide more gain to patient care than to manage medical device technology better."

According to Tidman, it would also maximize the technology investment,

improve its integration and generally improve the delivery of care in every foreseeable application. "It would shorten patients' length of stay in hospitals while decreasing wait times, improving quality of life and decreasing the cost of a single-payer system," he said.

While the current system requires nurses to contact clinical/biomedical engineers for questions on the devices used by patients, the portal would be able to provide real-time information to users at the point-of-use in hospitals, clinics and practitioners' offices. Studies indicate that up to 30 per cent of a nurse's time is spent on an issue with technology rather than on patient care and up to 80 per cent of a biomedical engineering technologist's time is taken up answering clinical questions.

"Our portal is based on two needs, the technical information needs of the clinician and the decision-making information needs for everybody within the taxpayer funded side of health care," said Tidman.

For example, if a nurse has questions about a vital signs monitor, they must contact the device's manufacturer or an in-house biomedical engineering technologist. Using the portal, the nurse could access answers immediately at the point-of-care. This could not only prevent improper use of the device, but help minimize complications in the future and free up time that the nurse could spend with the patient.

To create the portal, Tidman applied experiences and skills learned throughout his 29 years in the industry. His career began following a chance meeting with a biomedical engineer who had just returned

from the Vietnam War. From this encounter, Tidman found his vocation but only after extensive federal exams and courses at the DeVry Institute did he become certified. A Master's degree in Business Administration – Healthcare Administration completed his student career.

Today, he teaches in the Biomedical Engineering Technology program at Durham College, a position he has he held for seven years. However just like his entrance to the industry, his teaching career began on pure chance.

"Durham College called me one day to find out what I thought should be involved in the curriculum," said Tidman. "When they finally got funding (for the program), they asked me out of the blue if I wanted to teach. I really hadn't been thinking to teach at all."

Tidman is hoping the portal will be able to manage medical device technology in a holistic way throughout the entire supply chain, something not currently being done. Many of the problems of eHealth, including extended length of stays, cost overruns and non-sustainability, are directly related to the effective management of medical technology that the health-care system depends on. The portal will ensure that physicians, clinicians and administrators can maximize the benefits of this medical technology for the taxpayer for years to come.



# GETTING RESULTS

by Justyn Frizzell

Based on the research conducted by the Office of Research Services and Innovation, Mitchell Owen, a third-year Mechanical Engineering Technology student, adjusts the batteries in the housing of the Extractor, a pool skimming device, so it can run all night on stored solar energy.

ALMOST EVERYONE IS TOLD TO FOCUS on one thing at a time, but imagine focusing on three things at once – not that easy. Durham College's Office of Research Services and Innovation, created in 2007, does just that, focusing on three core sectors: institutional research, applied research and new program development. Its research work benefits students, the college and the greater community.

Institutional research focuses exclusively on the internal affairs of the college including enrolment growth and graduation rates, providing advice to management on which programs are attracting and retaining students, amongst other things. For instance, if the college's programs were not trending in the right direction, staff members would research to find out why and develop a strategy for improvement. It is also used to support new program development and help review existing programs.

"A program review is done every five to seven years allowing all programs within the college to be examined," said Debbie McKee Demczyk, director, Office of Research Services and Innovation. "This process allows us to take an in-depth look at the program and recommend improvements, making it more attractive to students."

Applied research can entail making a product or process better and looks at providing research for real-world problems. One of Durham College's current partnerships is with Green Works Solar Power and the creation of a prototype solar tracking system. This device would be installed on the ground to hold solar panels and move them north, east, south and west in relation to the sun. Instead of being fixed in one place like most solar panels, they tilt to follow the sun and absorb as much light as possible.

Another of the office's roles is to ensure students can fill jobs in a rapidly changing marketplace. That's where research helps in new program development by looking at programs the college should offer based on market and employer needs.

"This fall the college is offering 10 new programs based on the research compiled over the years and on what employers want to see in graduates," said McKee Demczyk. "We ask these employers because we want to make sure that our students will have job opportunities upon graduation."

"Everything that we do supports economic development so we can provide students with a positive and memorable experience," said McKee Demczyk.
"Therefore, they can become entrepreneurs and valued employees of the companies they're with."

# SATISFYING STUDENT DEMANDS

by Ashley Breedon

OPENING ITS DOORS IN 1967, DURHAM College welcomed 200 students to what was then a small and intimate school. With 14 staff and a handful of programs in applied arts, business and technology, it's a stark contrast to the school we have today, with more than 8,400 students. A growing number of those students are not fresh out of high school or in their early twenties – they're mature students looking for a second career, academic upgrading or specialization.

To meet the growing student population, Durham College introduced its five-year Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) plan in January 2010. With a goal of attracting 10,000 students by 2015, the plan's focus is on program mix, student success and retention.

When it comes to program mix, the college is looking to add programs that meet current demands for workers and graduates. To that end, a number of new programs were planned for this fall, including Construction Carpentry – Sustainable, Emergency Services Fundamentals, Digital Video Production and Victimology.

"We want to make sure we're offering the right mix of certificate, diploma, advanced diploma and graduate programs as well as a variety of apprenticeship programs," said Stephanie Ball, dean of the School of Justice & Emergency Services and co-chair of the SEM committee. "We are also developing programs that not only have pathways from one program to another and to universities, but are in demand within the province and the country and are meeting student needs."

Reaching new heights in enrolment won't come easy. More students means more support services and many areas of the college will have to pitch in to help. This includes everything from academic advice, to financial counselling, to disability assistance. Services like these contribute directly to student success.

"I was having a hard time getting organized," said Eric George, a graduate from the Computer Systems Technology program. "It wasn't so much that I needed help learning the material it was keeping on top of upcoming labs and assignments and being able to prioritize."

Connecting a student like George to the right supports helps ensure he achieves his academic and personal goals.

"The whole point of having this multifaceted approach is to enable us to look at the larger picture so that we're not just expanding to take on another 2,500 students and forgetting about the supports which come with the increased expansion," said Ball.

As important as student services are, the role Durham College's faculty members play in attracting and retaining students is



The new Student Services building supports students in their education efforts while fostering lifelong learning.

equally as important in the SEM plan. From their initial meetings during fall and spring open houses, professors are the first line of contact for potential and incoming students. This student-professor connection can have a significant impact on the student's eagerness to learn and Ball says having enthusiastic and knowledgeable faculty who can make that connection is what keeps students coming back.

"SEM is hard to see when you look at the broad concept," said Ball. "But when you look at our day-to-day activities, it's simple, not some abstract idea."

To get faculty and staff on board, the college introduced various methods of communication for the launch and roll out of the SEM plan. The SEM committee hands out coffee vouchers to employees for actions like assisting with summer placement students, fostering community partnerships and course curriculum updates. To make others aware of the simple actions it takes to get on board with the plan, voucher recipients are mentioned along with the deed performed in regular updates on ICE, the college's intranet site.

"We want to create a culture that supports our students, and this is how it's done," said Ball. "A lot of people are already participating in SEM activities, they just don't know it."

# **BUTTING OUT ON CAMPUS**

by Alexis Wiekamp

THE SMOKE FREE CAMPUS MOVEMENT is cleaning the air at colleges and universities across North America. At participating schools, students are not permitted to smoke on campus and tobacco products are not sold in campus stores. Currently more than 130 post-secondary schools across the United States and Canada are smoke free, including the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alta. and the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alta.

At Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, the Region of Durham's smoking restrictions apply. These restrictions prohibit smoking in all buildings and within 10 metres of all entrances and exits. However, the idea of a smoke-free campus is being explored cautiously.

Opinion is split on either side of the smoke-free spectrum. Some students, and groups such as Leave the Pack Behind and the Health and Safety Committee, feel a smoke-free campus will make for an overall better environment. They consider issues like the fact that 8.4 per cent of Canadians have asthma, and second-hand smoke can trigger an asthma attack. On the other hand, some people feel that the 10-metre distance is a big enough restriction to keep smoke away from non-smokers.

Mary-Alice Harvey, a nurse with the Health Centre, would like to see the campus go completely smoke free, but she also understands the difficulties of doing that.

"There are some students that, for whatever reason, want a smoke-free campus. It could be that the smoke bothers them or they have dealt with some of the effects of cigarettes on a personal level," said Harvey. "And for some of those people, a 10-metre perimeter is not sufficient to keep them away from smoke."

Harvey is also aware that a smoke-free

campus environment will not be easy to accomplish without consensus from the students.

"Some students feel that they pay to attend this school and with that they should be given the right to smoke," said Harvey. "There are also certain areas of the campus that are not run by the college or university, so it would be difficult to get those areas to comply with the ban, especially if they are benefiting from tobacco sales."

Those areas include privately owned student residences. Another issue is how a no-smoking policy would be enforced and where the funding would come from to pay for staff to do the job.

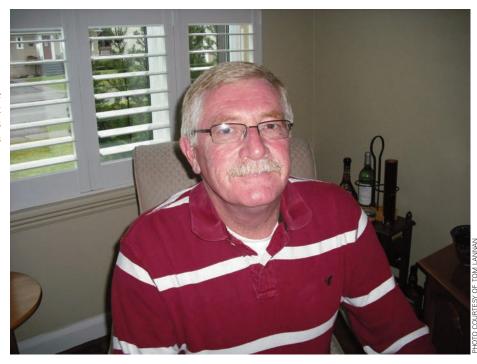
If the ban were to occur, smokers would be offered help to quit. Smoking cessation counselling is already available for all students who want to kick the habit.



Smoke Free signage that appears on campus and the ten-metre line that appears at entrances and exits.



Sports Administration graduate Tom Lannan has a chance to relax after retiring as Port Colborne's Parks and Recreation director this past June.



# RECOGNITION FOR RECREATION

by Sarah Taylor

TOM LANNAN'S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE for the town of Port Colborne was no walk in the park. After graduating from Durham College's Sports Administration program, Lannan was hired as the assistant director of Parks and Recreation in Port Colborne, where he worked for 20 years. The last 15 years of his career, the 1975 graduate was the city's deputy director of Parks and Recreation. In recognition of his work, the city named a new sports complex after him.

"There were a lot of different things I looked after while working in Parks and Rec," says Lannan. "I ran two arenas, a marina, Nickel Beach, two indoor pools, a path system that runs through Niagara Region and 250 acres of parks and cemeteries. The last three or four years that I worked, we also took over the operation of a historical building that houses our local theatre and the coordination and operation of the city's special events, with the biggest one being

the city's signature event, Canal Day."

When he retired in June, 2010, he was awarded a mahogany plaque for all his hard work and dedication to the city of Port Colborne. He will also be receiving an honorary picture in city hall. The picture will be either of the marina lakefront or of the Thomas A. Lannan Sports Complex.

Lannan had a big part in the opening of the sports complex and in the development of the marina. He came up with some of the sport facility's expansion ideas and handled the maintenance of the plan. They were two projects that he put extensive time and effort into and he counts that contribution among his greatest achievements.

He is now reaping the rewards of all his hard work by getting the most out of his retirement. Since packing up his office, he has travelled to Disney World, Chicago, Vegas and Vancouver. Next he plans to go to Eastern Canada and then Europe.

The mayor of Port Colborne, Vance Badawey, told Niagara This Week,

"Regardless of the capacity in which Tom was working, he was the go-to person. Bottom line, Tom cared."

The Sports Administration program at Durham College was a huge help in his career. According to Lannan, he would not have had a job a month after graduation without it. He was a part of the second graduating class and feels his most memorable professor, Don Fraser, helped him succeed by offering much guidance and support. At the time of Lannan's graduation, Durham College was the only college in Ontario to offer the program. He remembers the college didn't have a gym or a residence back when he attended classes.

"I feel very blessed to have worked in parks and recreation," says Lannan. "There's nothing else I would have rather done. If I hadn't gone to Durham College for Sports Administration, I would have worked at the Maple Leaf Flour Mill, where I worked before college."

## ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN GETS A+

by Sara Lennox



With the introduction of all-day kindergarten, children have more opportunity to learn through play with the support of both a teacher and early childhood educator.

FOR PARENTS, FINDING AFTER-SCHOOL care for young children is both stressful and time consuming. For teachers, instilling a love of learning in active children can sometimes be a tall order. For childcare providers, the desire to open a child's eyes to the joy of play can also be difficult. For early childhood education (ECE) graduates, the battle to find a job you love can be just as stressful. Thankfully, all of these problems have the potential to be reduced, since Ontario introduced all-day kindergarten.

Introducing full-day learning has brought relief for many people in the Durham Region where all-day kindergarten was introduced in 2010 and has been particularly beneficial for ECE students.

"For the graduating student it's a positive step, because employment opportunities are expanding and will continue to expand until full-day learning is in all schools," said ECE professor Ann-Marie Ulrich.

While not much is changing in the program curriculum, ECE students are

becoming more familiar with the idea of working in kindergarten classrooms alongside a teacher. Students are researching what this change means for them as childhood educators and what their designated roles will be in the classroom.

"For graduating students, it's a positive step because the employment opportunities are expanding and will continue to expand until full-day learning is in all of the schools."

Teachers are still responsible for creating and applying the kindergarten curriculum, but due to the higher volume of students in the classroom, they need more help. That is where ECE graduates step in.

"Students are becoming familiar with full-day learning documents because we're embedding them in the curriculum now, so students will know the outcomes of kindergarten when they go into the field," said Ulrich. "There are some challenges for the teachers with full-day learning because now they have a new partner and there is still a lot of confusion about their responsibilities. It was such a quick roll out so they are still trying to figure out what roles the two different professionals will play."

One of the most exciting things about this change to full-day kindergarten is the amount of growth there will be in the industry. Not only will more jobs be available, but it seems safe to assume that more people will be interested in studying early childhood education.

"The ECE program has always been popular, but I do believe it will continue to grow even more. I think it will also offer some recognition for those already working in the field, about what they do and how important it is," said Ulrich. "The students leave with the philosophy that play is the best way to learn. Kindergarten classrooms are play-based, so it is a perfect fit."



# WELCOMING NEW HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

by Shane McKenna

RECEPTIONISTS, SERVERS, bartenders, cooks and housekeepers – they all provide guests with customer service at hotels, bars and restaurants around the world. And they're usually supervised by one person: a hospitality manager.

That's one position that Robert Grieve, lead faculty member of the new Hospitality Management – Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism program knows well, having worked in the hospitality industry for more than 20 years, mainly in hotels and resorts.

The program launched in September 2010 and prepares students for employment in the growing hospitality industry across the Durham Region.

"There are university-level courses and some other colleges who offer the hospitality management program but with Durham College and the size of the population base here there is a real opportunity," said Grieve. "A lot of people are going to end up working in this industry either by choice or because that is what they fall into, so it made sense for Durham College to offer this program."

The two-year diploma program prepares students to work in a managerial position at any business where customers come in looking for a hospitality experience. The course builds skills in three main areas: business management, customer service and eco-friendly hospitality practices.

Students also get a first-hand learning experience in the food lab. "In the lab, students actually slice, dice and cook," Grieve said. They also complete an 80-hour placement component in their fourth semester in a hospitality-driven facility to help them develop hands-on skills

In its first year, the program was full with 46 students enrolled and many more on the waiting list, which may be the best evidence of the need for the program in Durham Region.

"We are never going to be a massive factory school; the program wants to be very small and student-centred," Grieve explained. "We are also looking at buying our supplies from the local community because the program has a local focus as well as an eco-concentration."

"The hospitality industry is realizing customers want businesses to be environmentally friendly, a large part of the course will focus on that so when students go out into the industry they can bring something new to the table," said Grieve.

Enrolment is expected to grow in the near future and to accommodate the growing number of students the college has some changes in store.

"On the books right now is the plan to build a new food and hospitality building on the Whitby campus that will be focused entirely on hospitality and culinary studies," said Grieve.

# WHITBY CAMPUS LEEDS GREEN EVOLUTION

by Ashley Breedon



ESTABLISHING A STRONG STAKE IN THE green evolution, Durham College is taking the environmental frontier by storm and it goes way beyond tossing a soda can or a newspaper into the recycling bin.

Through the use of a third-party verification and rating system called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Phase 1 of Durham College's Whitby campus expansion is utilizing several technologies aimed at improving sustainability and performance including a focus on materials selection, energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

LEED offers four levels of certification and Phase 1 of the college's Whitby campus has set its sights on gold. By incorporating numerous green strategies such as low-flush toilets and an increased use of windows and skylights to reduce the need for electrical lighting, this high-level designation will translate into a decrease in the building's overall environmental impact. In fact, according to Durham College President Don Lovisa, energy efficiency has already improved by 35 per cent.

Noting that the college's green evolution

is not a new concept, Ralph Aprile, associate vice-president, Facilities and Ancillary Services, says Phase 1 should receive the official certification before the end of 2011.

"Thinking green is something we've been doing here since I started 26 years ago. It's always been a part of our mindset and where we're going," said Aprile. "It's not a hard decision to make when there is such an abundance of renewable resources."

Organizations must weigh many factors when attempting to obtain LEED certification. For example, when selecting materials they need to consider the product's performance and its long-term viability. This ties directly into the overall energy efficiency of the building through the use of items such as high-thermal value windows, which work to insulate indoor environments from the outside elements. As Aprile explains, the certification requirements encompass the overall building process.

Producing electricity through the use of more than 350 solar panels and six wind turbines, Phase 1 has also achieved the status of being energy neutral, which means it supplies the energy it is consuming, something supported by a geothermal system at the Whitby campus, which uses water from the earth to heat and cool the building.

Students enrolled in the college's environmentally distinctive programs also receive hands-on learning experiences through these initiatives. The ability to work with and manage the various building components is invaluable to proper training and education.

"Students have access to Phase 1 from a controlling and studying point of view, tracking energy and modelling energy technologies. That's what makes Durham College unique, that living lab," said Lovisa.

# HIGH ON GYMNASTICS

by Erin Stevenhaagen



Angela Feurstein is all smiles as operations manager of the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre.

SPORTS ADMINISTRATION graduate Angela Feurstein sprang at the chance to work full-time for Gymnastics Ontario immediately after graduating in 2002.

Her love affair with gymnastics started in her teen years when she was an avid gymnast and competitor. As part of the Sports Administration program at Durham College, Feurstein was required to complete a work placement. Familiar with her love of gymnastics, a good friend recommended she try to complete her placement at Gymnastics Ontario.

She not only landed the placement with Gymnastics Ontario but she also made the job stick when she was offered a full-time position as coaching co-ordinator after completing her placement. As co-ordinator she organized gymnastics coaching courses throughout the province; maintained the massive coaching database; and helped plan the annual coaching conference.

Four years later, Gymnastics Ontario chief executive officer, Holly Abraham offered Feurstein the job of Trampoline and Tumbling program manager. That position included being in charge of the competitive trampoline and tumbling coaches and judges across the province. During that time, Gymnastics Ontario became ISO certified, the first-ever sport organization to receive that

organizational stamp of approval.

Shortly after, Feurstein found herself in need of a change and another opportunity arose.

"My mentor Kellie Hinnells had moved to Ottawa to become the executive director of the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre and when a position became available on her team, she offered it to me," she said. Today, Feurstein is the operations manager at the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre, where she continues to exercise her passion for gymnastics.

"The position I accepted has evolved into the operations manager position and I'm constantly being given new challenges and projects," Feurstein said.

Her favourite pastime and second passion is photography. Lucky for her, her current job gives her the freedom to pursue that passion as well. Hinnells appreciates Feurstein's love of photography and encourages her to take pictures at competitions and events to post on the centre's website.

As part of her role, Feurstein recently organized an events team to travel and participate in several festivals throughout the city to promote the Ottawa Gymnastics Centre and educate the public about what the centre offers.

In addition to her day job, Feurstein enjoys her evening job with the Ottawa Sport and Social Club, promoting it as

recess for adults. As evening league facilitator, she finds herself doing everything from equipment drop-offs at schools to replacing an absent event co-ordinator. That may mean watching four hours of floor hockey to monitor the players and make sure they have everything they need. Although this job is mainly supervising, she is doing what she is passionate about in both roles - promoting active living.

"The Ottawa Gymnastics Centre is heading in a new direction and I'm happy to be a part of it," said Feurstein. "I would never have had this experience or opportunity had I not taken Sports Administration at Durham College."

> Sports Admininstration graduate Angela Feurstein shows off her gymnastics talent.





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# SPEARHEADING SENIOR SPORTS

by Kristen Carey

STAYING HEALTHY CAN BE HARD FOR anyone, especially those approaching their senior years. Sports Administration graduate Laurence Bishop has spent the last five years trying to make it a little easier. The independent sports consultant has gone from producing seniors' sport events at provincial and national levels in Canada, to producing them at a national level in the United States, overseeing the National Senior Games Association (NSGA).

A non-profit member of the United States Olympic Committee, the NSGA is dedicated to motivating senior men and women to lead a healthy lifestyle and ensure healthy aging through the senior games movement.

"When you consider that the United States has more than 116 million people who are 50 years of age or older, the NSGA has a lot of people to motivate," said Bishop.

He acts as a consultant to management concerning all aspects of the NSGA's national events and programs. This includes everything from budget development to local organizing committee relations and site selection for future events.

"We are servicing the single largest demographic event in U.S. history – the baby boom," explained Bishop. "This group has redefined each stage in life through the years and you can predict they will redefine the next step as well."

The programs engage about a quarter of a million people. Of these, nearly 27,000 participants qualified in state competitions for the 2011 Summer National Games in Houston, Texas in June where 10,000 athletes were expected to compete. The largest sporting event in the world for seniors should generate more than \$40 million in economic activity for the Houston region.

Prior to joining the NSGA, Bishop worked on two major seniors' events for the Ontario Senior Games Association which promotes wellness for seniors 55 years of age and older living in the province. Most recently he was executive director of the 2010 Canada 55+ Games in Brockville. These games bring together relatively small groups, representing their respective provinces or territories and attracted more than 2,000 competitors to Ontario last summer. Depending on their success at the Canadian National Championships, participants earned the right to move



(from left to right) Sports Administration graduates DJ Mackovets (class of 1980) and Laurence Bishop (class of 1993), sit together at their monthly meeting in Houston, Texas this past March. The two Durham College graduates collaborated on hosting the National Senior Games Association's (NSGA) 2011 Summer Games.

on to the NSGA's 2011 Summer National Senior Games.

While supervising the entire operation of the 2010 Canada 55+ Games, Bishop decided to travel to Palo Alto, Calif. in 2009 to observe the national American competition. During his stay, he attended an organizer's social function where he stumbled upon another Durham College graduate and head of the local organizing committee for the Houston games. Little did he know that the chance encounter would lead to a working relationship.

While at a Japanese disco, Bishop ended up sitting next to DJ Mackovets, who noticed that Bishop was Canadian. They struck up a conversation and Mackovets mentioned that he had attended Durham College for Sports Administration and asked if Bishop had ever heard of it.

"I told him that not only had I heard of Durham College, but that I'm also a graduate of the same program," said Bishop. That meeting led to Mackovets recommending Bishop for his current position with the NSGA.

"It's cool, we've developed a good working relationship. It's the proverbial example of a small world," said Mackovets who was happy to recommend Bishop for the job. "He's passionate about the senior movement and the NSGA."

Once Bishop started the position, the two got together for four-day stretches, once a month to co-ordinate their efforts for the games. Mackovets oversaw the local side of organizing the national NSGA summer games in Houston, while Bishop looked at the event from a national perspective.

Mackovets, a 1980 graduate, is highly recognized in the event planning world, with impressive experience in organizing top-level events. To name a few, he was involved in organizing the Atlanta Olympics (1996), three Super Bowls (2000, 2004 and 2006) and the U.S. National Figure Skating Championships (2003).

"This is a new world for me (working in the United States versus Canada)," said Bishop. "I've learned so much from DJ, working with him these last few months."

# ALUMNI UPDATE

#### 1969

RONALD HOOPER (Business - Marketing) lives in Bowmanville with his wife Joan. They recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Hooper was part of the first graduating class of Durham College. He is the president of Hooper's Jewellers Ltd. which recently celebrated its 65th anniversary in downtown Bowmanville and has two grown daughters. One attended Durham College's Police Foundations program and is now working in the family business (third generation). He is also a municipal councillor for the Municipality of Clarington, currently in his second term. He has been involved with the Clarington Board of Trade, Bowmanville Business Improvement Areas and the Canadian Jewellery Buying Group.

#### 1987

SANDRA SMITH (nee Cotter) (Business – Data Processing) lives in Lindsay with her husband Mike. She has a daughter, 29-year-old Amie, and a son, 18-year-old Morgan. Smith works at the Ministry Of Community and Social Services in Lindsay as a caseworker.

#### 1991

**TIM PAYNE** (Electronic Engineering Technician) lives in Barrie. Payne is a damage prevention technologist for Canadian Locators Inc.

KENNETH WEIR (Graphic Design) lives in Marlborough, Mass. with his daughters, 17-year-old Ashley and 14-year-old Kaitlyn. Weir is a staff instructor for AB SCIEX in Massachusetts.

#### 1996

DEBORAH CLARKE (nee Brock) (Journalism, 1996 and Graphic Design, 2000) lives in Oshawa with her husband Wade and three sons, seven-year-old Caeden, five-yearold Levon and three-year-old Finley. She works at Hornet Media as a creative director.

#### 1997

MICHAELA HELLIWELL (nee Chambers) (Graphic Design) lives in Pickering with her husband Randy and their two children, six-year-old Ethan and three-year-old Rowyn. Helliwell was an associate art director before opening her own photo studio, which specializes in boudoir photography for diverse women of all ages.

#### **SHARLTON HERCULES**

(Sports Administration) lives in Toronto and works at bp health clinics as a sports injury therapist.

#### 1998

**KIANDA MAUCH** (nee Snaith) (Registered Nursing) lives in Whitby with her husband Wes. They are the proud parents of their new son, Fletcher, born on January 29, 2011.



#### 2005

WILLIAM LISCOMBE (Power Engineering Technician) lives in Newcastle with his wife, Julie and their two children, four-year-old Abby and two-year-old Gavin.

Liscombe works at Ontario Power Generation as an authorized nuclear operator in training.

#### 2006

MONICA CARRIER (nee Smithe) (Dental Assisting) lives in Calgary, Alta. with her husband Michael. She works with Dr. Sheila Shellborn as a treatment co-ordinator.

#### 2007

KRISTINA PANTALEO (Advertising Administration) lives in Ajax. Pantaleo is a musician and certified speech level singing instructor in Durham Region. She is the owner of TrueVoice Singing Lessons located in Ajax.

#### 2010

JULIA SCOTT (Office Administration Medical) lives in Oshawa with her daughter, 14-year-old Felicia.

#### 2011

JANNAH DESHEVY (General Arts and Science) lives in Pickering with her two-yearold daughter Kali Konstantine. Deshevy works at Pickering Optometric Clinic as a medical receptionist.

**KYLE LARGE** (Sport Management) lives in St. Catharines. Large works for Olds College Athletics as a campus recreation programmer.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

**ROBERT HOGAN,** a 1971 Public Relations graduate, passed away on August 12, 2011.

RICHARD JONES, a 1970 Business Administration – Marketing program graduate passed away on July 9, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer.

**BARRY LAROCK,** a 1986 Sports Administration program graduate, passed away in June 2010.

BILL LANSING, a 2003 Law and Security Administration program graduate, passed away as the result of a car accident on June 24, 2011.



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