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Durham College Alumni Magazine

# Reflections



DURHAM COLLEGE  
SUCCESS MATTERS

50  
AMAZING YEARS  
1967 TO 2017

AT  
COLLEGE.CA/50

DURHAM COLLEGE  
SUCCESS MATTERS

50  
AMAZING YEARS  
1967 TO 2017

DURHAM COLLEGE  
SUCCESS MATTERS

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*The next step in the journey:*

## DC's Alumni Association welcomes students as they transition into graduates



This time of year is always a whirlwind of emotions for Durham College (DC) students, especially those applying to graduate.

As they prepare to embark on their careers and join the alumni community, the Alumni Association will be there to help ease the transition. Initiatives like backpack2Briefcase (b2B) have been specifically designed to support students as they launch their careers in the workplace. The annual Job Fair is one of the events that falls under the scope of b2B offerings. This year over 65 potential employers participated. The event included a Speed Networking mentoring lounge, where students could learn about the working world from alumni with first-hand experience.

This edition of the alumni magazine is filled with stories of growth, community partnerships and celebrations. From announcing funding for the Centre for Collaborative Education, from both the City of Oshawa and Region of Durham, to Mac n' Cheese and 50 guitars, there's never a dull moment at DC.

I know I speak on behalf of the entire Alumni Association when I offer heartfelt congratulations to those eagerly anticipating spring Convocation. Just as the students look forward to their futures, the association looks forward to welcoming them to our

community, already 77,000 members strong.

Whether you're a new graduate or an alumnus who's been working and contributing to your community for many years, we encourage you to connect with the college – share your stories and keep in touch. We also hope you will join us on Sept. 8 and 9 for Homecoming. We are planning a weekend filled with fun and activities to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Happy Spring!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Vale". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Vale, Class of 2003  
President, DC Alumni Association

### REFLECTIONS

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*Chris Russell, a police foundations graduate, used his bravery and skills while assisting Canadian Forces in Afghanistan in 2008.*

# FROM CLASSROOM TO CRUSADE

STORY BY ANN POWER  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS RUSSELL

Chris Russell traded in a four-leaf clover for a maple leaf when he immigrated to Canada from Northern Ireland as a child in 1990. As he grew up, he gained a sense of patriotism for his new home. At just 12 years of age, he joined the 1913 Ontario Regiment Army Cadet Corps. Later, Russell went on to join the Canadian Forces Army Reserve as a cadet instructor in Oshawa. Through this experience, he realized he wanted to protect the citizens of Canada as a career, and enrolled in Durham College (DC)'s Police Foundations program in 2004.

"My immediate goal was to become a police officer and I was fortunate to have been accepted into the military police," says Russell. "They are one of the few services that require Police Foundations as a prerequisite. Policing is a demanding career with many challenges, but I was well-prepared by my professors because they made sure we knew what we were signing up for."

After graduating from the program in 2006, Russell joined the military police one year later. In 2008, he was deployed to Afghanistan on Task Force 3/08 while guarding detainees, escorting injured Afghans by medical airlift and working with the

Kandahar Airfield Force Protection. Russell also assisted the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service with highly-sensitive investigations involving the deaths of Canadian Forces members who were killed in action. While serving on the front lines, Russell was injured by an improvised explosive device that killed three members of his patrol. As a result of his bravery overseas, he was awarded the General Campaign Star Medal, the Sacrifice Medal and the CFNIS Commanding Officers Commendation.

"I was fortunate to have several amazing teachers who were previous police officers and inspired my classmates and I to be successful and passionate," says Russell. "My professors made the class come alive using their experience and guidance."

When he returned home, Russell held a number of positions in the policing field. Some of the highlights of his career include serving as an air marshal for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his G20 and APEC summit in November 2015. Recently, Russell was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and will soon be posted to CFB Kingston.

"I have advanced through the ranks from corporal to sergeant, traveled the world and served abroad," says Russell. "My career has been full of variety and my education from DC has helped me excel in my career." □□



*Chris Russell graduated from Durham College's Police Foundations program and began a thrilling journey in the military police.*

# Ahead by half a century

## DC celebrates with 50 guitars for 50 years

STORY AND PHOTO BY KALLYSTA KLOSE

**R**ock on! The arts are alive and well at Durham College (DC). From the whimsically-painted piano in the Pit to the sketches and photographs proudly displayed throughout the halls, DC's creative campus culture is celebrated every day.

On Feb. 10, President Don Lovisa and Justin Lant, a DC employee and songwriter, led an event that exemplified this imaginative environment, 50 Guitars for 50 Years.

In celebration of DC50, committee organizers gathered an ensemble of 50 guitarists to collectively perform two songs: "Ahead by a Century" by The Tragically Hip and "A Lesson Learned in Time" by Lant and Nick Vieira, both members of the local band 20 Amp. Though the first piece is already well-known and written by an established Canadian band, "A Lesson Learned in Time" was written by Lant and Vieira specifically for 50 Guitars for 50 Years. The piece celebrates the rich history of DC and builds upon historical sentiment, and also looks towards the future while instilling listeners with hope.

**“I think DC lets people know that it's okay to get out and have some fun.”**

On event day, Lovisa, Lant and the other performers played for a full audience. The Ed Mirvish Theatre in Toronto did something similar in 2015, when more than 900 guitarists performed "Falling Slowly" with the cast of "Once". But why do this at DC?

"One of our faculty members actually played at the Ed Mirvish Theatre," says Lovisa. "He was one of the guitarists who went down there and it was quite an experience for him. I'm a guitar player also, so we were brainstorming what we could do to have some fun and bring attention to DC50, and I had this idea. We bounced it off the 50th Anniversary Committee and now we're here.

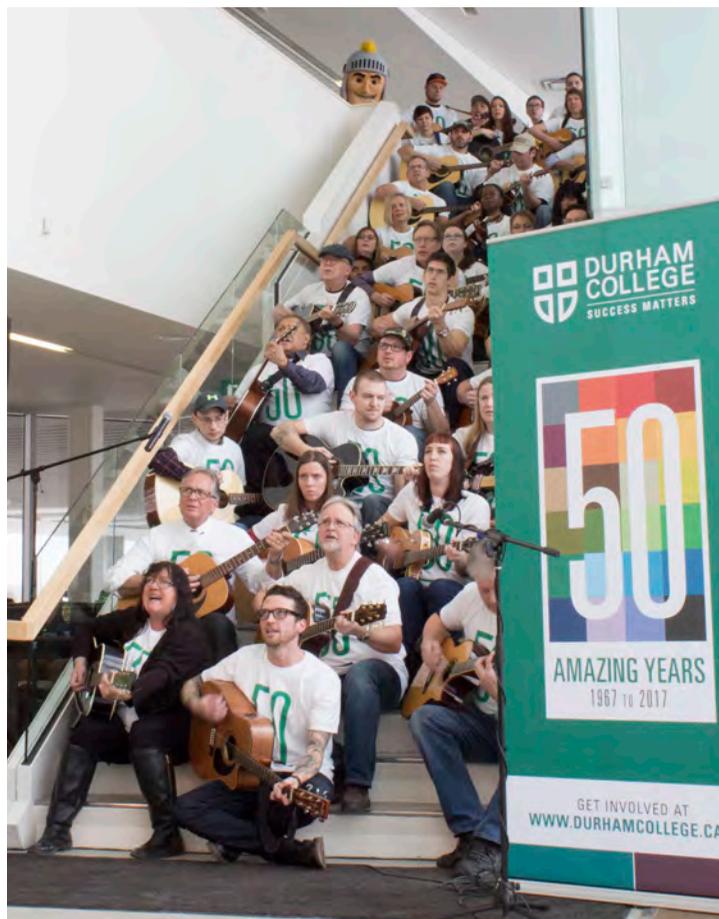
"It's all about drawing attention to Durham College and the fact that we're celebrating 50 years," continues Lovisa.

President Lovisa has been playing the guitar since the age of 13, so when the event came to mind, it was obvious that he had to be a part of it. But how did Lant, a groundskeeper at DC, become involved?

"I got this job by playing shows with my band here on campus," says Lant. "Now, I'm writing a song because I have a job here. It's this cool circle how everything worked out."

"The event is important to the whole school and everyone here, so it's not just about me or my song," adds Lant. "Really, I'm just here to have fun. It's pretty cool to be involved with everything and I'm glad to be a part of it."

During the acoustic performances, the Student Services Building was filled with people, jokes, laughter and guitar-playing.



Justin Lant, the frontman of Oshawa band 20 Amp, has been a musician his whole life. Don Lovisa, not far behind, has been a guitarist since the age of 13.

The emotional atmosphere during 50 Guitars for 50 Years is indicative of everyday life at DC. Students, staff and alumni from the college form an accepting community that supports each other in a positive way, whether it is academically or artistically.

**“The event is important to the whole school and everyone here, so it's not just about me or my song.”**

"There's a great culture here," says Lovisa. "You go around our hallways and see these pieces by the Visual Arts students and the Music Business Management students, and you notice the effect it has on the campus. If you go into the Pit, you will often hear people playing the piano or the guitar. We get students from all walks of life.

"I think DC lets people know that it's okay to get out and have some fun," concludes Lovisa. "And that's what campus life should be about." 🎸

# Pots and pans in Peru

STORY BY MADELAINE DANTAS

PHOTO BY DANIELLE HARDER

When most people are picking a college, they don't expect to have the international experience of a lifetime but that's exactly what happened to one lucky Durham College (DC) student.

Travis Fortnum had just completed his first year of journalism when his program co-ordinator Danielle Harder suggested he apply to be the journalist for the DC educational excursion to Peru. DC and Centro Experimental de Formación Profesional (CEFOP), a college in the city of Trujillo, have an international partnership targeted toward the school's culinary programs. Three successful students from three different programs were selected to document Durham's connection on the other side of the hemisphere.

"I was really nervous. There were so many applicants, and I knew how amazing this opportunity was," says Fortnum. "After finding out that I was the chosen candidate, I could not have been happier."

Upon arrival in Trujillo, one thought came to Fortnum's mind as he walked down the steps of the cramped airplane at that small airport. "I am experiencing culture shock. I'd been down south before, but it was nothing like that," says Fortnum.

The partnership has been in existence for over two years. The schools work together to exchange ideas to better each of their culinary programs. CEFOP is one of the many schools DC partners with. Others include schools in Guyana, Vietnam and Barbados.

**“I remember thinking to myself after those interviews – that was the greatest experience of my life.”**

Before heading on the excursion, there had been a pre-departure meeting where the manager of international projects, Katie Boone spoke to participating students: Fortnum, videographer student Vik Panjwani and culinary student Kyle Rist about the feeling of disorientation that commonly occurs when visiting another country. As the group travelled through Trujillo to their hotel, it seemed that every house looked to be under construction. Fortnum learned that in Peru, families will often build new levels in their homes for new generations of children to live in with their families.

When Fortnum arrived at CEFOP, he couldn't believe how different it was from post-secondary schools in Canada. Part of the campus is outdoors; with every classroom on the border of a large courtyard. During Fortnum's eight days in Peru, he interviewed anyone that had anything to do with the partnership. He had Boone by his side, working as his translator for every interview.

"It definitely improved my interviewing skills, as I had to be



Journalism student Travis Fortnum (left) had the opportunity to interview countless people throughout the educational excursion including students and faculty.

so aware of my body language, my facial expressions, my tone of voice... everything," Fortnum explains.

Two interviews especially stuck out in Fortnum's mind. He interviewed two students, a man and a woman, both around his age. The girl he interviewed expressed her dreams of owning a restaurant after she graduated from one of the culinary programs at CEFOP.

"I was absolutely floored by how similar they were to me. They both had such big dreams for their lives. We were so similar, in such similar situations, yet across the world from each other," Fortnum says, adding "I remember thinking to myself after those interviews – that was the greatest experience of my life."

Fortnum was able to use all of his skills obtained in the journalism program during the educational initiative: writing, observing, researching and of course, interviewing. The students are currently in the process of creating a documentary with the footage from Peru, that will debut in 2017.

"The fact that I went for this opportunity and got it gave me the confidence to really go for things in life and reassured me of my abilities and the career path I'm on," says Fortnum.

Since Fortnum's international excursion, he has started a job at CTV Toronto following work as a reporter for the Brooklin Town Crier and has been published countless times. 📺

# Lights, Camera... Coconuts?

STORY BY SARAH **POWER**

PHOTOS BY SARAH POWER AND MANJULA SELVARAJAH

When she received the news in early 2014, she was ecstatic. Manjula Selvarajah, a third-year journalism student at the time, was offered the opportunity to create a mini-documentary highlighting the CARICOM Education for Employment (C-EFE) program. The invitation, from Durham College, was received with a wide smile and open arms. The catch? It was to be filmed nearly 3,000 kilometres from home.

The Caribbean Community Market (CARICOM) is an association of 15 Caribbean nations established in 1973 whose main purposes are to promote economic integration and co-operation, to ensure the benefits of integration are shared equally, and to coordinate foreign policy. Initially launched in 2012, the EFE program continues to develop demand-driven training resulting in a competitive, productive and gender-equitable workforce in the Caribbean region. Selected by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Durham College was given the task to assemble a team that could write, shoot and edit two videos about the educational initiative to be used for the C-EFE's marketing strategy, and Selvarajah was determined to be part of that team.

"There was a range of skills you needed to even qualify, first and foremost being that you needed to be able to produce quality work," says Selvarajah. "You also needed to be able to act professionally, because even though we were going to these exotic places people usually visit when they're on a vacation, ultimately we were still dealing with clients."



*Selvarajah's crew doesn't waste time setting up for an impromptu interview on the street in Jamaica.*



*Manjula Selvarajah sits in the lobby of the CBC building in downtown Toronto on her way to begin a day of hard work as an associate producer. (POWER)*

During the application process, the college compiled a list of promising candidates and asked them to present their portfolios and past work to a panel of judges. Despite being in the midst of completing her final semester at Durham College and competing with her peers for coveted summer internships, Selvarajah managed to wow her critics and was selected to participate in the experiential learning opportunity.

"When people travel to some of these places, they might not experience them in such an authentic way. When we went, we met people at their schools, at their workplaces; we were connecting with actual people who lived and worked there," says Selvarajah. "And you're also having this amazing experience with people from Canada, so there's a lot of comradery. It was this unexpected but incredibly welcome break from school, where we just had all of these deadlines to meet and assignments to finish and placements to find. All of a sudden I had to finish all of those things right then, because I was going to the Caribbean."

Selvarajah visited four countries while documenting the EFE – Antigua, Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica. While the majority of her time was spent in a whirlwind of filming, writing and editing, she did manage to come away from the experience with a few fond memories. One of her favourite moments occurred on a beach in Jamaica when she struck up a friendly conversation with their driver while the crew was setting up.

"The first thing this guy asked me was if I knew anything about Rob Ford, and I'm thinking there's no way this guy is talking about the mayor of Toronto, but he was! We had this fantastic conversation about how he loves Rob Ford and we ended up filming a little interview with him. It was such a hilarious thing to be on a beach in Jamaica in the middle of January when it was minus-twenty back home, talking to a local about the mayor of Toronto."

Today, Manjula works as a producer, guest host and contributor at CBC Radio, she attributes a portion of her success to the experience and confidence she gained during her time in the Caribbean. 📻

# Walking the path of reconciliation

STORY BY ISSA **OCAMPO**

PHOTOS BY JOEL CLEMENTS

When Durham College photography professor, Joel Clements, joined the Walk for Wenjack team he never imagined experiencing new levels of friendship, healing and reconciliation.

Inspired by the Tragically Hip's Gord Downie's words during their concert in Kingston about the situation of Indigenous people in Canada, Clements felt he needed to be part of the solution. "I was thinking about how I agreed with him [Downie] and I agreed that it's not just the government's responsibility, and to a certain extent, all of us need to either spur the government to action or in some cases take action ourselves" says Clements.

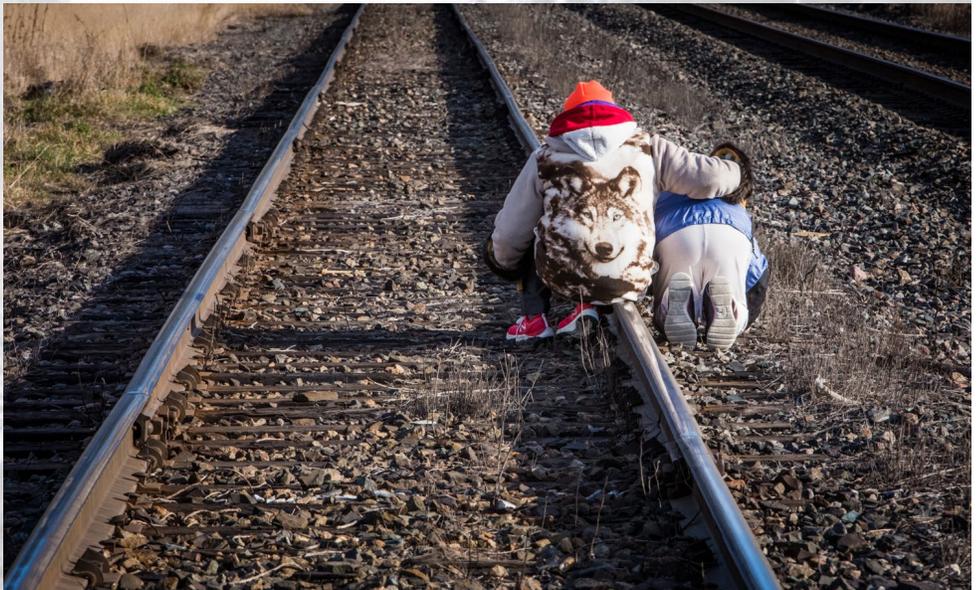
"I felt like I really needed to get involved somehow but I had no idea how."

Downie's Courage for Gord team says that more than 150,000 children were sent to residential schools where children were stripped of their culture and their identity, often inflicting physical and mental pain. The Walk for Wenjack was inspired by one of these children.

Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old Anishinaabek (Ojibwe) boy, escaped from the Cecelia Jeffrey Indian Residential School. Wenjack planned to walk back home to Ogoki Post on the Marten Falls First Nation, which was over 600 km away. In October of 1966, he eventually died on the side of the Canadian National Railway tracks from hunger and exposure to the harsh weather.

When Gord Downie's Courage for Gord fundraising team announced their fundraiser, Walk for Wenjack, Clements knew he had to be a part of it. "I sent an email basically saying, 'I don't know if you've got this figured out already but I feel like this needs to be documented and I would love to document this walk and everything surrounding it through photographs,'" says Clements. The team welcomed him to the project and a week later Clements was over 1,000 km away with no idea of the eye-opening experience ahead of him.

On Nov. 19 and 20, 2016, a group of people, including Clements and four of Wenjack's sisters, started at the site of the residential school in Kenora and continued on to Redditt for a



*Pearl and Martha Wenjack, Chanie's sisters, visit the railroad Chanie walked along. They were 15 and 5 years old, respectively, when Chanie died. (Clements)*

ceremony representing Wenjack's final resting spot.

Clements spoke of one of the most emotional and impactful moments during the walk – when Wenjack's youngest sister Martha, who was five at the time of his death, visited the site where he died for the first time. "I had arrived at the train tracks ahead of the group because I wanted to get some good photos," says Clements. "They arrived and one of the elders was drumming and singing in Ojibwe, and I just started hearing this strange noise. I couldn't figure out what it was. It was like this high-pitched drone that just didn't stop. And then I realized it was Martha."

"Her head was down but she was actually wailing. Pearl [Wenjack's eldest sister] had her arm around Martha and they started walking down the tracks and Martha just collapsed. Pearl sat down on the side of the rail and Martha was curled up in a ball. That to me was the most powerful moment. I could barely see through my viewfinder because the tears were just streaming down my face."

That weekend, Clements participated in smudging ceremonies, visited the residential school that Wenjack attended as well as the unmarked graveyard, learned about the rich Indigenous history from the elders and chiefs, and participated in the emotional and powerful healing process with Wenjack's sisters.

Walking away from this experience, Clements feels even more obligated as a Canadian to tell the stories of our Indigenous people, to learn from our mistakes as a country and to rebuild that

trust and relationships with the First Nations community.

"I think the message that needs to be told is that there are aspects of Canadian history that we should not be proud of," says Clements. "We need to teach our children about our Indigenous people. For the last 150 years, Indigenous people feel that their trust has been broken over and over again and we need to rebuild that trust by continuing to work at that relationship." 

*"I could barely see through my viewfinder because the tears were just streaming down my face."*

## Listen to Chanie's Story with Gord Downie

Want to learn more about Wenjack's story? Take a look at Gord Downie's *The Secret Path*. Originally a 10-song album by Gord Downie, it was paired with a graphic novel by Jeff Lemire telling the story of Chanie Wenjack. Downie's songs are poems telling the story of Wenjack's journey.



(Downie/Lemire)



The group walked in chilling temperatures from Kenora to Redditt, retracing the last steps of Chanie "Charlie" Wenjack. People from the community, along with representatives from different Indigenous communities, walked to raise awareness of the treatment of Indigenous people in Canada. (Clements)

# Going BEYOND the classroom

STORY AND PHOTO BY ELYSE CARNEY

Two years ago, Durham College (DC) transferred its recreational programs to the athletics program, and their intramurals and recreational activities are now thriving more than ever. The Campus Tennis Centre was repurposed as a campus field house and weekly visitor rates have gone from 15 students to 1000 students.

Change like this doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen without a dedicated team of people like the student affairs department.

Vice President of Student Affairs Meri Kim Oliver has worked in this field for over 30 years, and describes student affairs as the department that helps determine what is needed outside of the classroom for students to find success after graduation.

**“In this job, we all get older as the years pass, but the students collectively stay young. They keep me young.”**

The goals of this department are measured just as the goals of DC are: in the yearly business plan. When creating the business plan, the team at DC always considers what would benefit the students most; this sometimes requires looking past the academics and examining the challenges students may face when they're stressed about their studies.

For instance, DC developed a Coaching Centre to supplement mental health care offered in the Health Centre. In 2015, Oliver and her team went above and beyond the norm for educational institutes when they helped establish a coaching pilot program, which educates students on mental health.

“We're trying to build our capacity at the health centre to work



Vice President of Student Affairs Meri Kim Oliver has worked with her team over the past several years to improve life at Durham College for its students in several areas, including student mental health programs, recreational facilities, and financial literacy.

with students before intervention is needed,” explains Oliver.

“There are two coaches at the north campus right now, and one at the Whitby campus. They ask students questions proactively, instead of waiting for students to require an intervention.”

Another initiative Oliver worked on in the 2015-2016 school year was the financial literacy program.

“There's in-person workshops scheduled at various points in the year which address financial planning,” says Oliver. “It's all well and good to get financial assistance and scholarships, but here's a program teaching students how to manage their money also.”

Much has changed at Durham College thanks to the work of the various Student Affairs teams. Money management, mental health and the implementation of a Corporate Council are just a few of the changes made – and Oliver hopes to expand on these projects over the next few years.

“My favourite part of my job is meeting students,” says Oliver. “In this job, we all get older as the years pass, but the students collectively stay young. They keep me young.”

# Caution: Hotts

STORY AND PHOTO BY: JESSICA MORIN

A graduate from the Marketing Communications program at Durham College (DC) is best known for working with brands such as Iceberg Vodka, KitKat, Coors Light, the CFL, Delissio and Sweet Jesus. With the creative mind of an imaginative child, agencies are choosing to work with him over several other candidates. His name is John Hotts – and he is officially the guy you want to be.

“I realized advertising was right for me when I went through a giant book of professions our high school guidance counsellor handed me,” says Hotts of finding his passion. “I didn’t make it past the first page. It went #1 Accounting - nope. #2 Advertising. You mean I can get paid to create things I think up on a computer? Yes!”

In order to pursue his new-found career path, Hotts looked to DC for support. Knowing that the college was close to his hometown of Ajax, and that it seemed to have a good arts program, DC was the perfect fit.

Graduating in 2008, Hotts has had the opportunity to work with many well-known brands, spanning an already nine-year career.

“My favorite experiences so far would have to be on *Kit Kat*,” says Hotts of which brand so far has been his favorite to work with. “The brand is loved by many, so you’re rarely trying to fight your way up hill.”

In 2015, Hotts received the opportunity to redesign the Canadian Football League logo. This may sound as simple as drawing something up, but Hotts confirms it was much more than just that. “The design process on this project was a long one. Between another designer and myself, we probably designed over 200 different logo concepts, and within those concepts were multiple versions.”

Hotts let us into his creative mind and opened up about the inventive process. “We start with inspiration – looking at what is out there; things we like. And then we did some sketching to get original forms down. From there we start digitizing ideas and coming up with new ones as we go.” The final result ended up being probably his twelfth sketch.

For those who are a big fan of ice cream, or Instagram for that matter, you’ve probably noticed the recent craze for the *Sweet Jesus* brand - an ice cream parlor in Toronto. And yes, Hotts had his part in creating this brand.

“Most of the brilliance is not mine at all though. The concept and name was created by Amin Todai (founder of OneMethod) and Andrew Richmond (Restaurateur, formerly a design lead at



Durham College celebrates 50 amazing years! DC alumni visit the Pit on campus to speak about where they are now. Above, John Hotts, previous Marketing Communications student at DC, speaks to current students about his career.

OneMethod).

I was just fortunate enough to bring their concept to life with a slightly controversial brand identity.”

These people Hotts refers to are part of OneMethod, the company he currently works for. “OneMethod is kind of hard to describe fully – but imagine if you had a bunch of smart friends around you pushing you to do better work, a roster of clients who come to you for crazy ideas, an open space you truly enjoy, and the opportunity to think up and create any wild idea you want – that’s OneMethod.” And it doesn’t stop there says Hotts. “Plus, there’s hip hop on all day while that goes down.” So in a nutshell, One Method is pretty much the coolest place to work.

“I don’t know if there’s one client at the top of this list, but I really have a lot of heart for what Elon Musk has been up to. If I had the chance to work on anything SpaceX or Tesla related, I’d go out of my way for it,” says Hotts of which brand he’s got his eye on to work with next.

It’s clear Hotts has set the bar high for those graduating from the Marketing program at DC today, but his advice for students reassures that everyone is capable of success. “Be an optimist. This industry thrives on it, and there’s no time for anything else. There’s so many different roles, you’ll fit in somewhere...and when you think it’s the best, remind yourself that there’s likely a handful of people with better portfolios gunning after the same job. It’s just reality. Win the job by being the most enthusiastic person who wants it.”

Hotts recommends that once students, or anyone for that matter, lands an internship they should follow these three simple steps: “Check your ego at the door every single day, ask all of the questions, and find someone, or many, who can mentor you. Get good on your feet when it comes to speaking with people, and everything else will fall into place.”

Hotts has successfully followed his dreams. He is young, smart, not to mention charming, and yet he still remains humble. “...I do still sometimes wonder what I want to be when I grow up – so who knows where the work takes me.”

# 30 years of *passion*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARLOW

When Bill Marlow is mentioned in a group of peers, some of the words that come to mind are professor, friend and inspiration. But at the Durham College (DC) Fall Convocation of 2016 he was given a whole new title - Professor Emeritus. This is an honour that has been given to less than 10 retiring DC professors.

Marlow was at the college for more than 30 years, and held many positions during that time. Over the years he has been much more than a professor. He has had several major impacts on the school as whole.

"Bill Marlow is a mentor, role model and friend that helped me discover my passion for teaching," says past student and current DC professor Kris Felstead.

**“Bill is one of those teachers who you knew cared about you, the kind that inspired you to do well because you respected him for the respect he gave you.”**

Marlow was an acting dean for the School of Business, IT & Management, a member of Durham College's Academic Council, and has helped move the school forward into a tech-savvy post-secondary institution. As a teacher not only has Marlow helped people fulfill their dreams in computer programming, but has had inspired students to become teachers themselves.

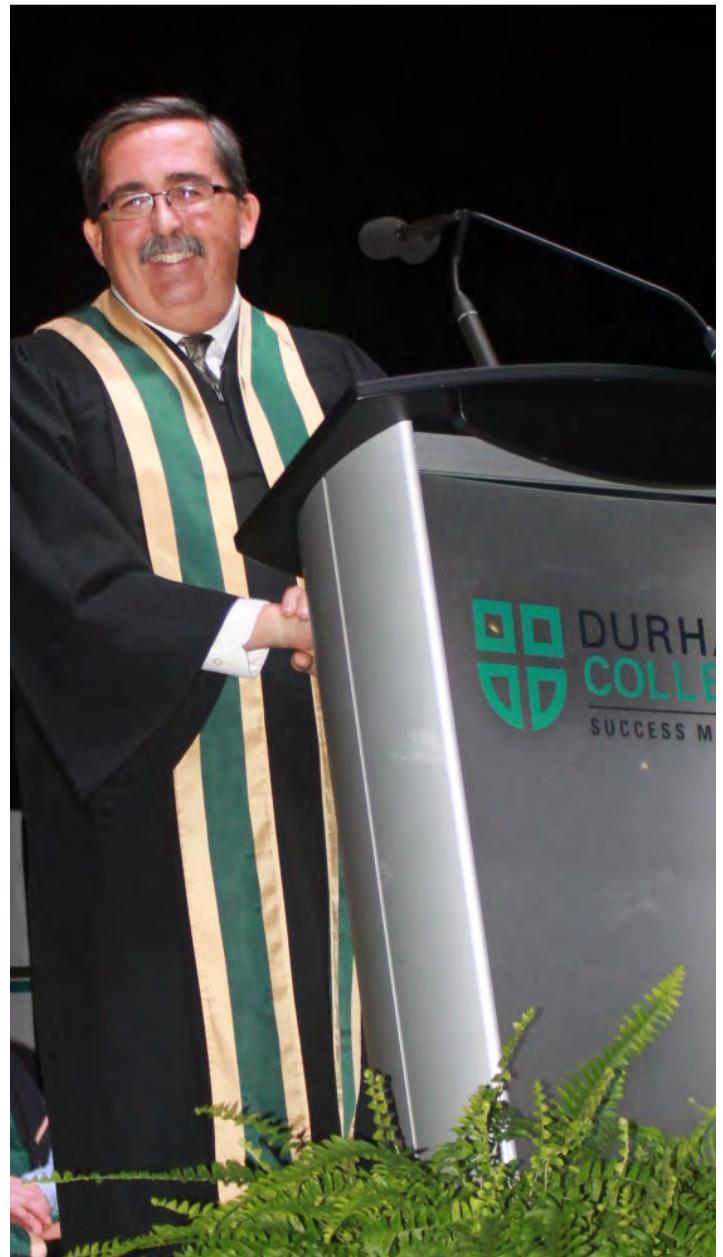
Felstead and fellow DC professors Stephen Forbes, and Andrew Mayne were all students of Marlow. Kevin Dougherty, who is the current associate dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at DC, was also one of Marlow's students, as were numerous support staff.

"I have Bill to thank not only for introducing me to teaching and learning at DC, but for being my first, and long-standing mentor as I developed my practice," said Dougherty. "Bill's focus on continuous improvement in his own practice, and the constant review and renewal of program curriculum, stood as goals that I strive to achieve in my own practice," he adds.

When Marlow retired in 2015, it was a major celebration. When someone has been making an impact on people lives for 30 years, everyone wants to give them the respect they deserve.

"Bill is one of those teachers who you knew cared about you, the kind that inspired you to do well because you respected him for the respect he gave you," says Professor Forbes. He's a mentor I am proud of and deeply grateful to have had."

To this day Marlow is missed at Durham College. He has always been a professor, but now he will be a Professor Emeritus. As Marlow said in his speech while receiving Professor Emeritus, "Stay in touch with your teachers, they care." And boy, he sure does care. 📺



Bill Marlow (above), gives his acceptance speech to the graduates and other dignitaries at Durham College Fall Convocation 2016.

# A Durham College Family Affair

## “You’re Bill Marlow’s daughter!”

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARLOW

This is a phrase I have come to know well over the last six years. As a Durham College (DC) student and alumna, it seems no matter where I go I meet someone who knows my father.

Of course I did partly bring this on myself by choosing to go to Durham College where he was a teacher. My DC journey is also thanks to a family friend and professor at DC, Pat Rogin. She told me I would be a great fit in the Public Relations program. So off I went, completely unaware of what would meet me on the other side of the doors.

There I found myself recognizing people I had known for years, passing them in the hallways and now, seeing them as professors. While in the School of Media, Art, and Design people sometimes knew my father’s name but never really put it together that we were related. After one year in Public Relations, I switched into Sports Management, which is part of the School of Business. This is where my father had taught for more than 25 years. I was warned that some people may figure out we were related, but nothing could have prepared me for the fact that *everyone* would know.

As I continued my education in two programs in the School of Business, IT & Management, I learned I would never escape the connections with my father but that’s not a bad thing. I am one of the few people I know who had the privilege of receiving their diploma from their father. I had the unique experience of getting my post-secondary education at a place that had been a part of my family’s life since I was born.

My older sister Paige went to the college daycare as a child. And, while she chose to go to university somewhere else, she came back to take a night course here later in life. Years ago, my mother took a night course here too. Most of my friends are also



Bill and Brooke Marlow (above) at 2015 Convocation

connected to the college, including my boyfriend Patrick Wallace, an alumnus of the Sports Management program.

As a student, an alumna and a professor’s daughter, I could not have asked for a better experience. Sometimes the place you can’t wait to get out of, is the place you really do belong. ☞

## A DC Marlow Family History

1984

Bill Marlow starts working at DC

Paige Marlow starts daycare at DC

1988

1992

Cindy Marlow takes a course at DC

Brooke Marlow attends DC as a student

2011

2015

Brooke Marlow graduates and Bill Marlow retires

Bill Marlow receives Professor Emeritus distinction

2016

# A LEGACY OF GIVING TO THE DC COMMUNITY

STORY AND PHOTO BY CURTIS HEAVRIN

Throughout his personal and professional life, Kevin Dougherty, associate dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) at Durham College (DC) has made an impact on hundreds of families and students within the school community.

“My whole life I’ve always been involved in community service,” says Dougherty. “I believe we have to do everything we can to help those in need within our community.”

Throughout his time on campus, Dougherty has made it his mission to give back wherever possible. Starting back in 1999, he has always been involved with the Annual Holiday Food Drive, a joint partnership between both Durham College and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. Starting as an annual family tradition, Dougherty and his wife ran the drive for 14 years before stepping down to a co-chair position in 2015. Throughout this initiative, Dougherty has had the opportunity to help hundreds of people within the DC community.

“During my first year helping, my family and I helped pack the food boxes that were distributed to people in need,” says Dougherty. “My favourite day still continues to be packing day. The help from the community, the institutions and the corporate sponsors allows the food drive to be a success year after year.”

As a DC alumnus, a former professor for 17 years and now an associate dean, Dougherty has had a successful history with the ever-changing campus. When he graduated from the Information Systems Business Administration program in 1998, Dougherty had plans to move to Toronto, get an office job and start his life. All his plans changed when one of his “favourite professors” asked him out to coffee.

When he got the invite from his professor, Bill Marlow, now Professor Emeritus, he never thought that he would walk out of that chat with the thought of being a professor. During the coffee, Marlow approached Dougherty about replacing him for a year while he took a sabbatical. While writing it all down on a napkin, Marlow talked about the opportunities the college offers, work flexibility, and about family. Dougherty decided to take the position, and ended up teaching for the School of Business, IT & Management for 16 years until June 2015.



*Kevin Dougherty, IS associate dean, works away at his computer during his busy yet enjoyable work day.*

“Even when Kevin was a student I suspected that he might make an excellent professor,” says Marlow. “My sabbatical turned into an opportunity for Kevin to try his hand at teaching and he was a natural fit into our program and Durham College. Since then he constantly expanded his scope into being a program coordinator, field placement coordinator and now into an associate dean, as well as his many other involvements like the annual food drive and his service on the Durham College Board of Governors. Of all my past grads I think that Kevin has had the most impact on the Durham College family.”

“I believe we have to do everything we can to help those in need within our community.”

For almost two years, Dougherty has had the privilege to be the IS associate dean and has enjoyed every moment. He enjoys working alongside great colleagues, while being involved all across campus. Dougherty reflects on his time at DC and he is amazed at how the college continues to develop.

“DC continues to be the eye to the rest of the world for both students and professors,” says Dougherty. “The opportunity the college offers the students is amazing, especially the pathways that all programs offer.”

# Passing the *torch*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARLOW

The feeling of walking the halls of Durham College (DC) stays in your heart long after graduation.

Some choose to stay, and expand their knowledge beyond what they learned inside the classroom. But a special few stay at DC for the remainder of their days. They mentor the new generation of students who will eventually put their mark on the world.

Stephen Forbes is one of the people who chose to pursue a life of education, teaching and mentorship. When people graduate, their first actions don't usually involve planning teaching seminars for local libraries, and working on course outlines. But Forbes knew this was the turning point and returning to be a teacher was the next logical step for him. The transition from student to professor was easier than expected.

Eleven years later, Forbes' involvement with the school goes far beyond teaching.

Forbes describes working at the school as "a giant group project, all the time every single day."

**“The help I received from Marlow and Dougherty has helped make me the teacher I am today.”**

The decision to be active on a variety of committees comes with a lot of responsibilities. The committees have a major impact on the school and how it moves forward to ensure the success of students. With three committees under his belt already including Academic Policy, Academic IT and Sustainability, Forbes is making a difference at DC. For Forbes working at DC isn't just a job. The college has become his home, it's where he feels he belongs. This is an amazing achievement at this point in his career, and while Forbes would like to say he knew it all from the beginning that's not how the story goes.

"Bill and Kevin both gave me the push I needed to go in this direction, they helped show me what I needed to do to succeed."

DC's slogan is Success Matters and, some teachers go above and beyond the classroom to ensure the success of their students.

Professors like Bill Marlow, Professor Emeritus and Kevin Dougherty, Associate Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary



*Stephen Forbes takes questions from students at the end of a class lecture in a third-year database class.*

Studies have been showing the dedication to their students for the past 30 years. From the moment Forbes came to DC he was taken under the wing of Dougherty, then a professor in the Computer Program Analyst program and now Associate Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. The mentoring that Forbes received from Dougherty, was instrumental in his progression from student to teacher.

Dougherty helped him along the way to ensure he wasn't too easy on students and as a constant supporter with any issues Forbes had while transitioning from part-time teacher to a full-time staff, says Forbes.

"Coming to Durham College as a teacher and learning under the wing of Kevin and Bill taught me how to be a part time staff that was helping the school!"

Dougherty himself had a mentor and was passing on to Forbes what he had received from Marlow. Though no longer on campus, the retired Marlow continues to play a role in Forbes' career and is accessible whenever help is needed. Marlow has always been known as the teacher you could go to when you needed help; the type of teacher Forbes tries to emulate in his classroom.

In the upcoming years, Forbes hopes to inspire his students and he says, "If the right student comes along, I would do the same for them that was done for me. The help I received from Marlow and Dougherty has helped make me the teacher I am today."



Several volunteers assist in forming the butter tart pastry at Annina's Bakeshop in Goodwood in an attempt to break the world record.

## THAT'S A WHOLE LOT OF CRUST!

STORY BY DAISY RAUDALES

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STANDARD

Recent graduate and culinary alumni, Ryan Chafe has challenged culinary arts with confidence, class and a whole lot of crust.

On Sept. 17, 2016 the 20-year-old professional chef had the opportunity to participate in creating the world's largest butter tart. After 12 long hours, with a team of 20 bakers and an 18 x 18-foot oven, Chafe and his team attempted to break the world record.

"It was the greatest experience of my life," says Chafe. "Not only did I get the honour to be a part of this wonderful team, but it gave me the opportunity to further develop my skills in culinary arts and expand my connections in the industry."

This opportunity was very beneficial to Chafe as it allowed him to gain recognition and opened doors to new job opportunities. Upon the completion of the project Chafe got offered a position with several different companies including everything from bake shops to fine dining restaurants.

"If it wasn't for my friend that asked for my assistance with this project, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet so many skilled professionals," says Chafe.

Chafe returned to Durham College, to earn a post-grad certificate in Advanced Baking and Pastry Arts. Although he could not accept any offers, due to his continuing studies, many companies promised Chafe a job opportunity in the future. Chafe continues to build his career working as a part-time chef at Calvert's Social and Corporate Catering Company in Pickering.

At the age of six, Chafe knew he wanted to become a chef. From assisting his mother in the kitchen to attending several cooking classes, Chafe has always been inspired by culinary arts. Upon entering high school, Chafe challenged himself by taking several culinary courses. He impressed his teachers and even got the opportunity to participate in several cooking contests.

By his senior year, Chafe had the opportunity to further his knowledge by taking two co-op placements.

Chafe gained hands on experience working as a chef at Applebee's in Ajax and ChatterPaul's Restaurant in Whitby. By his last year, Chafe began to start his college education, taking part-time classes at Durham College through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. This allowed him to start his career early, while learning the appropriate skills in Culinary Management.

"I am so grateful for every opportunity I've had," says Chafe. "It has taught me that I never want to stop learning and I want to continue to push myself until I get to where I want to be."

Durham College is a place that has allowed Chafe to learn and grow in education and challenge himself in all aspects of his life. Chafe earned five years of experience over the course of three years with a diploma in Culinary Management and Hospitality Management.

"Durham is a great place to learn because its different than other schools," says Chafe. "It teaches both traditional and modern cuisine. The best part of it all is that it allows us to grow food in the college's very own garden."

The Culinary Management program has supplied Chafe with two placement opportunities working at an Italian restaurant and a pizzeria. Chafe has also had the chance to assist with several events such as helping to cater food for the Royal Ontario Museum. More importantly, it has prepared him for his goal to open a café shop in the future.

Chafe says, "If there's one thing I can say to future students it is don't be afraid to reach out and ask questions. Get involved as much as you can, because you never know where it may take you." 

# alumni UPDATES

1974

**ALAIN VINET,**

*Mechanical Techniques,*

lives in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Quebec with his wife Cecile and is currently the president of Vinet Micro-Technologies Inc.

1990

**TONY FONTANA,**

*Business Administration – Industrial Management,*

is currently living in Whitby with his wife Sonia and is working as a trainer/telecommunications technician with Bell Technical Solutions.

1985

**RUTH MORRISON (nee HOWARD),**

*Word Processing Secretarial,*

lives in Peterborough with her husband Douglas and their two children Amanda and Joshua and is the ILA at Kawartha Participation Projects.

2005

**CAMERON ACKERBLADE,**

*Accounting,*

lives in Courtice and is currently working as a business development manager with Grand and Toy.

1988

**ROBERT TRAILL,**

*Business Data Processing,*

lives in Cambridge and is currently working for ADP as a design engineer.

2007

**KEVIN MILNER,**

*Business – Accounting,*

lives in Whitby and is currently working for Rogers Communications Inc.

1989

**DARRELL SEWELL,**

*Business Administration – Human Resources,*

lives in Barrie with his wife Angela. They have three daughters, Micayla, Savannah and Shania. He is currently working at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre as vice president and CHRO.

2009

**MELISSA PIGOZZO (nee DELL),**

*Business Administration – Accounting,*

lives in Pickering with her husband Andrew and is currently working as a professor at Durham College.

Contact Lisa McInerney in the Alumni Office  
[lisa.mcinerney@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:lisa.mcinerney@durhamcollege.ca)  
to share your news.

# FAST START

## Helping young entrepreneurs innovate

Story and photo by MARIUM MAQSOOD

As a creative individual it can be difficult to get the right guidance and inspiration in order to turn that creativity into something tangible. Many would-be business people do not get the opportunity or resources to carry out their plans or creations. Luckily, students at Durham College have the chance to join Fast Start, a program geared to help them turn their creativity into a business.

For students who are interested in business, more specifically in becoming entrepreneurs, Fast Start is the perfect program. It is offered across four schools in Ontario: Durham College, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Trent University and Fleming College. All these post-secondary institutions offer their time and resources to educate and inspire young minds to be good business people.

Although Fast Start offers many programs to help innovative students, their main program is the Accelerator Program. This is for students who already have some business ideas developed.

"For students who want to continue the process of developing business ideas and their business, we provide resources,

education, access to subject matter, coaching and mentoring," says Jay Fisher, the faculty lead for Fast Start.

Fast Start is not limited to students with business ideas. It can also help students who are interested in learning about business in general, by hosting seminars and offering encouragement. To inform students about entrepreneurship, Fast Start is working with faculty members to incorporate that aspect into some classes offered at the college.

**“For students who want to continue the process of developing business ideas and their business, we provide resources, education, access to subject matter, coaching and mentoring.”**

Any student is welcome to get involved with Fast Start regardless of what program or campus they attend. Located in room B233 on the North Oshawa campus, students can stop by anytime to pick up brochures or talk to a faculty member to see if their needs can be met. ☎



Staff members Jay Fisher (second from left) and Lindsay Jerimiah with Fast Start participants Rachel Enright and Elanour Lou in the Vibe located on the second floor.

### FAST FACTS ABOUT FAST START

Gives students the opportunity to be part of programs such as boot camps and student incubators

Students can participate in competitions to win cash prizes

Students can attend seminars and workshops and learn from local entrepreneurs

Students can also be supported by Fast Start student advisors.

Fast Start will have a bigger facility in the new Simcoe Building!

# Vegan hot chocolate? OHH!

Story by **MARIUM MAQSOOD**

Photo by **BRITANNY CHARLTON**

In today's world, people have become more and more conscientious about what is going into their bodies. These may be personal choices for some, but many people do have dietary restrictions.

As a person who absolutely loves hot chocolate, Brittany Charlton was let down by the unhealthy content in mainstream hot chocolate. Being lactose intolerant, Charlton had to take the alternative routes to a hot and chocolaty beverage, such as chocolate syrup in lactose free milk.

Talking about her dietary restrictions, Charlton says, "I just wanted some good tasting food. Growing up I wasn't able to have hot chocolate."

After a trip to David's Tea and seeing the different varieties of flavored tea, Charlton was inspired to start a company that sold healthy hot chocolate. Ohh Products was launched last year and currently sells two flavours of hot chocolate – an original blend and an apple-spiced cocoa blend. Although she faced many obstacles being a full-time student in the paralegal program, more

obstacles arose when an abundance of orders came in for her hot chocolate.

One of the things that really helped Charlton was the Fast Start program, an entrepreneurial program offered at Durham College. They helped her with Ohh Products pricing, social media, packaging, logo design and most importantly, keeping her on track.

"Fast Start helped me with a lot of things but they also helped me with being focused and to keep going. Even those days when I didn't think it would work, they motivated me to keep going basically," says Charlton. She advises all future entrepreneurs to pursue what they are passionate about and to always plan everything out.



*Brittany Charlton, the young entrepreneur responsible for creating OHH products.*



*OHH! Products delicious cocoa in apple spiced. One of the two flavours offered.*

**“Fast Start helped me with a lot of things but they also helped me with being focused and to keep going.”**

In the future she hopes to expand her selections for Ohh Products. Her goal is to make sure people do not consume an unhealthy amount of sugar and processed food. She hopes Ohh products can provide people with dietary restrictions affordable and delicious options so they too can enjoy a safe beverage. 🌱



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