

2013

Premier's
AWARDS

n o m i n e e s

"I'm proud to have represented Humber because my education is one of the biggest reasons I've been able to accomplish all that I have."



Humber
graduates

SHINE

While you may not know Lee Renshaw

(Industrial Design, 2009) by name, you may have seen him on TV. The inventor of Rise and Hang Travel Gear and president of Round Circle Group Ltd., Renshaw appeared on the CBC television show *Dragons' Den* in 2012 where he was offered two deals. From there, his hanging luggage system has appeared on *The Shopping Channel* and the *Today Show*, which led to his invention being named one of the top Christmas gift ideas for 2012. Renshaw's Rise and Hang, which features a duffel bag with collapsible hanging shelves, will be included in the gifts available to the stars at the 2014 Academy Awards. He also licensed his technology to global firm California Innovations, a move that generated sales of \$3 million in 2013, in addition to his own sales of more than \$500,000.

Renshaw capped 2013 by winning a Premier's Award in the Recent Graduate Category.

The Premier's Awards recognize the social and economic contributions of Ontario's college graduates to the success of the province and beyond. Renshaw was one of 119 nominees from Ontario's 24 colleges and one of six nominees from Humber.

"It's quite an honour," says Renshaw. "I'm proud to have represented Humber because my education is one of the biggest reasons I've been able to accomplish all that I have."

His journey: "I was a student in Industrial Design at Humber and I lived in Kitchener. I travelled back and forth, spending nights at friends' houses and pretty much living out of a bag for four years," he says. "My clothes were always wrinkled and smelly. I needed a better duffel bag." He bought a sewing machine, taught himself to sew and made a prototype that featured a built-in shelving system and hamper to separate laundry from clean clothes. "I used what I was learning in class and presented the bag in my fourth year at the Industrial Design thesis show." The bag caught the attention of the owner of organizational hockey bag manufacturer Grit Inc., who hired Renshaw. The designer and budding entrepreneur spent his spare time over the next three years refining Rise and Hang Travel Gear, landing Air Miles as a client in 2011.

Of note: Renshaw is expanding his product line. The travel gear will be in retail outlets in Canada, the US, Europe, Asia and Australia by the end of 2014.

In his own words: "Humber helped jump-start my career. The design competitions I participated in gave me practical skills such as learning the art of public speaking—a skill I use today to pitch ideas and market my products."

Renshaw is not alone in his success. Follow the rest of our Humber's 2013 Premier's Award nominees:



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Jabari Lindsay

Manager, Youth Development

City of Toronto

Social Service Worker, 2001

Profile: From front-line worker to program developer to educator, Lindsay has had an influential career helping at-risk youth. He is currently working on a youth equity strategy.

His journey: In 2009, Lindsay joined the City of Toronto where he designed, developed and implemented a \$5 million gang prevention and intervention project. The program has helped support more than 300 at-risk youth, many of whom credit Lindsay and his programs with saving their lives.

Of note: Lindsay received the Civic Action DiverseCity Fellow award for 2013 and the Humber School of Social & Community Services Alumni of Distinction Award in 2008.

In his own words: "Humber was the turning point of my life as I realized my calling in the social service sector. The professors established a professional and supportive atmosphere that encouraged me to become a social worker and help create change in others' lives."

TECHNOLOGY Don Evans

*Former Chief Operating Officer
Cofely Adelt GDF SUEZ
Solar Engineering Technology, 1984*

Profile: Evans is an established and respected leader in the plumbing, heating and air conditioning industry, working on industrial, commercial, institutional and biotech facilities. He also volunteers with the Niagara Neighbourhood Association in Toronto where his initiative and innovative thinking improved the design of a neighbourhood building.

His journey: Evans built his career at Adelt Mechanical Works, the third-largest mechanical contractor in Toronto. Soon after joining the company he became a partner.

Of note: In 2005, Evans purchased half of Adelt Mechanical Works and, in only five years, increased the revenues from \$12 million to \$70 million. In 2012, he sold the company to Cofely GDF SUEZ, the largest mechanical contractor in the world.

In his own words: "My role in Humber's student association helped me cultivate my leadership skills and better understand how to work as a team. Developing strong friendships and learning how to socialize proved to be invaluable for my career."



BUSINESS Lisa Zbitnew

*Chief Executive Officer
Bandwidth Music and Marketing
Marketing, 1982*

Profile: Zbitnew is one of Canada's most successful female music executives. She was recognized for her excellence in sales, marketing and promotion by the Canadian music industry in 1989/90 and was named Music Industry Executive of the Year in 1994 and 1999. In 1996, her team was recognized as Marketing Team of the Year by the Canadian music industry.

Her journey: Prior to owning her own company, Zbitnew was president of BMG and became the highest-ranking woman in the Canadian entertainment industry. She was responsible for the merger of BMG and Sony and became president of Sony BMG. In the process, she created a \$225 million division of the second-largest record company in the world.

Of note: Zbitnew is also a committed philanthropist. As the CEO of War Child North America, she oversaw the Canadian charity's expansion into the US market and built a recording studio in Sierra Leone to help youth gain literacy skills and increase opportunities for employment.

In her own words: "Humber's two-year marketing diploma had the perfect balance between theory and practice and gave me the fundamentals to succeed in this industry."

HEALTH SCIENCES

Lisa James

President

Environmental Advisory Group Inc.

Pharmacy Assistant, 1977

Profile: James is a trailblazer who has made a major impact on environmental sustainability by working with pharmaceutical companies, pharmacies and hospitals to find efficiencies in packaging design and waste.

Her journey: A pioneer in her field, James is at the forefront of the national and provincial movements for the safe disposal of medicines. She is also a leading expert in helping pharmaceutical companies reduce their environmental footprint and achieve compliance targets.

Of note: James is the founder and a lifetime honorary member of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians.

In her own words: “As a pharmacy technician student at Humber, work placements were incredibly important to me. At these placements, I could put theory into practice and develop the job-ready skills I needed to start my career immediately after graduation.”



CREATIVE ARTS and DESIGN

Jason Parsons

Executive Chef and General Manager

Peller Estates Winery Restaurant

Cook Apprentice, 1992

Profile: Parsons has built an illustrious 20-year career in the culinary world, most recently as executive chef and general manager of Peller Estates Winery Restaurant, a premier dining venue located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Parsons often appears on the Toronto TV show *Cityline*, where he demonstrates how to cook nutritious meals using local ingredients.

His journey: Parsons has worked with leading international chefs and at some of the top restaurants in the world, including two Michelin Star restaurants, six Relais & Chateaux properties and numerous Leading Hotels of the World destinations. He is one of the few chefs invited to cook at James Beard House in New York.

Of note: Since Parsons' arrival, Peller Estates Winery Restaurant has won numerous awards including a CAA Four-Diamond rating, three stars in Toronto Life magazine, the Golden Plate Award from Le Ciefs d'Or, and the highest-available Zagat rating, which is based on international customers' rankings.

In his own words: “Humber's flexible program allowed me to practise my skills at Langdon Hall while attending classes. I learned the importance of discipline and a strong work ethic, which allowed me to gain increasingly responsible positions throughout my career.”