

Humber dialogue

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS | WINTER 2015

INSIDE

**PREMIER'S
AWARD WINNERS**

fresh in the city

GRADS CULTIVATE URBAN FARMS



HUMBER

WE ARE

SUCCESSFUL



PETER VAN STRALEN

We are thrilled that Colleges Ontario has recognized two Humber graduates with 2014 Premier's Awards.

Peter van Stralen

(Landscape Technician, 1990)
won in the Business category.

Candice Ekonomakos

(Culinary Management, 2012)
won in the Recent Graduate category.

This year, 114 exceptional graduates from Ontario's 24 public colleges were nominated for awards, in recognition of their personal and professional achievements. Out of six possible awards, Humber grads took home two honours. We are proud!

For more information about Humber's winners and nominees, turn to page 10.



CANDICE EKONOMAKOS



WE ARE THINKING OF YOU

ALUMNI BENEFITS AND PERKS

From cultural attractions, sports events and shopping to travel, insurance and campus deals, we are offering you special rates and discounts. See what our alumni partners have in store for you today!

ENTERTAINMENT



RETAIL



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TERM LIFE, HEALTH, & DENTAL INSURANCE



TRAVEL



ON-CAMPUS

- \$100 off a membership to our athletics facilities
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- Humber library card
- Up to 20 per cent off apparel, gifts, and diploma frames at the North Campus and Lakeshore Campus bookstores

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on the cover

Gustavo Macias and Jake Harding of Skyline Farms
Illustration by Alanna Cavanagh/i2i Art
Photography by Geoff George and Richard Leonard



president's message

“Learning happens everywhere”

LEARNING IS CHANGING. At one time, we thought that teaching and learning only happened in the classroom, with a “sage on the stage” at the front of the room, lecturing to a passive audience of students. That was the traditional model of education, and had been the norm in secondary and postsecondary institutions for many years.

But learning is changing – and we have changed along with it. I think Eileen DeCourcy, our associate vice-president of Teaching and Learning, described the current college climate best as an environment where students are “curators of their own knowledge.”

Learning is changing because we acknowledge that both teachers and students have something to contribute to the education process.

At Humber, learning happens everywhere. It happens in the hallways, in the cafeteria, in the libraries, in the labs, on the job and yes, in the classroom. Learning happens between a teacher and student, between colleagues, in small groups working on projects together and alone with a book, sketchpad or computer mouse. Developments in technology mean that learning is, essentially, limitless.

We do our best to make sure that everyone in the Humber community has what they need to learn well, and you’ll see that from many of the articles in this issue of *Humber dialogue*.

You’ll read about learning that happens in gardens, on rooftops and at restaurants, and through finding new ways to tell stories with digital technology. Our outstanding Premier’s Award winners and nominees demonstrate that an successful career can be the result of lifelong learning that continues far beyond the classroom.

Learning is also about space – physical space – and you’ll read about lots of changes going on at our campuses that reflect that.

We’ve started new construction at our Lakeshore Campus, building a welcome centre and new athletics facility to help improve the student experience. We’ve started redesigning classrooms, making sure that the learning space is flexible, pleasant to work in and encourages both independent and collaborative learning using a variety of media. We’ve also submitted a proposal to expand the University of Guelph-Humber, in an effort to make learning more accessible and flexible to a wider range of students.

As alumni, you know that life is about learning – and learning never stops. It simply changes.

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Humber dialogue*.

Chris Whitaker
President, Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning

Humber
dialogue

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Humber's vision
Leadership in polytechnic education

mission
Humber develops broadly educated, highly skilled and adaptable citizens to be successful in careers that significantly contribute to the communities they serve locally, nationally and globally.

- values**
- student-centred
 - excellence
 - innovation
 - respect
 - inclusion
 - sustainability

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PROGRAMS > FACULTY > SUCCESSES > AND MORE

noteworthy



A RENDERING OF THE FUTURE LAKESHORE WELCOME CENTRE INSET: ABORIGINAL ELDER SHELLEY CHARLES MARKS THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION

Welcome to Lakeshore

LAKESHORE CAMPUS PLANS NEW WELCOME CENTRE AND ATHLETIC CENTRE

Change is coming to the Lakeshore Campus, as construction and planning begin on two new buildings located on Lake Shore Boulevard W.

A four-storey, 45,000 square-foot welcome centre will house a variety of student services, an Aboriginal resource centre and an interpretive centre chronicling the history of the grounds and the community. The welcome centre, which will be built to LEED Silver standards, will also incorporate underground parking.

An important part of the project will be including a landscaped space at the corner of Kipling and Lake Shore Boulevard W., as well as revitalizing the historic apple orchards south of the walkway that connects the east and west sides of the campus.

As well, the college is planning a new athletic centre, which will be located further west on the north side of Lake Shore Boulevard W., and will feature fully equipped weight and cardio rooms, as well as group exercise studios. Residents of the area will be welcome to use the facility through a community membership plan.

The athletic centre will open in the fall of 2015, while the welcome centre will be completed by January 2016.

“Humber is an integral member of the Lakeshore community and a great neighbourhood partner. The college’s presence brings a great sense of vitality to the area, while new additions to the campus will build on the wealth of amenities available to Humber students and their neighbours.”

MARK GRIMES, CITY COUNCILLOR

Faculty achievements

Congratulations! Bachelor of Nursing professor **Robyn Plunkett** has received her PhD from Western University, while **Muhammad Sid-Ahmad** and **Prasad Bidaye**, both professors in the department of English in the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, have received their PhDs from the University of Toronto.

Interior Design degree professor **Marcin Kedzior** was an exhibitor during October’s Nuit Blanche in Toronto, an annual all-night art festival held in cities around the world. Using a combination of film, video, sound and puppetry, *The Signing* was performed at Nathan Phillips Square, transforming the space into a “street spectacle shadow opera.” Exploring the myth of Orpheus and Euridice, *The Signing* was a collaboration between Marcin, experimental musician Tony Conrad, vocalist Jennifer Walshe and other participants.

Tatiana Jennings, a professor in the Theatre Performance program, premiered *Richard III: The Pleasures of Violence*, the latest work by her theatre company, Kadozuke Kollektif. The play, a contemporary re-imagining of Shakespeare’s *Richard III*, was developed by the entire company through creative collaboration and improvisation. According to Jennings, Kadozuke – which is made up entirely of Humber theatre graduates – had never tackled classical theatre before, but enjoyed the challenge.

Humber welcomes new senior vice-president, academic



Humber's new senior vice-president Academic, **Laurie Rancourt**, officially started at Humber on November 1. Formerly the president and CEO of Northern Lights College in British Columbia, Rancourt has worked at several different colleges and is bilingual in both official languages.

Now that you're here, what are you most looking forward to?

I'm really looking forward to connecting with as many people as possible, and becoming part of the team. The collegiality and the way I've seen people work together has been quite amazing.

Do you have a sense of what your first steps will be? I'm going to focus on academic planning – there's already a solid foundation of plans and strategies in each school and division, so the first thing to do will be to work with everyone to highlight the things that are already there and already work.

What are some of your favourite things? Family is very important to me, so I would say that my favourite things are my husband, my children and my new five-month-old grandson.

The Alumni office welcomed more than 5,000 future Humber grads to Orientation – a great week that included campus tours, workshops, bouncy castles and epic concerts.



Expanding to serve



The University of Guelph-Humber (U of GH) is unique in Ontario – it's the only place where a student can get both a university degree and a college diploma in

four years, graduating with a blend of theory and hands-on experience.

And it's popular, too – the institution's enrolment has increased by an average of 17

U of GH's current facilities are quickly reaching maximum capacity.

So when the provincial government called for proposals

per cent annually over the past ten years, despite a three per cent overall provincial drop in university applications.

Of course popularity comes at a price, and

to increase access to affordable undergraduate degrees and promote differentiation among institutions, both Humber and the University of Guelph recognized a golden opportunity.

The two institutions have submitted a bid to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to expand Guelph-Humber to 10,000 students by 2025. The proposal includes plans for a new Guelph-Humber building, as well as accelerated

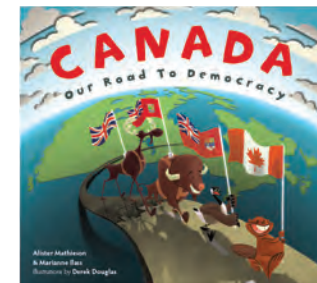
and online programs designed to allow students to access their education in more flexible ways.

"The University of Guelph-Humber aligns with our strategic plan by providing options and developing pathways for our students," says Humber's president, Chris Whitaker. "The bid is an opportunity for our institutions to continue to contribute to the success of current and future learners in a significant and meaningful way."

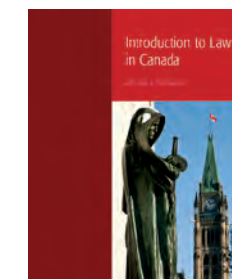
Hot off the presses

Humber staff and faculty are prolific writers. Here are a few new book releases from the Humber community.

> **Alister Mathieson**, vice-president of Advancement and External Affairs, has released two books, published by Humber Press — *Canada: Our Road to Democracy*, an alphabet book aimed at elementary-school students, and *Grandma and Grandpa's Toronto Adventure*, a picture book about Toronto that includes an appendix with translations of the text into seven different languages.



Mathieson, who was previously the dean of Humber's School of Hospitality, Recreation & Tourism, will be donating the net proceeds from the sale of the books, as well as his royalties, to the Blossom Fund, a Humber scholarship for students with disabilities and mental health challenges. To purchase either book, go to humberpress.com/publications.



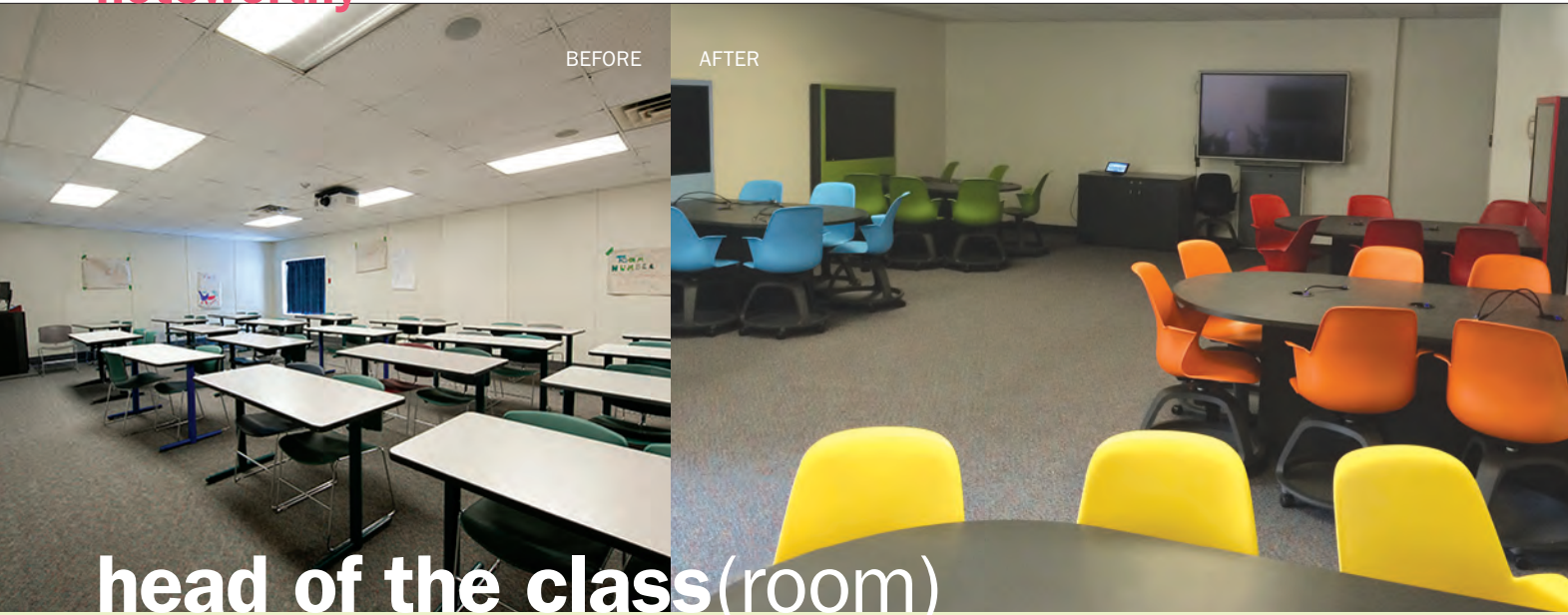
< Paralegal professor **Philip Sworden** and co-author John Fairlie have released *Introduction to Law in Canada*, an overview of the history, development and current practice of Canadian law. "This textbook fuses Canadian history and Canadian law in an engaging way, highlighting the evolution of our legal system," said associate dean James Cullin at the book's launch in September.

> One of the newest members of the Humber community, professor **David Brake**, has released *Sharing Our Lives Online: Risks and Exposure in Social Media*. The book, which is based on Brake's academic research as well as his experience as an online journalist and blogger, explores issues surrounding the sharing of personal information online and proposes solutions to the potential pitfalls of over-exposure.



< **Joe Kertes**, dean of the School of Creative & Performing Arts, recently released his latest novel, *The Afterlife of Stars*, which is a sequel to his award-winning 2008 book, *Gratitude*. Kertes has won several awards for his novels, including the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour and the Canadian National Jewish Book Award.





head of the class(room)

Room K148 at the North Campus had some problems. Staff and students complained about the lack of light, the inflexible set-up and – worst of all – the fact that there was only one outlet in the entire room.

What a difference a summer makes.

K148 is now the prototype for a new type of classroom, trading rows of traditional desks for small tables and colourful, movable chairs grouped into “pods” around the room. Each pod is clustered around a large display screen and a whiteboard, and a smartboard at the front of the room enables professors to give instructions, show videos or answer questions from the class.

Plus, there are more than 20 outlets –

most of them embedded in the tables.

According to Eileen DeCourcy, Humber’s associate vice-president of Teaching and Learning, the new design signals a fundamental shift in the way the college is approaching teaching and learning.

The redevelopment of K148 is just the start of a multi-year project looking at transforming Humber’s learning spaces. The initiative began with six town hall sessions and an online survey, which collected feedback from students and staff on how best to improve the classroom experience.

As one survey respondent wrote, “Positive things happen when the temperature is comfortable, the technology

operates well, the room has space to move around in and the furnishings have some flexibility in terms of placement.”

There are 229 classrooms that are slated for a similar redevelopment.

“One of the best things about these new classrooms is that they take the focus off of students being passive participants in their education,” says DeCourcy. “This set-up allows for deep learning – students get multiple perspectives by talking with each other and the teacher, and will have more opportunities than ever to take their learning and actively apply it.”

For more information on Humber’s classroom redesign project, go to humber.ca/classroomredesign.

WE ARE PROUD

Humber students and staff at the North and Lakeshore Campuses celebrated National Coming Out Day with a whole week of events, including two performances by comedian Sabrina Jalees.

“We’re really always just one conversation away from understanding. We’re all different, and we’re all the same,” said Jalees. “The things that make you different are actually empowering.”

> MEMBERS OF HUMBER’S GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE WITH SABRINA JALEES.



Entrepreneurial spirit

HumberLaunch (formerly known as the Innovation Humber Incubator) has been a significant force in helping the college’s students and recent alumni develop and launch businesses. From funding and mentorship to legal assistance and administrative support, the incubator provides a variety of tools to help fledgling businesses take flight.

HumberLaunch, which is located in a storefront close to the Lakeshore Campus, has now opened its doors to the surrounding community as well, offering membership to budding entrepreneurs who don’t have a Humber connection. Prospective members who have a unique or innovative business idea that supports economic growth in Ontario are invited to submit an application, then pitch their business idea to a review committee.

“Working with entrepreneurs within Humber or in the community helps build those relationships that are so important to start-up businesses. At HumberLaunch, supporting entrepreneurship and all of the activities that go with it helps to create the business leaders of tomorrow.”

“HumberLaunch is excited to be opening our doors to the members of our community,” says Cheryl Mitchell, the HumberLaunch program manager. “Working with entrepreneurs within Humber or in the community helps build those relationships that are integral to start-up businesses. At HumberLaunch, supporting entrepreneurship and all of the activities that go with it helps to create the business leaders of tomorrow.”

An extension of Humber’s department of Research and Innovation, HumberLaunch offers specific programs to young entrepreneurs from the college, including grants from the New Venture Seed Fund and the annual LaunchPad new business pitch competition.

“The funding I received from the pitch competition helped me greatly in getting my business started,” says Jesse Bruce, who used his prize to start a personal training business and now owns and operates a bootcamp gym in Toronto. “With the lectures and resources they’ve provided, I’ve learned so much – from writing a business plan to using social media. I wouldn’t have gotten this kind of experience anywhere else.”

For information on HumberLaunch and its programs, go to humber.ca/humberlaunch.

hawk’s nest

Humber College boasts one of the richest collegiate athletics histories in the country. The tradition of top-flight athletes extends well beyond the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association – over the past few decades, the Hawks have sent numerous athletes around the world to represent Canada at the International University Sports Federation (FISU) Games, which are composed of 35 events for student-athletes between the ages of 17 and 28.

Humber’s history of sending Canadian talent to FISU dates back to 2004. **Ray Chateau**, former head coach of the Hawks golf team and now director of Athletics, began heading up the Canadian FISU team and brought with him Humber’s first student-athlete participants, **Brad Kerfoot** and **Jim Zwolak**. The Hawks have continued to supply national talent to this date – in total, 14 Humber athletes have golfed at the games so far.

Humber’s badminton program has also sent several athletes to the world stage. For the second time in her career, star **Tracy Wong** (left) represented Canada this



summer, where she knocked off the world’s fourth-ranked pair and was part of a Canadian team that took down the United States. Men’s star **Andrew Lau** also appeared in the games two summers ago in Kazan, Russia.

Kelly Nyhof, among the greatest collegiate women’s volleyball players and a recent Humber grad, rounds out Humber’s most recent contributions. The unmatched Nyhof, a three-time All-Canadian and the first Hawk ever inducted into the Varsity Hall of Fame while still an active collegiate athlete, represented Canada in Kazan.

Every year we highlight a few exceptional grads at the Premier's Awards, which recognize the contributions of Ontario's college graduates. Meet Humber's winners and nominees for 2014.

WINNER – BUSINESS

Peter van Stralen

CEO, Sunshine Brands, parent company to The Grounds Guys and The Sprinkler Guys franchise systems
Landscape Technician, 1990

Building a business on family values

Starting out with just a lawn mower and a trailer, Peter van Stralen built a multimillion-dollar landscape franchise brand that now has 180 locations across Canada and the United States. But what makes this journey even more remarkable is that he built the business alongside his nine brothers, each one a graduate of Humber College.

His journey After graduating from Humber's Landscape Technician program 25 years ago, van Stralen launched a landscaping business with his older brother Tim. As each of his eight younger brothers graduated from Humber and joined the business, it continued to expand throughout the GTA and southern Ontario.

In 2005, van Stralen spearheaded a move to convert the business to a franchising system. Under his leadership, Sunshine Brands developed two franchise brands, The Grounds Guys, and The Sprinkler Guys. Today, the company has 46 franchise locations across Canada. A strategic partnership in 2008 in the US added an additional 140 franchises south of the border.

Sunshine Brands has earned the Canadian Franchise Association Award of Excellence Gold Medal twice and the Franchisees' Choice Award for the past four years.

Celebrating

SUCCESS

WINNER – RECENT GRADUATE

Candice Ekonomakos

Cook, The Ritz-Carlton, Toronto
National Junior Rep for the Canadian Culinary Federation (CCFCC) for the Central Region
Culinary Management, 2012

Cooking from the heart By night, she cooks at The Ritz-Carlton; by day, she helps prepare meals at homeless shelters across the city of Toronto. Devoted to helping the less fortunate, Candice Ekonomakos recently launched a new initiative, aimed at alleviating hunger and poverty across Toronto.

Her journey Ekonomakos grew up in a foodie family. Instead of stories, her mother read her recipes before bed. After a brief stint in business, Ekonomakos decided to pursue what she loved most – cooking – enrolling in the Culinary Management program at Humber College in 2010. While at Humber, the Canadian Culinary Federation, Canada's national association for chefs and cooks (CCFCC), made her its Junior National Representative for Ontario.

Upon graduation from Humber, Ekonomakos was accepted for a internship at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, and then was hired full-time. Inspired by her experience as a volunteer, she launched "Cooks with a Mission" in 2014, which provides low-income communities and the homeless with healthy meals. The meals are prepared by volunteer junior cooks using food and equipment donated by restaurant owners from across the city.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (EKONOMAKOS) GEOFF GEORGE; (VAN STRALEN) FEMKE.





CREATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Waawaate Fobister

Playwright, actor, dancer, choreographer, producer
Theatre Performance, 2005

Born Storyteller As a boy growing up in Grassy Narrows First Nation, Waawaate Fobister knew that his destiny, like his father and grandfather, was telling stories. In 2009, Fobister's play *Agokwe* won six Dora awards. In addition to his playwriting, he has become a celebrated actor, dancer, choreographer and producer.

His journey Waawaate Fobister's father and grandfather were storytellers in the Indigenous oral tradition. Although Fobister always understood that he was to carry on this tradition, his life changed when he saw *The Rez Sisters* by Aboriginal playwright Tomson Highway. A 15-year-old at the time, Fobister was inspired to become a playwright and actor.

Shortly after graduating from Humber's Theatre Performance program – with the program's Distinguished Performance award – Fobister wrote his first play, *Agokwe*, which premiered in Toronto in 2008. The one-man play, acted by Fobister, won six Dora awards, including outstanding new play and outstanding performance by a male in a principal role. *Agokwe* is a powerful story of love and loss based on the infatuation of two Aboriginal teenage boys. Partly autobiographical, the play speaks to the idea of a “two-spirited” person, a male and female spirit entwined in one body, once an accepted part of Indigenous culture but now lost through assimilation.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Kimberley Greenwood

Chief of Police, Barrie Police Service
Police Foundation Leadership, 2010

Serving the community Over 30 years in policing, Kimberley Greenwood moved up the ranks, serving her community with distinction and making important contributions to policing at every level. In 2013, she was named chief of the Barrie Police Service.

Her journey Greenwood was born into a police family: her father was a police officer who shared the love of his job with his children. After high school, Greenwood joined the Toronto Police Service as a cadet.

As a relatively young police officer, Greenwood became involved in developing policy and implementing a training program to support a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse investigations. This approach has become the standard practice in most police forces. She also helped implement the Leaders in Partnership program, working with the local school boards and the Jamaican Canadian Association to identify at-risk youth in the Jane and Finch community of Toronto and arranging for them to be mentored by police officers.

In 2013, she became the chief of the Barrie Police Service, leading a force of more than 240 police officers and 100 civilians. Greenwood attributes her success to hard work and passion.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (GREENWOOD) GEOFF GEORGE.



HEALTH SCIENCES

Mark Cameron

Advanced Care Paramedic, County of Hastings, Course Director of Advanced Life Support Program at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Paramedic, 1989

Saving lives at home and abroad As an advanced care paramedic, Mark Cameron has devoted his career to saving lives. After rescuing a young girl trapped in farm machinery, Cameron was awarded the Governor General's Medal of Bravery. As an educator, he has played a key role in the training of Ontario's advanced care paramedics. Recently, in war-torn Syria, he has put his own life at risk to save the lives of others.

His journey A 1989 graduate of Humber's Primary Care Paramedic program, Cameron has practised as a paramedic in the Peterborough area and trained most of Ontario's advanced care paramedics through Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. As an international flight paramedic, he has repatriated sick and injured Canadians from almost every corner of the world except Antarctica.

When the war began in Syria, Cameron and a colleague, Dr. Jay Dahman, travelled there to see how they could help to save the lives of those caught in the violence. Since then they have travelled often to Syria, training local paramedics and providing hands-on emergency care. In addition to this work, they pursue other humanitarian goals in Syria through the Canadian International Medical Relief Agency (CIMRO), which they founded.



secrets to success



> PATRICIA LOVETT-REID

Are men more confident investors than women?

At some point in their life, nine out of 10 women will be entirely responsible for their financial future. We know we can't abdicate responsibility because no one will care more about our money and our financial future than we do. Yet we often do and that can be harmful to the bottom line.

Sometimes it isn't entirely our fault.

A recent report from BMO InvestorLine shows almost 60 per cent of Canadians believe society supports men over women when it comes to investing. Yet statistics show women live longer. After a spouse passes away, about 70 per cent of women will move on to a new advisor who will listen and help them. Women tend to like advice and the study showed 30 per cent of women will seek it out compared to 15 per cent of men.

Also, women are more likely to seek education and guidance to learn the options available to them before committing to an investment decision. And while it may take longer to make that decision, when the decision is made it is typically well thought through and they tend to hold the investments longer, which helps to increase returns by reducing costs.

We need to work on the perception that women aren't confident investors because we are becoming increasingly more so. Sixty-eight per cent of the women surveyed said they in fact felt more confident compared to 83 per cent of men. Sure, there is still a gap, but it is closing and we are still in catch-up mode.

I can't help but wonder if there is more to

women taking a secondary role in investing. When my father passed away, I immediately stepped up and offered to handle my parents' portfolio. My mom looked me straight in the eye and said, "Because your father managed our portfolio doesn't mean I'm not capable, I simply didn't have the time." To this day she is managing her portfolio quite nicely. To be honest, in our household my husband manages our portfolio as well. But as mom said to me, "I always listened to what he was saying, I took an active interest and I always knew where we stood financially." I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Men and women think differently and invest differently and that's OK. It is the partnership that can yield great results. Women can be more reserved, focus on the big picture and plan for the future while men tend to focus on building and accumulating wealth. Maybe this is the definition of a happy, healthy financial marriage. But this isn't about whether you are actually married or not - this is about whether your financial advisor steps up to the plate to give that balanced perspective and help you develop your investment strategy.

"We need to work on the perception that women aren't confident investors because we are becoming increasingly more so. There is a gap, but it is closing."

Patricia Lovett-Reid, chief financial commentator for CTV News, is one of Canada's leading and most respected authorities on personal finance. A certified financial planner, she is a speaker, author and television commentator. Lovett-Reid received an honorary degree from Humber in 2010.



SKYLINE FARMS: CONNECTING CITIES TO LOCAL FOOD

Two Humber grads are creating urban farms that foster a closer relationship between people and their food

IMAGINE A ROOFTOP IN TORONTO. Against a background of brick chimneys and metal fire escapes stands a series of tall, white, perforated columns. A bounty of vegetables spill out – blue-green stalks of kale, elegantly curved zucchini, nearly-ripe tomatoes.

This is the vision of Jake Harding and Gustavo Macias. They want to transform Toronto's underused spaces – rooftops, back patios, parking lots – into vegetable-producing urban farms. "We want people to eat healthier, but we don't just want to grow produce," says Macias. "We want to involve the community and we want to be sustainable."

Harding and Macias, who describe themselves as "foodie tree huggers," are part of a growing group of social entrepreneurs who want to make a difference while running a profitable business. They met as students in Humber's Sustainable Energy and Building (SEBT) program.

Their company, Skyline Farms, began with a focus on aeroponic, vertical tower gardens to grow produce. The towers require 90 per cent less water than conventional farming and grow herbs and vegetables up to 60 per cent faster. They take up much less space than traditional farms or gardens, eliminate the need for fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, and reduce transportation emissions and costs. Also important to Harding and Macias, local tower gardens allow people to reconnect with their food by growing it on their rooftops, patios or in a community garden.

Skyline Farms has recently expanded its services to include the creation of traditional soil-based farms. As Harding explains, "It all depends on what fits the space and what the client is looking for – whether aeroponic or soil, high tech, low tech or no tech at all."

The goal of the company is to achieve a triple bottom line: people, planet, profit. To that end, Skyline Farms partnered with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Education Workers Local 4400 in early 2013 to deliver the board's "My Food, My Way" initiative, designed to help students understand where their food comes from and to make healthier food choices. Skyline Farms was matched with Thistletown Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke, a TDSB school that has a culinary program. Last June, Harding and Macias created a tower garden in an internal courtyard on school grounds.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD LEONARD. ILLUSTRATION: ALANNA CAVANAGH/I2ART



JAKE HARDING



FROM LEFT: GUSTAVO AND JAKE; TOWER GARDENS AT THISTLETOWN COLLEGIATE



The fact that it's cutting-edge farming is also an opportunity for students to understand why having the ability to farm on rooftops or unused space might be a good thing for cities. It's amazing what can grow in a tower garden. It was fast and plentiful."

Randy Palermo, principal of Thistle Town Collegiate



BIG CROW RESTAURANT ROOFTOP GARDEN



DRAKE HOTEL PATIO GARDEN

The idea was to run a pilot project at the school to supply its culinary arts program and cafeteria. Ten towers were erected, which produced leafy greens, heirloom tomatoes, herbs, lemon cucumbers and other unique crops. "The fact that it's cutting-edge farming is also an opportunity for students to understand why having the ability to farm on rooftops or unused space might be a good thing for cities," says Randy Palermo, principal of Thistle Town Collegiate. "It's amazing what can grow in a tower garden. It was fast and plentiful."

Recently Harding and Macias designed gardens for two Toronto restaurants – the Drake Hotel and the Big Crow. Both projects required a little ingenuity to satisfy the client's wants while working within the unique constraints of their spaces. "We made the garden for the Drake out of salvaged materials," says Harding. "We created a space that the staff could hang out in but would also be used to grow food for use in the restaurant." Harding and Macias constructed the entire garden and a rainwater storage system out of salvaged pallets, which they turned into vertical planters, as well as a salvaged bathtub they found online.

Building on the success of these two projects, Harding and Macias will continue to market their services to restaurants. The two also want to explore further institutional revenue streams such as seniors' residences and hospitals.

Harding, who was an organic butcher in his teens, first hit on the idea for Skyline Farms in his second year in the SEBT program, when, as part of a required business course, he submitted a business plan. "Jake's plan focused on building a business based on vertical farming on under-utilized city rooftops," says Macias. "I liked the idea and in third year, when Jake decided to apply for a grant to get the business going, I asked if I could partner with him." Macias admits his original career plan was to enter the growing renewable energies workforce. "I had no idea I would become an entrepreneur. But the SEBT program really opened a door neither one of us had anticipated."

That door opened further still with some help from two Humber

programs designed to help budding entrepreneurs.

In 2011, Harding and Macias entered Humber's inaugural New Venture Seed Fund business plan competition and won \$8,000 in funding. They followed this by entering the HumberLaunch incubator Friendly Fire Pitch competition (since renamed *LaunchPad*), earning another \$5,000 to kick-start Skyline Farms. They used the money to purchase 11 towers.

More than the money, winning the competitions was a much-needed vote of confidence. "Just the fact that we knew people believed in us was huge," says Macias. The mentoring, support and advice they've continued to access from HumberLaunch has enabled them to grow their business sustainably.

And that's the point of the incubator. "These are early-stage entrepreneurs and there is a big need for learning, coaching, mentoring and cheering — all those things that someone who is brand new to entrepreneurship needs," says Patricia Morgan, Humber's dean of Research.

That support, which included key mentorship from professor Tony Gifford and venture capitalist and Humber entrepreneur-in-residence Bo Pelech, helped place Skyline Farms on its current path. The company has already evolved from its initial concept of putting hydroponic towers on flat roofs to building "multidisciplinary" farms (farms that employ a variety of growing technologies) in commercial spaces.

For his part, Thistle Town Collegiate's Palermo is thrilled with the pilot and looks forward to evolving the relationship with Skyline Farms. In addition to culinary arts students, science students have also been introduced to the technologies, as well as students who had an interest in farming and were already involved in maintaining the school's conventional garden. That next phase is already taking shape with the development of an on-site greenhouse in which to grow fresh greens and produce year-round.

As proof of the project's success, Harding points to the enthusiastic response of the Thistle Town students who volunteered with the garden. "They loved it," says Harding. "All three of the volunteers can basically run the farm on their own now, and they're eager to continue working there. They've become our friends."

In keeping with the triple bottom line focus, Harding and Macias are laying the groundwork for an even bigger initiative. They are talking to engineers, urban planners, designers and sustainability advocates about building a rooftop greenhouse that will hold 50 to 150 towers and serve as a community hub - a place for testing, research and growing. "It will be our central place of operations and provide the community with fresh greens," says Macias. "We want to bring people up there, offer tours, salad parties, teach kids how to grow vegetables with these new technologies. It's all coming together."

Whereas some foodies advocate eating only food grown within a 100-mile radius, Harding and Macias ambitiously tout what they describe as the "10-block diet." Is a 10-block diet possible? "Not right now, but in the future," says Harding. "That's what we're striving for." It's all part of Skyline Farm's vision of local and sustainable agriculture.

To find out more about Skyline Farms, go to skylinefarms.ca.

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The second annual Humber College Golf Classic was held in June 2014 and **raised more than \$88,000** for new student awards and scholarships.

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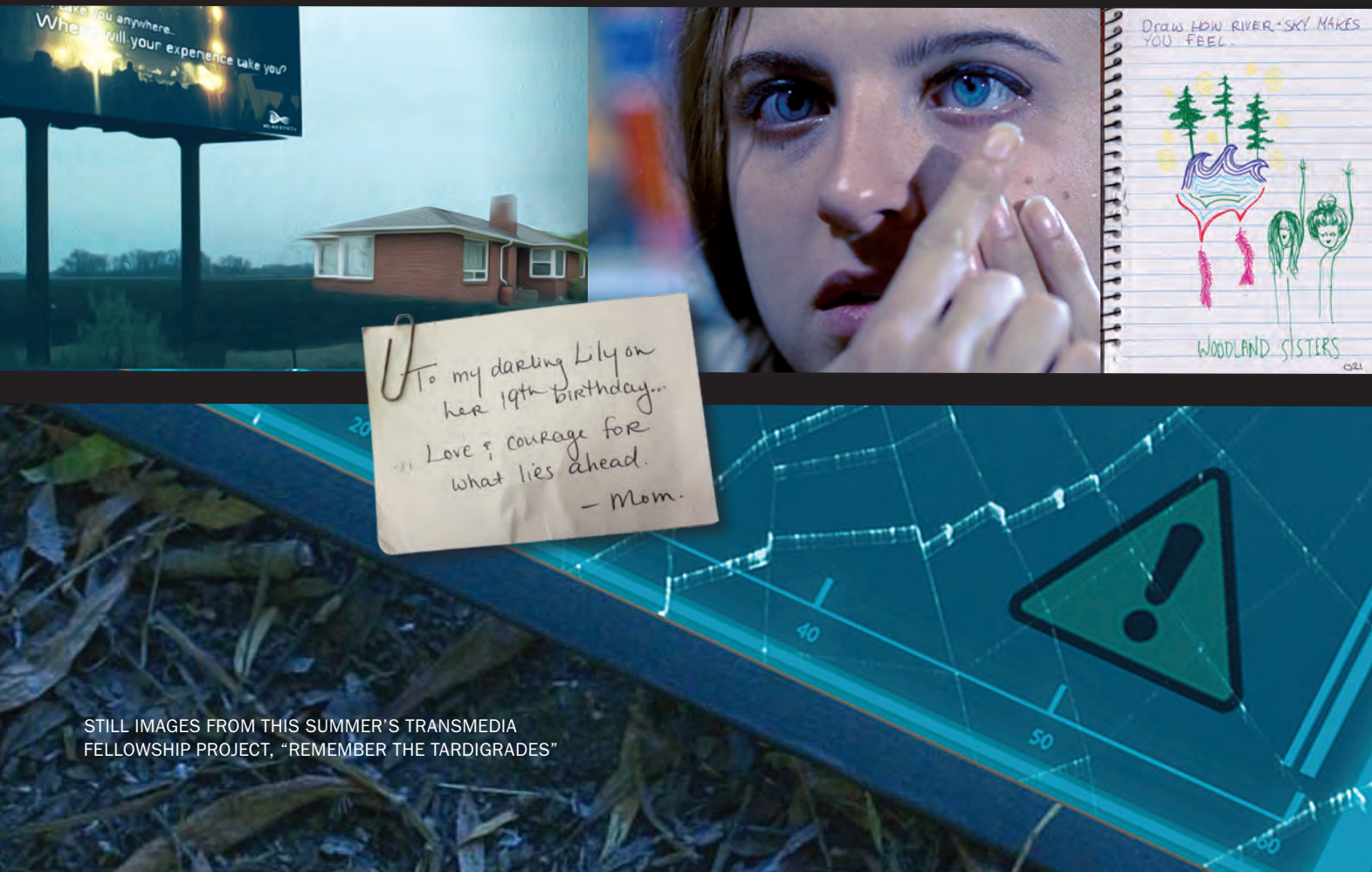


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the tales we tell

AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AT HUMBER EXPLORES THE ART OF STORYTELLING IN THE DIGITAL AGE



STILL IMAGES FROM THIS SUMMER'S TRANSMEDIA FELLOWSHIP PROJECT, "REMEMBER THE TARDIGRADES"

On the bus to work, our mobile devices buzz, chime and whistle at us from our pockets or laps, demanding attention, alerting us to the latest email, tweet, weather forecast or sports score. Buffeted by this endless stream of information, we are more informed, but perhaps less in tune with our immediate surroundings.

"Everyone is doing their own thing, in their own silo," explains Susan Murray, professor of film in the School of Media Studies & Information Technology (SMSIT) at Humber. "How do you melt those silos and bring people together?"

That's the question Humber's new Transmedia Fellowship looks to answer by exploring the art of storytelling in the digital age. Transmedia narrative is a new method of telling a story across different platforms and media. It seeks to harness the power of new digital technologies in order to engage and unite an audience.

The Transmedia Fellowship is a collaborative effort between SMSIT and the School of Creative & Performing Arts. "The fellowship is a way of bringing students from across programs and schools to work on a challenging project," explains Basil Guinane, one of SMSIT's associate deans. "It gives them the opportunity to really experiment with a new form of storytelling."

Six students were chosen for the first year of the program, each specializing in a different area: theatre, journalism, film and media, graphic design, animation, and broadcast television. "None of us knew what a transmedia project was when we started," says Ana Cronkite, a film student at Humber and a Transmedia Fellow. "There were faculty members to advise us, but we were working independently most of the time. As a result, we learned a lot by trial and error."

In the early weeks of the program, each student pitched a transmedia story to the other fellows. After discussing the merits of each project, the students chose to examine the culture of music festivals. "They were particularly interested in how there is a certain energy and collective spirit at music festivals," says Murray, who was a faculty advisor for the fellowship. "It's completely different from just popping your earbuds in and listening to something on your phone."

Having chosen their subject matter, the task became transforming their observations on music festivals into an engaging story. "Technically, they

were quite proficient when they came into the program," explains Guinane. "But we had to push them to ramp up their creativity and think about how they can engage an audience in different ways. What they came up with was straight out of left field."

"I thought we needed a hook to draw people in," recalls Cronkite, "so I pitched the idea of a sci-fi plot." The premise? In the near future, an evil corporation engineers a contact lens that allows individuals to experience events virtually, such as concerts, as though they were actually there. As a result, music festivals have been banned and cease to exist.

The story's protagonist is a young girl whose parents were members of a musical band, The Tardigrades, who rebelled against the corporation and fought to save music festivals. At the story's outset, she is unaware of her parents' turbulent past but gradually uncovers the details. The story is told by means of video clips, news articles, journal entries, photographs, documentary interviews, matte paintings and even websites.

Users interact with the story and progress through it by accomplishing various tasks. "Users aren't just passive spectators but also participants," says Murray. "They navigate through a totally interactive world." According to Murray, this is one of the ways that new technologies are changing the way we tell stories, giving agency to the reader, and creating open-ended and nonlinear narratives.

The skill and expertise that students acquire through the fellowship enable them to work across platforms and media, an advantage in today's workplace. "You can't specialize anymore," says Murray. "Production companies need people who can do a whole variety of things." Adds Guinane, "The students now understand transmedia storytelling, and they also have a project that they can show to prospective employers that really demonstrates their abilities."

They also have a better grasp of the ancient art of storytelling. Guinane says that although the technology we use to tell stories is changing, the basic tenets of storytelling remain the same. "Whether it is a movie, a book, a transmedia project, or just some people sitting around a fire, the story is what moves people."

AN ON-AIR ANNIVERSARY

Radio broadcasting grad Austin Delaney celebrates 25 years with CTV

CTV reporter Austin Delaney started out wanting to spin records all day, but to say his broadcasting career didn't get off to the best start would be...well, an understatement.

"I was in high school, and had decided I wanted to be a disc jockey – so I had a chat with a bunch of different radio stations, and Q107 let me on-air for an hour," explains Delaney, who was born in England and grew up in Thornhill. "All my high school friends were expecting me to be funny – and I was so scared and nervous that I was just a disaster. It was really embarrassing."

Fortunately, things got better. A lot better.

Delaney enrolled in Humber's Radio Broadcasting program in 1981, and discovered a passion for news while completing an internship at 680 CFTR, which was then a top-40 station. He says that Humber's program was one of the keys to his initial success.

"Humber prepared me to go out in the field and know what to expect – so when someone said to me, as an intern, 'Austin, can you write this?' I could say, 'Yes, I can.'

Most of all, it taught me to work hard and do what needed to be done."

After time spent in the newsrooms at CFTR, CKEY and CFNY (long before it was known as The Edge), Delaney made the switch to TV in 1989 – putting the skills he learned writing for radio to good use.

"At CFTR, they wanted your stories to be exactly 68 seconds – so I learned to write fast and tight," says Delaney, who has won two Edward R. Murrow awards for best spot news. "That turned out to be a valuable skill for television as well. It was a bit of a change going from having long hair and wearing cowboy boots to having three nice suits in my closet, but I made it."

2014 marked Delaney's twenty-fifth year as an on-air reporter at CTV, covering everything from Queen's Park to the criminal courts. He never knows what he's going to be doing from one day to the next – and he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I love being able to do something different every day," he says from the CTV news studio in Scarborough. "I come in, they tell me where to go, and I go. No day is the same as the last."



"Humber prepared me to go out in the field and know what to expect... Most of all, it taught me to work hard and do what needed to be done."

Humber announces new partnership with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex



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For more information or to request a quote, go to melochemonnex.com/humber, or call 1-800-339-1847.

class notes

1990s

Kelly Gluck (Interior Design, 1993), assisted in the design and planning of the Salama Vocational Education Centre (SVEC-L) in Uganda. Program co-ordinator for the Humber Interior Design program since 2009, Kelly has taken her project to the next level by allowing Humber students to get involved with the school, including assisting with the development of design concepts.

Casa Gerardo, a Michelin-starred restaurant. Last year, Brianne took first place in the *Chopped Canada* television series competition, winning \$10,000.

Deanna Dawe (Interior Design, 2005), owner of successful interior design business Tidy Solutions, has landed three nominations for prestigious awards last year, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs, and the Youth Entrepreneur of the Year award.

2000s

Rene Meshake (Creative Writing, 2005), was one of five finalists nominated for the First Nation Communities Read Award last year. A renowned Aboriginal writer, Rene was nominated for his 2009 publication *Moccasin Creek*, which he self-published. Aside from a recognized author, Rene is also an illustrator, visual artist and spoken-word performer.



Anne Lazurko (Creative Writing, 2006), a freelance Saskatchewan-based writer, gained much

recognition for her first novel, titled *Dollybird*. Anne recently received the 2014 WILLA Literary Award, and was also nominated for the 2014 Saskatchewan Book Award for Fiction.

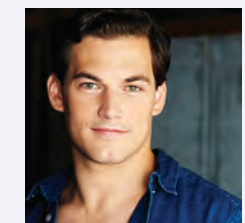
Brianne Nash (Apprentice-Cooks, 2008), in-house chef at Nella Cucina in Toronto, has taken her culinary skills to the top. In 2012, Brianne gained recognition by winning the Discovered Culinary Competition, landing her an all-inclusive trip to Spain, where she cooked at

Kaylyn Belcourt-McCabe (Industrial Design, 2007), a graduate of Humber's first Industrial Design degree class, has excelled in her career. Hired by Copernicus Educational Products in 2007 as one of their first industrial designers, Kaylyn recognized the company's needs for improvement, and worked on developing a plan to grow the company. At just 29 years of age, Kaylyn was recognized for her unprecedented leadership, and was promoted to CEO last year.

2010s

Eli Bennett (Music, 2011), jazz saxophonist, has a long list of career successes. Last year, the 35-time international award winner returned to Humber to develop his debut album. Alongside faculty member and producer of the album, Kirk MacDonald, Eli recorded *Breakthrough*, which was released on Addo Records this past October.

Emily Innes (Journalism, 2012), is an assistant editor at The Chronicle Companies, which publishes medical magazines for health-care professionals. Recently, Emily won first place for feature writing in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Competition.



Giacomo Gianniotti (Theatre Arts-Performance, 2012), has landed his name on big-

time television just two years after graduation. Giacomo has appeared in various television series on BBC America, the CW and CBC's own *Murdoch Mysteries*. Last year he landed a supporting role in the feature film *Race*, which he filmed alongside Jeremy Irons and Jason Sudeikis. He also had his short film, *Still*, premiere at TIFF this past fall, and he is now wrapping up the year as a series regular on ABC's new TV series, *Selfie*.

Adam Carvalho (Industrial Design, 2014) is a designer for Christie Digital Systems who has been receiving a lot of attention for his fourth-year thesis project, SOL.E.

The single-seated vehicle, designed for space optimization and sustainability, has secured Adam the opportunity to attend Auto Design Prague, a prestigious international vehicle design conference in Czech Republic. He was also named runner-up in the Final Prototype category at the Rocket 2014 competition.

To have your achievements featured in upcoming issues of *Humber dialogue*, send us a note at alumni@humber.ca.

Sense of place

HERE ARE LAST YEAR'S BEST

FIRST PRIZE

▲ *Untitled* - Lunqian Pan



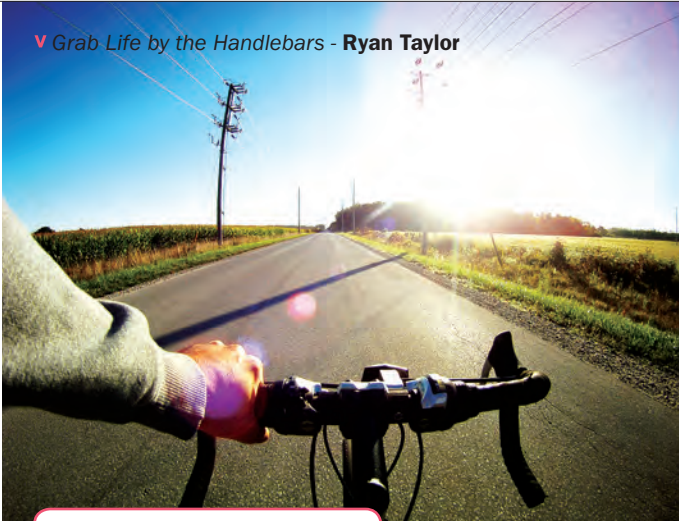
▲ *Humber Bay Arch Bridge* - Ashton Boodhoo

RUNNERS UP

> *Ice Storm* - Michael Yevych



▼ *Grab Life by the Handlebars* - Ryan Taylor



HONOURABLE MENTIONS



▲ *Majestic Inhabitants* - Romaine Waite

FIRST PRIZE
\$500

DEADLINE
March 15
2015



Shutterbug contest

It's that time again - we're searching for Humber alumni who have hidden talents behind a camera lens. We invite all amateur photographers to send us their captivating photos for a chance to win up to \$500, as well as have your photo published in the next edition of *Humber dialogue*.

They say a picture's worth a thousand words – what will yours say?

Theme Planes, trains and automobiles

Eligibility Contest is open to Humber alumni

- Entries are accepted from amateur photographers only and must not have been previously published

Entry submission

- Email your entry to alumni@humber.ca with the subject line "Photo Contest"
- In the email, please include: your name, address, telephone number, the title of the photograph, a brief explanation of the picture including when and where it was taken

Deadline Entries must be received by March 15, 2015

Photo requirements

- File must be 300 dpi. A high resolution image is required
- No larger than 3MB, black & white or colour are accepted
- Name your file: YourFullName – ImageTitle

Prize First prize winner: \$500
Runners up: Humber prize pack

Judging

- Entries will be judged on creativity and quality of image. The winner will be selected by April 15, 2015 by a panel of judges in Toronto
- The winners' names and photos will be published in the next issue of *Humber dialogue*

*By submitting an entry, the winner grants Humber College the rights to use his or her name and photo in Humber print and online sources.



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Alumni Survey Last spring, we launched our first ever comprehensive alumni survey asking for your input as we continue to develop our alumni program.

We had a great response – close to 4,000 of you participated. While we are still reviewing the responses, know that we appreciate your feedback, which will help us as we grow our programming. **Stay Connected!** humber.ca/alumni

Congratulations again to our prize winners:

EARLY BIRD PRIZE:	IPAD AIR
\$1500 Travel Voucher	Toni McKenzie, Paralegal, 2010
Rudy Blair, Radio Broadcasting, 1992	Chris Clay, Journalism, 2004
GRAND PRIZE WINNERS:	Shamina Ehsan, Early Childhood Education, 2013
\$1500 Travel Voucher	
Sarah Jorstad, Media Foundation, 2009	BEATS HEADPHONES
\$1000 CASH	Sriram Santhanan, Network Design and Administration, 1998
Nick Nobile, Law Clerk, 2005	

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2014 convocations

Like any graduation ceremony, Humber's 2014 convocations were a whirlwind of flying gowns, fancy shoes, beaming families and, of course, proud (and relieved) graduates.

There were a few stand-out moments. Humber President Chris Whitaker paused his spring convocation address to turn around at the podium and take a selfie – much to the delight of his cheering audience, who was snapped in the background. Before the fall ceremony Humber media students did live on-the-spot interviews with grads waiting to process into the hall, lending a red-carpet feel to the event. And – in possibly the biggest surprise of the week – comedian Mike Myers received an honorary degree during one of the spring ceremonies.

Humber's 2014 honorary degree recipients were:

- **Rosalie Silberman Abella**, Justice, Supreme Court of Canada
- **Craig Alexander**, senior vice-president and chief economist, TD Bank Group
- **Sarah Fulford**, editor of Toronto Life magazine
- **Dr. Paul Hawkins**, emergency room physician and educator
- **Andy Kikites**, engineer
- **Robert Lunney**, retired police officer and former chief of police in Peel Region and City of Edmonton
- **Terry O'Reilly**, advertiser, writer and broadcaster
- **Mike Myers**, actor and director
- **Bo Pelech**, entrepreneur and educator

BELOW: ACTOR MIKE MYERS WITH JOAN HOMER (LEFT), THEN CHAIR OF HUMBER'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, AND PRESIDENT CHRIS WHITAKER (RIGHT)



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HORSING AROUND AT HUMBER

Horses are led back to the Humber College Equine Centre yesterday morning after about 20 of them escaped from the centre's indoor arena and congregated on Woodsvlew Ave. In a nearby subdivision. A faulty latch was to blame at the centre, on Humber College Blvd. near Finch Ave. and Highway 27.

gated on Woodsvlew Ave. In a nearby subdivision. A faulty latch was to blame at the centre, on Humber College Blvd. near Finch Ave. and Highway 27.

Horsing around

“There was a stampede – about 20 horses had gotten out of their pen and were making a break for it.”

If you were around Humber in the early 1990s, you'd have noticed that some of the residents on campus were a little more...well, four-legged than others.

That's because, until 1995, Humber offered an Equine Studies program. And, of course, with Equine Studies came – you guessed it – horses.

Housed at the east end of the North Campus next to Building W – the only two buildings that were there at the time – the Equine Centre consisted of stables, an outdoor track and an equine hospital, as well as a resident population of horses.

Alumna Bridget Woodcock, now director of Humber's two child-care centres, recalls one memorable day when the horses took an unscheduled field trip.

“The child-care centre was in Building W, which overlooked the barn and outdoor horse ring. We were sitting having lunch one day, when a staff member stared out the window and said,

‘I think I just saw a horse leave the equine centre.’ We all stood up as another left the enclosure. And then there was a stampede – about 20 horses had escaped from of their pen and were making a break for it.”

Woodcock remembers running outside and seeing the arboretum staff quickly piling into their cars to follow the escaping horses. The child-care centre staff followed suit.

Luckily, the horses chose to go straight through the parking lot and across Humber College Blvd., rather than heading towards busy Highway 27.

“Not a single horse was hit by a car or otherwise injured, which was incredibly lucky,” says Woodcock. “We followed them through the neighbourhood. They ended up in a little parkette and we found them there, perfectly peaceful, grazing on the grass. Eventually, the staff rounded up enough people to walk them all back to the equine centre.”

Do you have a good story about an old photo of your time at Humber? You can be featured in a future Flashback. Send your photo to alumni@humber.ca.

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