

Humber dialogue

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

SPRING 2012

Reflections on leadership

president John Davies retires

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Photography by
Eric Forget

president's message

JOHN DAVIES > President, Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning



In the past five years

as president, I have seen numerous changes at the college – new programs, new faces, new buildings to name a few. One thing, however, remains constant: our reason for being – our students. They are at the heart of everything we do and I am continually impressed by how talented, dedicated and hard working they are. Students often tell me that here at Humber, they are encouraged to be the best they can be and are challenged to reach their potential. We are always proud to see them rewarded for this as they take their knowledge and skills and put them to use in the workplace.

By joining the ranks of our alumni, our students become part of a distinguished group of individuals. Our grads are involved in a wide variety of work both here at home and around the world. Wherever they go, whatever they do, again and again, they say they are successful because of their experience at Humber.

And, of course, none of this would be possible without our extraordinary faculty and staff. These individuals make the difference between a good education and a great one and they go the extra mile in sharing their knowledge, time and attention with students.

As I finish my tenure at Humber, I feel honoured to have worked with so many outstanding people. I would like to thank all the students, alumni, friends and staff for their contributions and for enriching my experience at the college. All of you are part of Humber's success and make the college the great place that it is, an institution that instills pride, commitment and passion.



a special message from the president of HSF

BRYAN TRAN > President, Humber Students' Federation, 2011 – 2012

Humber has been like a second home

to me over the years, and a large part of this can be attributed to my role within the Humber Students' Federation (HSF). We are an organization that represents more than 25,000 students – no small task indeed. What makes our job easier, however, is the support that we receive from the entire Humber administration, especially that of President John Davies.

John is a president who truly recognizes the importance of the student voice. Despite his very demanding schedule, he always makes time for the HSF when it comes to discussing student issues, helping our efforts to improve the student experience and providing leadership advice.

As a hands-on and student-focused president, John is always present at major student-run initiatives, can often be seen at Humber Hawks games, and is easily accessible to students with his open-door policy. His strong leadership over the past five years has shown incredible results with the significant growth of the college, numerous funding announcements and a substantial expansion of degree programs. But for me, John will be remembered most as a president who always put the interests of students first.

Speaking on behalf of all the students at Humber and University of Guelph-Humber, we are sad to see him go and wish him well.

Humber dialogue

issue 5 spring 2012

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humber's vision

Excellence in polytechnic education

mission

Humber develops broadly educated, highly skilled and adaptable citizens who significantly contribute to the educational, economic and social development of their communities. We accomplish this by:

- preparing learners for careers through a comprehensive choice of educational credentials in a broad range of programming
- developing informed and engaged citizens through an applied and liberal education
- enabling organizations to enhance their effectiveness through customized training and lifelong learning opportunities
- supporting our local communities through outreach activities

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Publications mail agreement number: 40063415





Students leave green footprint



Jessica Gafic and Gloria Perez, two fourth-year interior design students, joined the ranks of Humber success stories this past January, thanks to this year's Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) Design Challenge. The students took first place in the competition, which had teams designing a

landscaping plan to give the Evergreen Brick Works (a former brickyard built in 1889 in the Don River Valley in Toronto) an innovative and environmentally friendly facelift as part of the evolution of the site.

Participating teams included Humber College, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, Ryerson University and the University of Guelph. The teams had to use recycled tire products for at least 30 per cent of the overall cost of materials for their design.

The biggest challenge for Gafic and Perez was the fact that the competition was for landscape design, not interior design - their area of study. "Even though the project was not in our field, we were eager to research landscaping and how plants work together," Gafic explains. Their final design consisted of areas to sit and play, lined with rubber mats made from recycled tire products. More recycled tires created a pathway into the building and the rest of the Brick Works location. The rest of the design included trees to create shade and some to act as anchor points for the building and Brick Works entry points.

Winning against several other top design schools left both Gafic and Perez proud of their education. Marcin Kedzior, a professor in the college's Interior Design program said the outcome of the challenge is evidence that Humber design students have ideas, skills and talents that make them leaders in the design field. "I have taught design students at other institutions and can say that some of the most interesting and capable designers I have ever taught are from Humber," says Professor Kedzior. "The winning team is not an anomaly but represents the general level of the program."

Gafic and Perez will see their design implemented as they collaborate with the design team for the Evergreen Brick Works project during the summer.

Faculty achievements

Ken Cummings, program manager of the Industrial Design program, took part in the design of the Toronto Transit Commission's new fleet of streetcars. Cummings sat on a panel with fellow design experts consulting on the design of Toronto's new trams.

Mike Dover, co-author of *WikiBrands: Reinventing Your Company in a Customer-Driven Marketplace*, has won a silver medal in the Marketing Book of the Year 2011 award run by The Marketing Book Club. Dover is a professor in the Global Business Management program.

Hilario Duran, professor in the Music program and the director of the Humber Latin Jazz Ensemble, was nominated for a Juno award in the category of Best Contemporary Jazz Album for his album, *Cuban Rhapsody*. Duran has previously received six Juno nominations and has won twice.

Music faculty member, **Kirk MacDonald**, received a Juno award nomination for the Kirk MacDonald Orchestra album, *Deep Shadows*. Nominated in the Traditional Jazz Album category, the album was recorded at the Humber studio and produced by **Steve Bellamy**, associate dean of the School of Creative & Performing Arts. MacDonald has previously received five Juno nominations and has won once.

Canadian novelist and critic, **Antanas Sileika's** fourth novel, *Underground*, was named as one of the Globe and Mail's Best Books of 2011. Sileika is the director for the Humber School for Writers and is a past winner of a National Magazine Award.

Coming soon!

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Email us at **alumni@humber.ca** to be added to our distribution list.

Humber names new president



Humber College is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Christopher L.G. Whitaker** as Humber's new president and CEO. He will succeed President John B. Davies, effective July 1, 2012.

Whitaker has been working in the Ontario postsecondary landscape for nearly 25 years and brings a strong academic background and a wealth of senior administrative experience to Humber. Prior to his appointment as president and CEO of St. Lawrence College, he was academic vice-president and dean, School of Business.

Whitaker holds a PhD from University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, an MA from York University and a bachelor's degree from Queen's University.

The Humber community welcomes Whitaker and looks forward to working with him.

A great place to work

Humber College has been named one of **Greater Toronto's Top Employers for 2012** by Mediacorp Canada Inc. as part of its annual competition. Recognized employers are considered leaders in attracting and retaining employees. The college draws in and keeps its employees through a strong commitment to their personal and professional development, competitive compensation, health benefits and commitment to building an inclusive environment and positive workplace culture.

Humber also received a second employer distinction, being named one of the **Best Employers for New Canadians**. This award recognizes employers with the best initiatives and programs to assist recent immigrants to Canada. These programs include reducing employment barriers for recent immigrants, assisting new employees in having their foreign professional or educational credentials recognized, and offering training to employees in cross-cultural issues.



door



Lakeshore Commons, the new “gateway” to Humber’s Lakeshore Campus, opened in the fall of 2011. Keeping the college at the forefront of postsecondary education, this four-storey, 110,000 square foot building will accommodate significant student growth from the current 7,500 students to an additional 2,000 students. With its open concept, large windows and location along the shores of Lake Ontario, the Lakeshore Commons is a striking addition to the campus, complementing the existing historic campus buildings. The building, built to LEED Silver standards, also features added green space and a green roof.

“The School of Health Sciences is committed to exceptional teaching and learning spaces which are representative of the environments in which our students will be employed.”

Jason Powell, dean, School of Health Sciences

new spaces



The School of Health Sciences has four new and updated spaces to help students get ready for the job market:

- updated therapy assistant laboratory includes treatment beds and washroom facilities such as those found in homes and long-term care facilities
- two new clinical simulation suites for paramedic and nursing students replicate hospital rooms and are complete with equipment and mannequins
- a new casket selection and urn viewing room located in the funeral services suite

more programs

Humber continues to be on the cutting edge of new programs. Here are the nine new programs for the fall of 2012.

- Advertising Account Management graduate certificate
- Alternative Dispute Resolution graduate certificate
- Bachelor of International Development
- Electrical Techniques certificate
- Events Management graduate certificate
- Fashion Management graduate certificate
- Food and Nutrition diploma
- Protection, Security and Investigation diploma
- Research Analyst graduate certificate

humber headlines

“The program suits my lifestyle –
I can do my schoolwork where
I want and when I want.”

Flexibility in learning

With a busy life looking after a family, working 40 hours a week and volunteering, Mary-Anne Wyllie doesn't have time to go to school in a traditional classroom setting. Instead, Wyllie is pursuing her studies online, an ever-growing avenue for individuals to earn postsecondary credentials.

Wyllie is enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician Bridging program, a program which provides comprehensive education in the pharmacy field. As a pharmacy assistant for 31 years, Wyllie is seeking the new designation to gain increased responsibility, an enhanced salary and more career opportunities in hospitals and pharmacies.

To Wyllie, one of the most important aspects of the program is having the opportunity to study in her own way. “The program suits my lifestyle - I can do my schoolwork where I want and when I want,” says



Wyllie. “I also like the variety of methods that are used in the program, especially the discussion boards and chat rooms where I can ask questions and share ideas with other students.”

Over the years, Wyllie has worked with pharmacy technician graduates from Humber. “One of the reasons I chose Humber was because of the skills and professionalism that I saw in these grads,” says Wyllie. “I am inspired to succeed like them. And I know I can do that with the program's reputation, flexibility and support on my side.”

Humber has more than 400 online courses and more than 40 programs available online. In the fall of 2011, there were 5,500 registrants in online courses and 25 new online courses began in the 2011 – 2012 academic year. To learn more about continuing education programs, visit humber.ca/continuingeducation.



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Centre for Urban Ecology wins award

The Humber Arboretum's Centre for Urban Ecology is the first facility in Ontario to be awarded a Platinum Certification from the province's new EcoCentres program. The designation is awarded to educational centres that have met ten benchmarks such as environmental quality and human health, and carbon neutrality. The Centre for Urban Ecology is a venue for education and research on urban ecology and works to create a sustainable environment in urban spaces.

Adobe certified

Humber College has partnered with Certiport and BNR-Education Inc. to become the first Ontario college test centre to offer the Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) certifications. The certification tests are available to all Humber full-time and part-time students as well as to members of the public through a continuing education course or a stand alone test.

"Being the first Ontario college to offer this program shows Humber's leadership in providing students with the skills to use digital media to build and maintain effective communications," says Blair McMurchy, director of professional & continuing education in the School of Media Studies & Information Technology. "The Adobe certifications will add to graduates' skill sets, making them more attractive to employers."

For more information, email adobecertification@humber.ca.



Terrel Bramwell



Kelly Nyhof

Varsity Alumni Throwback Night, held this past February, was a huge success on all fronts. The Athletics department was happy to welcome some old faces as more than 40 varsity alumni returned to cheer on both the women's and men's Hawks basketball teams to victory over arch-rival Sheridan.

Keep an eye out for future athletics events and be sure and save the date for Varsity Homecoming Weekend on September 28 – 29, 2012. Visit athletics.humber.ca/alumni/alumni.htm.

hawk's nest

Hawks volleyball teams topple the competition

This season Kelly Nyhof and Terrel Bramwell led the Humber Hawks to yet another Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) women's and men's volleyball provincial championship, and both were selected as the OCAA Player of the Year within their sport. Here are the stats on these incredible players:

	Terrel Bramwell	Kelly Nyhof
Position	Right Side	Middle
Years at Humber	3	3
CCAA championships	1	0
OCAA championships	2	3
OCAA championship MVP	1	1
OCAA player of the year	2	1
CCAA player of the year	1	0
CCAA all Canadian	2	1
First team OCAA all star	2	3
2011/12 league scoring	1	3
All time team scoring	2	3

The men's volleyball team capped off a memorable season, winning its third straight provincial title and first-ever CCAA national championship. The women's volleyball team's most recent victory completed a run of five consecutive OCAA titles, and six of the last seven years. The Hawks men's and women's teams are coached by brothers Chris and Wayne Wilkins, both Humber and Humber Hawks alumni.

Hawks have another banner year

- Badminton provincial overall champions
- Cross-country overall team national gold medalists
- Women's cross-country national conference gold medalists
- Women's cross-country provincial gold medalists
- Men's golf national gold medalists
- Men's golf provincial gold medalists
- Women's rugby provincial gold medalists
- Men's rugby provincial gold medalists
- Women's outdoor & indoor soccer provincial gold medalists
- Men's outdoor & indoor soccer provincial gold medalists
- Women's volleyball provincial gold medalists
- Men's volleyball national gold medalists
- Men's volleyball provincial gold medalists

a legacy of leadership



Winding down his five-year term as Humber College's president, John Davies takes a moment

Describe your career path.

I started in education in 1968 as a geography teacher and taught in several schools before becoming a principal, superintendent and then the director of the Toronto Board of Education. Later, I became the CEO of the Education Improvement Commission and the chief of staff for the Effective Schools Task Force. I joined Humber in 2002 as vice-president of administration.

What were your objectives when you became president?

When I started as president in 2008, I had a vision for Humber based on a five-year strategic plan. I inherited an extremely successful institution and I wanted to keep the momentum going and see Humber grow and build on its excellent reputation. One important objective that I wanted to carry on was the concept of Humber as a polytechnic

institution, one that offers a wide range of credentials that prepare students for careers through apprenticeship, diploma, degree and postgraduate opportunities. In tandem with this, I wanted Humber to continue to develop pathways so that students can move fairly seamlessly from one credential to another. Other areas I wanted to focus on were developing the infrastructure for fundraising and building on marketing and communications. I also wanted to focus on information technology by investing in a new enterprise system.

What have been your successes?

Humber has grown significantly in the past five years. We've gone from having six degrees to 18. The college is much larger than it was five years ago both in terms of number of students, faculty and facilities. We've gone from 15,000 to 22,000 full-time students

and we have a number of new buildings.

We've made great strides with our marketing and communications department, with our advancement office, and we have a new enterprise system.

But success isn't just about numbers and buildings. I've worked on maintaining the strong relationships within the college which includes having a respectful and innovative culture. Our staff and faculty are extraordinary and they're a major part of all the successes that Humber has seen over the past five years.

What are you proud of?

I'm most proud when I meet students who display pride in the college. I find it especially gratifying when I meet alumni who tell me that Humber has set them up for life. I'm also immensely proud of the staff – they do a fabulous job day in and day out.



“I want to help young people reach their potential.”



to share his thoughts on leadership, success and education.

What makes a good leader?

My approach to leadership is to clearly establish goals, get people to support them, and measure them so you can see your achievement. But what is also absolutely critical in leadership is to have integrity, to be supportive and to be nice (yes, nice – it’s highly underrated). A good leader is also committed to the fact that everybody is a valuable member of the team, no matter what role they have.

What role does Humber have in the community?

I come from a background where I had challenges in school. My family moved around a lot and I went to 12 different schools. These experiences made me interested in helping others who face educational challenges. When I taught in the secondary school system, I started an

adult learning program to help people get an education and prepare them for the workplace. This experience has stayed with me and I still believe in helping those who need it most. Humber has phenomenal resources in its staff and facilities and we have so much to offer to people outside the college. I’ve seen what a difference a community outreach program can make for people facing challenges. So I think it’s appropriate that we be involved in as many community programs as possible.

What would you like your legacy to be?

I’d like my legacy to be that I’ve helped advance Humber and helped students. In the end, it’s all about the success of students – I want to help young people reach their potential and go on to successful careers.

“When I think of John, I think of his willingness and ability to keep students first and foremost as he worked through the complexity of running a large institution, be that building new facilities, enhancing student services, or meeting with students.”

Val Hewson
Former executive assistant to the president

“John has always maintained an open door policy and has been incredibly responsive to the needs of students. If he were graded for his performance as the president of the largest college in Ontario, he would get an A+.”

Bradley Watson
Vice-president administration – North Campus (2010 – 2012)
Humber Students’ Federation

“John is a leader in expanding access to postsecondary opportunities for marginalized youth. He has been instrumental in ensuring the college is an integral part of the community, working collaboratively with service providers and supporting community initiatives that make a difference.”

Kay Blair
Executive director, Community MicroSkills Development Centre

Leading the way

They say leaders are born and not made. But even born leaders need to start somewhere. Enter the Humber Students' Federation (HSF), the college's official student government. Representing more than 25,000 full-time Humber and University of Guelph-Humber students, HSF is comprised of 10 full-time staff members and a host of elected student officials. Under the guided leadership of HSF's staff, student executives gain knowledge in areas such as management best practices, media training and strategic planning. "We are a leadership incubator," says HSF executive director Ercole Perrone. "We take people with capabilities and help them develop their leadership skills so they can succeed in the real world when they graduate." These three HSF alumni have done just that.

A man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored checkered shirt, stands in a modern building. He is positioned in the lower-left foreground, looking towards the camera. The background features a large, multi-paned skylight that fills the upper half of the frame with bright, natural light. The building's interior has a clean, architectural feel with visible structural elements and a metal railing in the foreground.

Nick Farnell

Community manager
Humber Students' Federation, Toronto, Ontario
HSF president (2007-2008)

What drew me to HSF was the desire for some hands-on business management experience. I have a degree in industrial design from Humber, and that's where I learned the creative side of things. But I also wanted to learn how to run an organization – everything from strategic planning to financial management.

Being HSF president is almost like being the mayor of a small city; you are accountable to about 25,000 students, and deal with a large budget. Being responsible to that number of people is significant. How many people have had that experience at 22?

I think I really understood the importance of that responsibility when I met with senior members of the Humber administration for the first time. We also talked to the MPPs of the North and Lakeshore Campus areas about trying to improve the quality of life for students. Being on HSF also shaped my perception of what business and management was. I always thought business was about number crunching and accounting, but serving as the president I had the opportunity to see the strategic decision-making processes – how a project you're working on now can mean something larger later on.

I did my MBA after graduating from Humber, and then landed a job at Umbra, but I jumped at the chance to come back to work at Humber. I really enjoy my job – it's a new role and it blends what I learned from my studies with my HSF experience.

Cynthia Breen

**Alumni officer – eservices
University of Waterloo,
Waterloo, Ontario**

**HSF vice-president of campus life –
North Campus (2005-2006)
HSF president (2006-2007)**

I learned so much about leadership working with HSF. My experiences there helped me to grow as a professional and prepared me for work after graduation.

There were so many moments during my time at HSF when I was tested as a leader, but perhaps the most memorable was being a part of the tuition fees discussions with the College Student Alliance and our provincial government. Prior to my experience as HSF president, I used to think solely as a student and didn't always agree with the fee structure. As a leader, it became important to help others come to mutual agreements and to understand the logic behind each argument.

During my career, I held a position in which I worked with a board of community leaders, hundreds of staff, co-workers and the general public. Each of these parties had its own stake in the decisions made and people were very passionate about their viewpoints. My experience at HSF has helped me understand the importance of listening to each side, appreciating and valuing where they each come from, and making decisions that may not please everyone but are the best for the group as a whole. These are things that many professionals, especially those in some form of public service, have to deal with every day and nothing could have prepared me better than the HSF experience.

PHOTO: ERIC FORGET



Daniella Cross

UK marketing manager

SAY Media, London, England

**HSF vice-president of administration –
North Campus (2005-2006)**

HSF chairperson – board of directors (2006-2007)

Being a leader with HSF required confidence and the ability to win the respect of my peers. I was fortunate to have the support of the HSF staff and that of the Humber administration. They allowed us to voice the views of the student population and treated us like professionals – they gave us a seat at the table. They helped coach and guide us but didn't try to manipulate what we were doing.

I was in office during the 2006 faculty strike. We were trying not to be biased, encouraging both the faculty and the administration to get back to the table. The strike lasted almost three weeks, and I was the College Student Alliance (CSA) spokesperson – I went on *Canada AM*, representing the voice of more than 100,000 student members. It was a really tough situation, but it turned out to be a fantastic opportunity to live up to the HSF vice-president admin role and make an impact.

The experience of being a part of HSF gave me a pool of skills to draw upon in my career. Sometimes, in my current job, if I have to think outside the box or stretch a small budget to do something fantastic, I utilize what I learned at HSF. The time I spent in student government was a time of tremendous growth for me. I always reflect on my time at Humber as the best time of my life.

PHOTO: MIKE KING



Remembering a pioneer



Bob Scott

“I think the greatest gift he gave us was encouraging others to donate their time and resources like he did.”

Michelle Clarke
program co-ordinator
of Humber's Funeral
Service program

As the saying goes, you can't take it with you, and nobody knew that better than Bob Scott. It was in that spirit that he gave so much of his time, energy and resources to his family, his community, to the industries that he loved – the funeral business and emergency and ambulance services – and to Humber College, right up until his passing this past December at the age of 78.

Scott was born and raised in the funeral services business, his parents buying a funeral home in 1934, a year after he was born. Following in his father's footsteps, Scott graduated from the Canadian School of Embalming (which would eventually become Humber's Funeral Service Education program) in 1954. From that point on, in addition to the business' day-to-day work, Scott Ambulance Service & Funeral Home worked countless hours with emergency workers during many disasters, including an Air Canada crash in Woodbridge in 1970, in which 109 people died. That day, and in the weeks that followed, Scott played a pivotal role in co-ordinating the emergency and funeral services for the disaster. “He was way ahead of his time in the way he handled that crisis,” says Michelle Clarke, program co-ordinator of the Funeral Service Education program at Humber. “Parts of the disaster plan he created more than 40 years ago are still used by many organizations.”

Every year after that disaster happened, Scott delivered a seminar about it to students of both the Funeral Service Education and the Paramedic programs at Humber. But that was only a small part of his commitment to the college. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Funeral

Service Education program in 1968 (the first to be recognized under provincial legislation) and the Paramedic program nine years later. He sat on the advisory committees of both programs for decades. He established a number of academic awards and scholarships in both programs – today there is still an award in the Scott name given to students in the Funeral Service Education program. And, perhaps most importantly of all, he was a champion of the programs and of Humber College. “I think the greatest gift he gave us was encouraging others to donate their time and resources like he did,” says Clarke. “He would say to his friends and colleagues in the industry, ‘We have to support the program – don't just say you want to help, do it.’”

At the end of the day, despite an enormously successful career, it wasn't accolades Bob Scott was after, says his son Brad who, like his brother Jeff, is himself a funeral director and a graduate of the Funeral Service Education program. “For all that dad did – he had been around the world, set up disaster plans at airports from Seattle to Abu Dhabi, owned two funeral homes, sat on boards of organizations too many to count – he wasn't after glory and awards. He was after getting things done. He loved his profession and his community, and giving back to it was a huge part of his life.” There was one accomplishment he was extraordinarily proud of: the honorary diploma Humber bestowed upon him in 1983. “He was not an emotional person, but he was very humbled by that,” says Brad. “It gave him a certain feeling of his legacy being carried on, and it meant a lot to him.”



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“I received a scholarship and it made all the difference.”

Ebenezer Tiku
Nursing student and
scholarship recipient

student, grad, leader

Bhalinder Bedi, Marketing, 2005

Who says you can't go home again? Not Bhalinder Bedi. A couple of years after graduating with a diploma in marketing from Humber in 2005, Bedi was standing on a subway platform on his way to work and saw an ad for the new e-business marketing degree program. It stopped him – literally – in his tracks. Right there he made the decision to leave his job and go back to school full time.

"I always knew I wanted to go back and earn a degree at some point," Bedi says. "My two years in the diploma program at Humber were nothing short of amazing. When I found out about the new degree program being offered, it was a easy decision to go back."

Bedi is very involved in campus life the second time around – he's part of the Student Alumni Network and is on Humber's Board of Governors. He's also been elected president of the Humber Students' Federation.

Bedi hopes to eventually find work at a non-profit organization. He believes having both a diploma and a degree will make him attractive to employers. "I call it a 'hybrid education' – both hands on and theoretical. It's the best of both worlds."

alumni update

Actors dream of performing dramatically explosive scenes. For Charlotte Hegele, a 2010 grad of the Acting for Film and TV (AFTV) program, that dream has already become a reality. As one of the leads in Global TV's new dramatic series, *Bomb Girls*, Hegele portrays one of the many brave women who worked in the country's munitions factories during WWII. For the London, Ontario native, the show is an opportunity to portray some long-forgotten accounts of bravery and resilience, especially among the mostly anonymous female workers of the era.

After getting her first taste of acting with community and high school theatre, Hegele set her sights on working in front of the camera. When she auditioned for the program, it was clear she not only had a vivid dramatic imagination but also had a track record of working hard to make her dreams come true. Throughout the two-year program, her talent and work ethic lifted her to the head of her class. She was rewarded with the lead in one of the AFTV Showcase films which was subsequently shown to an audience of agents and industry players. Her performance earned her a spot on one of Toronto's most prestigious talent agency rosters, and the rest, as it turns out, is televised dramatic history.



An explosive performance

PHOTO: STEPHEN HARGREAVES

OFFICE MESSAGE Great news!

After only four issues, our own *Humber dialogue* magazine has been awarded the 2012 silver Accolade Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II. The magazine won in the community college magazine category for its quality, creativity, innovation and adherence to professional standards. We were up against some stiff competition, with 500 submissions coming from postsecondary institutions across Ontario, the eastern United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While winning awards is great, what matters most to us is what *you* think. We've recently sent out a survey to our grads asking for feedback on the magazine. Thanks to those of you who have already completed it. If you haven't, feel free to send us an email at alumni@humber.ca – we always welcome your feedback. Thanks for being a part of our publication...your successes are what make our magazine great!

More accolades...



Rahul Singh, a 1992 paramedic graduate, has won a 2011 Premier's

Award as Outstanding Health Sciences graduate. Singh, a paramedic, is founder and director of GlobalMedic, an international aid agency. The Premier's Awards celebrate the exceptional contributions Ontario college graduates make to the province and throughout the world. Singh was also a recent recipient of The Order of Ontario, the province's highest official order. This honour recognizes

residents of Ontario who have demonstrated a high level of achievement.

CBC broadcast journalist, **George Stroumbouloupoulos**,



has been named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

This designation is given to individuals who are exceptional young leaders and share a commitment to shaping the global future. Stroumbouloupoulos is a 1993 broadcasting – radio graduate.

> Calling all grads!

Recently promoted? Received an award? Accomplished something great? Let everyone know by being a part of Class notes. Send your info to alumni@humber.ca and you could appear in the magazine.

Humber Radio celebrates 40 years

Humber's Radio Broadcasting program is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Watch for our November issue for news about the celebrations and what our outstanding radio grads are doing now.



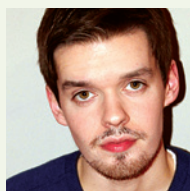
Rumeet Toor, a 2006 human resources management graduate,

has received the prestigious 2011 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award in the future leaders category. Toor is president and CEO of Jobs in Education, an employment job board bringing together employers and candidates seeking a career in education. She has also founded The Toor Centre for Teacher Education, a teacher's college in rural Kenya.

class notes



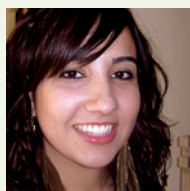
Carson Arthur (Landscape Technician, 2004) has become the spokesperson for Black & Decker Canada for the third year in a row. Arthur is the owner and principal designer of Carson Arthur Designs, the host of HGTV's *Green Force* and is the author of the national bestselling book *Garden Designs for Outdoor Living*. Previously, Arthur was the host of *Room to Grow* on Global.



Joel Cassady (Jazz Performance - Introduction to Commercial Jazz, 2009) and his band Walk Off the Earth have skyrocketed to fame since their release of *Somebody That I Used to Know* on YouTube. Earlier this year, the band performed live on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* and has since been inundated with show offers from around the world. The band recently signed with Sony's Columbia Records and is working towards its first official release on the label.



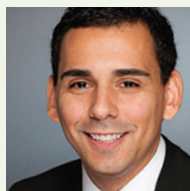
Rene Meshake (Creative Writing - Poetry, 2005) has begun a partnership with the Homer Watson Gallery in Kitchener, Ontario to educate youth in schools on Ojibwe art and storytelling. Meshake's book of Ojibwe-English poetry, *Tea with Joan & Other Poems*, was recently published. He has also published three picture books and is currently writing a series of 14 more.



Vanessa Saraiva (International Development, 2011) recently accepted the position of program officer at World Vision Canada where she is on the Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Team. Saraiva has also been accepted into the Masters of Law - International Law program at the University of Sussex, where she plans to study after her posting with World Vision. Career highlights include developing proposals and grants for submission to international donors as well as United Nations' bodies.



Margaux Smith (Fundraising and Volunteer Management, 2011) has landed a job at the renowned UK fundraising agency, Bluefrog, where she works as a copywriter. In this role, she attends some of the most important charity conferences in the world and works with some of the top fundraisers in the industry. Her writing has been featured on some of the most respected fundraising blogs.



Marc Viola (Human Resources Management, 1999), senior director of talent with Loblaw, recently won the ACE Silver Star Award and the Canadian Grocer's Generation Next Award. This award recognizes an up and coming leader who has demonstrated innovation, leadership and a commitment to the grocery industry. Viola also established the annual Vanguard Award, presented to an outstanding student in Humber's Human Resources Management program.



1 Overdress don't underdress for a job interview

You are much better off looking "too professional" than not enough. After all, you are trying to impress this person. Make sure you test drive your interview outfit – are you comfortable, relaxed and confident of the image you are presenting?

2 Invest in key pieces

These items form the basis of your wardrobe: suits, jackets, pants, skirts, ties, shoes, belts. These items transcend style....buy the best you can afford and take care of them.

3 Look current

Shop for current trends in items that you will replace within one or two seasons: dress shirts, blouses, sweaters, scarves, jewelry. Look for current styles, patterns, shapes and colours to update your key pieces and show that you are on top of things.

4 Night club attire is not business attire

This includes shoes, accessories and makeup. Less makeup, less hair gel, more conservative necklines are required. This includes business social functions - the Christmas party is still work.

5 Polish your shoes and boots and buy current styles

Nothing pulls together an outfit like the right footwear - good quality, clean, stylish yet

practical for the type of job you have. Practical is important and depends on the job you have – sky high heels and running shoes are never business attire.

6 Fit in

Every company has a culture. Fit into that culture easily by dressing the part before you even start. If you don't know what the culture is, research the company or contact the HR department for guidance.

7 Dress to your physical strengths

Top heavy, bottom heavy, no curves? Dress to balance your figure. If you don't know what figure you have, hit the stores and find a good sales associate who will spend time with you sorting out the good bits and not so good bits.

8 Light on the perfume or cologne

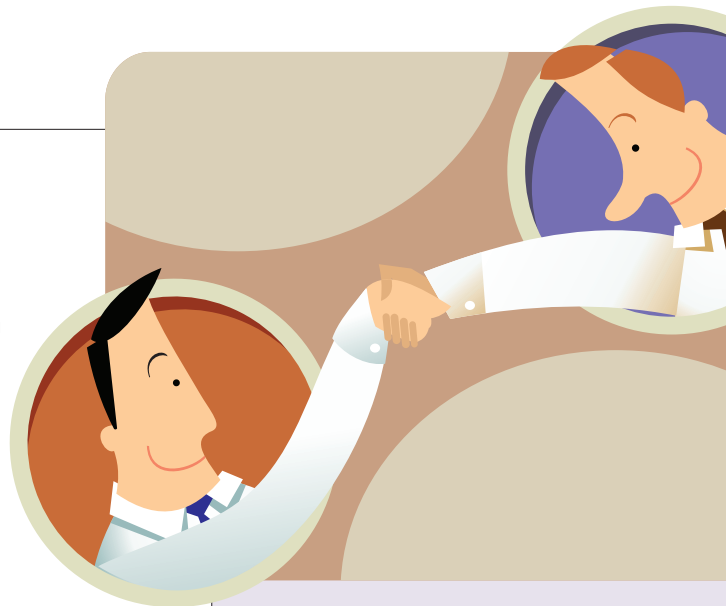
It's an add-on to your image and should not be the first thing noticed about you. Many offices are fragrance free - follow the rules.

9 Attitude

Everyone has one, makes yours positive. Be confident in yourself, do your research on what looks good on you and your body type to make the best impression possible.

10 Be yourself – but better

The image you present must be consistent with the person you are. If you are not a corporate person who likes to be at a desk all day then just putting on a suit won't change that and you won't be happy in that environment. Find a career that suits your personality and develop a professional style that matches it.



The Office of Advancement & Alumni Relations is pleased to announce our new series of workshops.

Providing avenues for networking and learning, the presentations are especially tailored to students and alumni.

Our first workshops were *Dressing for the Job You Want* and *Social Media and Your Job Search*. Read on for what the professionals have to say about dressing professionally and how to promote yourself.

Visit humber.ca/alumni for news on future workshops.

Linking in and landing the job

LinkedIn is the number one social media platform for making job connections. Here's why:

- > LinkedIn is career-focused
- > 150 million people use LinkedIn – five million in Canada
- > 95 per cent of Canadian employers using social media for recruiting use LinkedIn
- > a LinkedIn profile is one of the top results when Googling a potential candidate
- > LinkedIn “groups”, “jobs” and “companies” are unique features – you can make proactive connections and research potential employees and employers
- > you can follow companies and see their latest activities, job postings and new employees
- > 80 per cent of LinkedIn users are ‘passive’ job seekers, meaning they are currently employed but open to new opportunities or they use their LinkedIn profile to maintain their professional network. The remaining 20 per cent of LinkedIn

users are active job seekers and can take advantage of connecting with employers to expand their chances of finding a new job.

The golden rules

- > make your profile as complete as possible
 - use a professional photo – a headshot is fine but make sure to have a smile to present a positive image
 - update your headline – be specific and professional in the titles you use
 - use a keyword-rich summary
- > join relevant groups
- > customize your LinkedIn URL:
linkedin.com/in/YourName
- > request recommendations
- > keep your profile up-to-date

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> BRYAN BENJAMIN

secrets to success

“Your leadership role needs to be integrated into everything you do. Do not think of it as a distinct set of tasks, but instead, as the very fabric that weaves through all of your responsibilities.”

You're a new leader—now what?

Transitioning into a leadership role can be an overwhelming experience. What will the new expectations be? Where should I focus my time? To be clear, leadership is hard work. However, if you are up for the challenge, leadership can generate an incredible sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. The following are tips to keep in mind when assuming a leadership role.

Know your unique value-add

One of the most common challenges faced by new leaders is delegation. This requires thinking more broadly about the work that needs to be completed, understanding available resources and resisting temptations to do it all yourself. Although delegating some tasks may take longer in the short term, you are making important strides towards building commitment and optimizing the skills of your team. This also leaves you with more time to perform the work where you are uniquely positioned to add the most value.

Recognize leadership is your job

Leaders have an obligation to lead. This includes communicating expectations, spending time coaching and making yourself available to your team. The excuse ‘I wish I had more time for the leadership part of my role’ is false. Leadership is your role and needs to be integrated into everything you do. Do not think of leadership as a distinct set of tasks but instead as the very fabric that weaves through all of your responsibilities.

Embrace feedback

Delivering timely and relevant feedback is a core leadership capability. It takes courage to initiate feedback conversations and ensure a message is received with the desired impact. If you are not providing ongoing feedback, you are missing valuable opportunities to enhance the functioning of your team. Furthermore, as a new leader, it is equally important for you to

proactively solicit ongoing feedback from others. Feedback is a gift, so take advantage of these opportunities to learn and develop.

Build leadership communities

You do not need to lead in isolation. Nurturing relationships across the organization creates a valuable network you can approach with questions and a forum for working through common challenges. Operating as part of a broader leadership community will not only enhance your ability to lead but positively influence the leadership culture of an organization.

Develop other leaders

The phrase ‘no one else can do my job as well as me’ is nothing to be proud of. As a new leader, it is your responsibility to contribute to the identification, development and growth of other leaders. Foundational to the long term success of any organization is a pipeline of leadership talent who are being deliberately developed. Take every opportunity you can to contribute to this work.

There is no perfect formula to guarantee effective leadership. Therefore, take your leadership responsibilities seriously and recognize you will make mistakes along the way. Use missteps as opportunities to demonstrate your commitment to continuous learning and development. This will help garner the support of your team and establish a solid foundation from which you can continue to grow as a leader.

Bryan Benjamin is principal & market team lead at Knightsbridge Human Capital Solutions. He is a Humber alumnus & member of the advisory committee for Humber’s Human Resources Management program.



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