

In TOUCH



Fall 2004

Mohawk Diploma

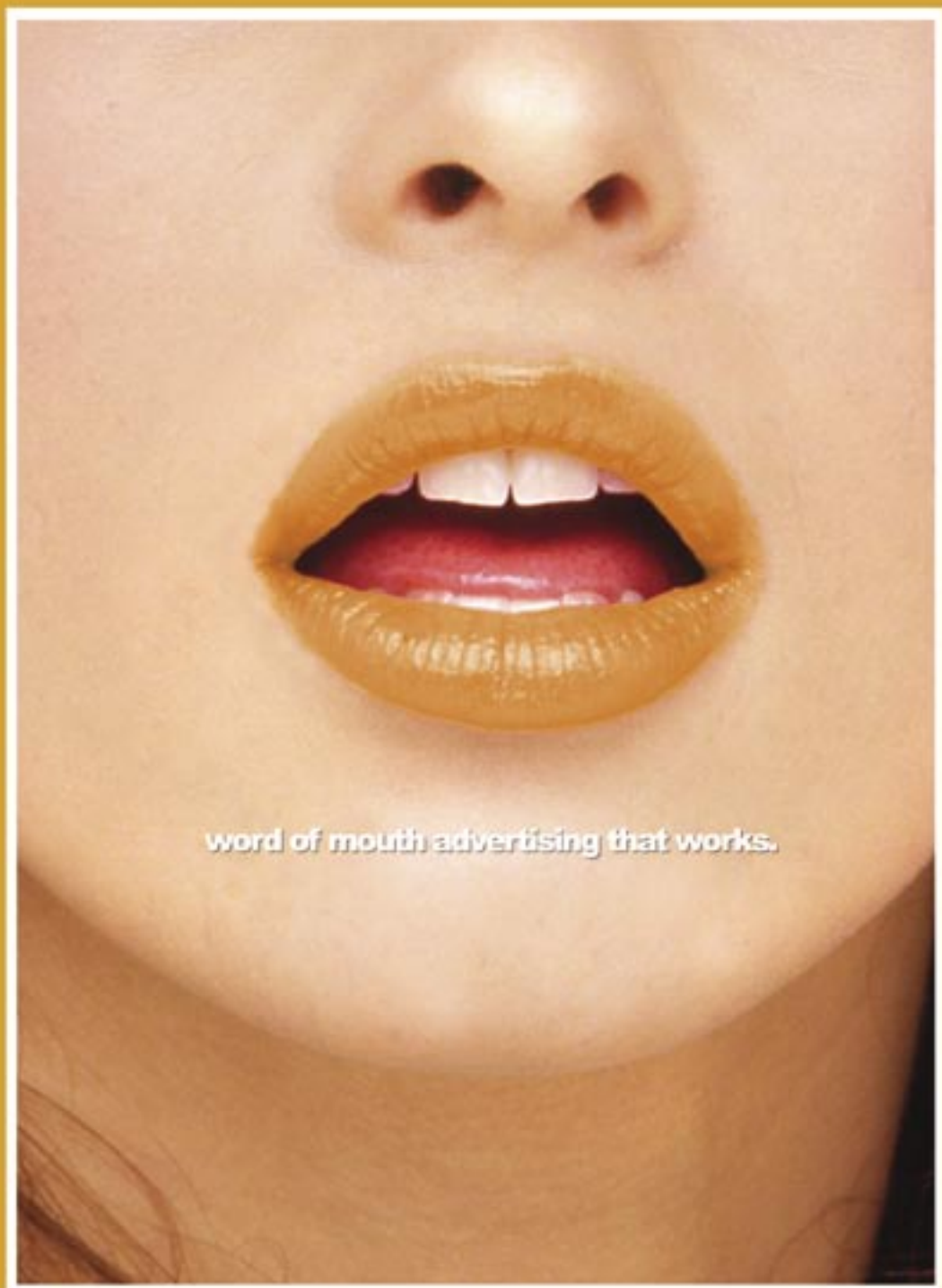
OPENS DOORS (& WINDOWS)

**Peter Rakoczy, Mohawk
Alumnus and GM of
Worldwide Microsoft
Consulting Services
Strategy shares some
'Words of Wisdom'**



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In TOUCH



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WORDS TO LIVE BY

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Mohawk College remembers the many contributions that Mohawk Alumnus, and local politician Dominic Agostino made to his community, province and country.

from the Alumni Association President...



Alumni Association
President Morgan Seele

An Education

...and so much more

As I write this message, summer is still here but September, the traditional “back to school” season, is almost upon us and will be by the time you receive this. For recent graduates, back to school season may mean less in their working world as it’s become just another month of the year, while for others its significance may have changed as their children prepare for a new year of study. In either case it should also be a time for you to reflect on your own schooling experiences, including those at Mohawk and how they’ve been beneficial to you.

Of course there are some who’ll be quick to point out that they graduated from program X at Mohawk and have never worked a day in the specific trade/profession they thought program X led to and so

conclude that their time at Mohawk was wasted. With a little honest thought, I think both they and you will discover that over the long term they benefited from much more than just the hard facts or specialized skills that were advertised in the program brochure for that specific profession. You made friends, some of whom may have taught you as much as any class. You developed competence and more importantly confidence to enter the working world in whatever field. Finally, you learned a bit about yourself. Even if one of those lessons was that the intended profession of graduates from program X just wasn’t for you!

When you think of your time at Mohawk specifically, I ask you to consider the following three questions: 1) How many ways was

your experience at Mohawk beneficial to you? 2) Couldn’t other people benefit from that same experience? 3) How often do you share this experience and recommend Mohawk to others?

As proud members of the growing family of 64,000 Mohawk College graduates, I encourage you to share your positive Mohawk experiences with others and suggest that Mohawk may indeed be for them, too. After all, you didn’t turn out too badly now did you?

Morgan Seele, President
Mohawk College Alumni Association

ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2004 - 2005 SLATE OF OFFICERS



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Kim McCartney, Director
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The Alumni Association thanks these individuals for their valued contributions to Alumni activities, committees and meetings on behalf of the Alumni of Mohawk College. We appreciate your dedication.

from the Alumni Relations Office...

Life isn't about
FINDING YOURSELF
...life is about
CREATING YOURSELF

- George Bernard Shaw



Linda Marshall,
Director, Alumni and
Corporate Events

Perhaps it's the environment of change but it is overwhelming to appreciate the significant forward movement Mohawk has witnessed. The challenges we faced have been met by talented, enthusiastic people who have the privilege to call themselves "alumni." As the new person responsible, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who have shared with me the work and responsibilities that such change brings.

Last December, we welcomed a new president at Mohawk College, MaryLynn West-Moynes, who has since been developing, with input from all facets of the college, a new strategic plan – Six Cornerstones to Success – of which the Alumni Relations department is proud to be a part. Like our President, I am constantly reminded of the high calibre of Mohawk graduates, their influence and support in the community and their generosity of time and effort, all aimed at building and enhancing the college's enviable reputation. We have also had the good fortune in this college to have college staff, volunteers, and mentors of the current Association, who helped establish a firm base on which we can continue to build and grow.

Among our numerous projects and priorities is service to Mohawk graduates. While we continue our highly successful affiliations with Bank of Montreal Mastercard® and Mainway Insurance, we have also negotiated an alumni cruise which will sail to the Caribbean in April, and by popular demand, a return to a taping of the "The Red Green Show" at the end of October. New alumni merchandise and diploma frames will also be available, with secure shopping on-line for the convenience of our members locally and around the world. Soon, we will also launch an enhanced website of our own,

showcasing our new look.

With a database of 64,000 strong we face an ongoing challenge – keeping in touch. For many years, trackers have industriously made phone calls and enquiries trying to find alumni who had moved, married, changed jobs and careers, divorced, moved again, changed jobs again, married again (oh, what complicated lives we lead!) in an effort to keep our substantial community together. We will continue with our efforts to find and keep you close, but, in accordance with new privacy legislation, we will also keep your information safe. Please remember us when you change your address, or find that special job. We always want to hear from you. Contact our office at 905 575-2258, by fax at 905 575-2443, or email us at alumni@mohawkcollege.ca. If you would like to reach fellow graduates, or brag just a little, send us a bit of history and/or pictures for our special section "Keeping In Touch – Where are they now?"

Unlike other areas of the college the alumni department doesn't experience the semester system. Our level of activity is always high, and our board of directors, inducted at the June AGM, have also been working through the summer. In 2004/05 we still produce the 25-Year Club Reunion, our bi-annual magazine and the Alumni of Distinction Awards.

Like Shaw said, life is about creating oneself. As part of this process, Mohawk College has had a hand in the creation of you, as a graduate. The Alumni Association and this Mohawk College both nurture that creation and enrich it by promoting the talents and skills of our alumni, as well as rewarding their efforts; something we have endeavoured to do for the last 20 years.



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Ideas and opinions published or expressed in "In Touch" do not necessarily reflect those of Mohawk College, the Alumni Association, or the Editor.

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Alumni Association Contributes to a Celebration of Nursing Education

The Alumni Association is proud to be among the contributors to this magnificent stained glass panel commissioned by the Celebration Planning Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The panel was unveiled at the Institute of Health Sciences Campus by Association President Krysia Iwanek, on May 12, 2004.

This panel integrates symbols of the past, present and future of the profession of nursing. The solid foundation of nursing education is represented by the crests of the four schools of nursing that were amalgamated to form the Mohawk College Nursing Program. The Mohawk nursing crest in the middle signifies the central and unified role played by the nursing program in being the link between the past and the future.

“I have tried to convey the passion of the nursing educators who have commissioned this work,” says artist and creator Leigh Greaves. “Pride in tradition, reverence for the role of a healer, and confidence in the future of the profession are all at play here.”



MOHAWK NURSES LEAD COLLEAGUES ON HEALTHCARE ISSUES

Three Association Presidents hail from nursing program

While Canadians celebrated National Nursing Week, the profession itself is in the hands of Mohawk College graduates and students - literally.

Sandra Ireland, a 1990 graduate of the Mohawk College Registered Nursing Program, is the current President of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). Linda Haslam-Stroud, who graduated from the same program in 1977, is the newly elected President of the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA). And fourth-year nursing student Sandra Woltman - studying in Mohawk's new collaborative degree program - is the 2004 President of the Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA).

With a membership of 140,000 nurses in Ontario, CNO is the regulatory body that protects the public's right to quality nursing services by providing leadership to the nursing profession in

Sandra Ireland (L) and Linda Haslam-Stroud are two heavy hitters in the healthcare industry who came out of Mohawk's Nursing Program



self-regulation. Ms. Ireland, a Hamilton resident and clinical nurse specialist at Hamilton Health Sciences, was an adult learner at the time she enrolled in the Mohawk nursing program. “Everyone at Mohawk College provided me with a career that I could not even imagine.”

For Linda Haslam-Stroud, a 1977 nursing graduate of Mohawk College, representing 49,000 unionized nurses is about improving the quality of working life for nurses and ensuring that their work environments are healthy and safe.

For students about to enter the nursing profession, Mohawk's Sandra Woltman believes it's important to be an advocate early on in the process. Ms. Woltman, 23,

will begin her fourth year of the BScN program in September at the IAHS. She will graduate with the first class of baccalaureate nurses in Spring 2005.

As for the current leadership roles of Mohawk's Sandra Ireland, Linda Haslam-Stroud and Sandra Woltman, they are terrific examples of the College's achievements in educating professional nurses. “Whether it's in clinical, administration, professional standards, or the union office, Mohawk College nurses are providing expertise to patients, employers, the public and their colleagues,” says Rosemary Knechtel, Executive Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services.

Alumni Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2004

The Alumni Association held its Annual General Meeting at Fennell Campus on Thursday, June 17, 2004. Special guests included Rick Sterne, Chair of the Board of Governors, Martin Van Zon, Governor, Board of Governors, Kathy Verspagen, Faculty Representative, Board of Governors. Association partners Barbara Wunder from the Bank of Montreal (Affinity Program), Melody Murray and Lynda Smith from Mainway Insurance also attended the meeting.

Presentations to our outgoing Board members took place and inductions of new Board members completed

the evening (see Slate of Officers page). The new Executive Committee members shared their insights for the future of their committees. Guests enjoyed an evening networking with fellow Alumni over wine and cheese. The next regular Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2004.

(TOP) Morgan Seele, Alumni Association President, thanks Angela Barbas for her service on the Board. (MIDDLE) Lidia Siino, Vice President Marketing and Communications, Pat Parker, Past President Krysia Iwanek, Past President, Darren Hardenbrook, Outgoing Director (BOTTOM) Krysia Iwanek with Melody Murray and Lynda Smith from Mainway Insurance.



PREMIER'S AWARDS 2005 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Premier's Awards honour the important social and economic contributions college graduates make to Ontario and throughout the world. Any college graduate may be nominated for this prestigious award. Categories include Business, Community Services, Creative Arts & Design, Health Sciences, Technology and Recent Graduate. There is no limit to the number of times a graduate can be nominated. The Premier Awards will be presented on February 21, 2005 in Toronto, Ontario.

If you know alumni who are exceptional in their field and have made significant contributions to their communities, contact our office. Learn more about these awards at www.thecouncil.on.ca (Click on Premier's Awards). To view past Mohawk recipients visit our website www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni or telephone the Alumni office at 905-575-2258.

ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION AWARDS 2005 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Alumni of Distinction Awards honour the exceptional contributions that Mohawk College alumni make to their communities and professions. Award recipients may go on to become candidates for the Premier's Awards.

An individual is selected from each of the six categories: New Graduate, Business, Community Service, Technology, Health Sciences and Creative Arts and Design.

If you know an alumna who has unique career achievements, is committed to helping others, and has made many extraordinary contributions to society, please contact us. All Mohawk graduates are eligible.

NOMINATE TODAY

Visit our website to view past recipients and download a nomination form.

www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni/awards

Or call the Alumni office for more information 905-575-2258

Deadline for submission: June 1, 2005

Mohawk Alumna Wins 2003 Hamilton Women of the Year Award



On April 20, 2004, Lyla Miklos (Radio Broadcasting / Broadcast Journalism) was recognized by the Hamilton Status of Women Committee for her outstanding achievements and contributions in furthering the position of Hamilton-area women. Lyla was selected as winner of the 2003 Women of the Year Award in the Communications category. Along with Lyla's many community interests, she also holds a Director's position on the Alumni Association. Congratulations Lyla!

A look at what's going on...

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF '80

Are you an alumnus from the Class of 1980? Near or far.... we want to hear from you! The Alumni Association will be hosting the 25-year Club Reunion Dinner and Dance for the Class of '80 in the fall of 2005. This is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old classmates and reflect fondly on your experiences at Mohawk.

Help us to include all of your classmates among the attendees in 2005, by encouraging them to contact us. View past reunion photos at www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni Update your records easily on-line! You can also send us an email to alumni@mohawkcollege.ca or telephone the Alumni Office at 905-575-2258. We look forward to seeing you next fall!

For more 25-year Reunion information keep posted by visiting our website.

25-YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 1979

On Saturday, October 2, 2004, the Alumni Association is holding a 25-year Club Reunion Dinner and Dance for the Class of '79. For more information visit our website at www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni.

Football special pre-reunion event – The first 150 reunion guests will receive FREE tickets to the Hamilton Ti-Cats game on Friday, October 1. Reunion guests can also visit the many excellent tourist and cultural venues in Hamilton including the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Dundurn Castle and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

5TH ANNUAL JAZZ CONCERT SERIES

The Steeltown Friends of Mohawk Jazz are holding their 5th Annual Fundraising Fall Concert on Monday, October 25 at 8:00 p.m.

in the Keith McIntyre Theatre at Fennell Campus.

Join us for an evening of outstanding jazz guitar music dedicated to Ed Bickert, and performed by Lorne Lofsky, Reg Schwager, and Geoff Young. Accompanied by Pat Collins on bass and Kevin Dempsey on drums. Opening for this guitar extravaganza will be vocalist Carol McCartney backed by a Mohawk faculty ensemble. Tickets \$25.00 adults and \$15.00 students. Call 905-575-2044 to reserve yours today!

ALUMNI CRUISE

Join us aboard the Carnival Valor and enjoy one of the world's newest floating resorts with other Mohawk College Alumni. Travel the Eastern Caribbean from Miami calling at Nassau, The Bahamas, St. Thomas, USVI and St. Marten for spectacular beaches, excursions and duty-free shopping. With friends from home you are sure to have fun at the special alumni events aboard the Valor.

The 7-night package includes flights from Toronto and departs on Sunday April 10, 2005. Prices start as low as \$1465 including all port charges and pre-paid gratuities. A refundable \$350 per person deposit will reserve your spot. For more information please call Karen Boot at (800) 665-4981 ext 240 or (905) 570-9999 ext 240 or visit the website at <http://www.tripcentral.ca/trip/SPEC/special-63.html> See ad on page 29 for more details.

THE RED GREEN SHOW ALUMNI TRIP

Looking for fun and laughter? Come along on Saturday, October 30 with your fellow alumni to see a live taping of the Red Green Show. Package price of \$60 includes a ticket to the live taping, dinner

buffet, return transportation from Mohawk College and all taxes and gratuities.

The bus will leave from the Mohawk College main entrance at 5:00 p.m. and will return around 11:00 p.m. See ad on page 39 for more details!

MOHAWK COLLEGE HOLIDAY VILLAGE & CRAFT SHOW

Friday, November 12, 3pm - 9pm
Saturday, November 13, 9am - 3pm

Browse through hundreds of unique holiday gift items at the Mohawk College Holiday Village & Craft Show at Fennell Campus. \$2 admission (children under 3 free) Free Parking. See ad pg 18.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND VARSITY EVENTS

October 1 and 2, 2004

FRIDAY EVENTS

Women's Fastball
VS Canadore @ 6pm

SATURDAY EVENTS

Women's Fastball
Alumni Game @ 9:30am

Women's Fastball
VS Canadore @ 12noon

Men's Rugby
VS Fleming @ 2:30pm

Women's Soccer
@ Redeemer @ 11am

Men's Soccer
@ Redeemer @ 1pm

<http://athletics.mohawkcollege.ca>

BASKETBALL ALUMNI WEEKEND

January 29, 2005

1 pm – Women's Alumni Game

3 pm – Men's Alumni Game

Mohawk VS Fanshawe

6:00 pm & 8:00 pm

HAP HOLMAN ALUMNI BONSPIEL

Glendale Golf & Curling Club
Saturday, January 29, 2005

<http://athletics.mohawkcollege.ca>

VARSIITY AWARDS BANQUET

Student-athletes were honoured at the 37th Annual Varsity Awards Banquet, Wednesday, April 7, 2004. The following were the major award winners:



Dr. Sam Mitminger Award
Kim Shatz with President
MaryLynn West-Moynes



**Hap Holman
Business Award**
Scott Bundy with Evie Holman



Female and Male Freshman of the Year
Tara Campbell and Peter Snioulis



Dr. Keith L. McIntyre Award
Kyle Smith with Keith McIntyre



**Outstanding Male and Female
Athlete of the Year**
George Macut and Krystal
Eckersall



**All Round Male Athlete of
the Year**
Matt Schnarr with SAC
Chair BJ Peachey



Barb Moore Spirit of Athletics Award
Rob Rende with Cal Haddad

Alumni are able to participate in our Campus Recreation Programs. Please check our website www.mohawkcollege.ca for details and contact the Athletics Department. Varsity Events are listed under Upcoming Events. If you are interested in joining us at one of the ALUMNI EVENTS, please see the Alumni section on our website, www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni for more details and to register.



BRANTFORD CAMPUS

The new Children's Safety Village of Brant is an education centre located on Mohawk College property at Brantford Campus. Programs such as fire prevention, smoke alarms, traffic and bicycle safety and stranger awareness are taught to approximately 9,000 area children in grades 1-6 from the City of Brantford, County of Brant and Six Nations Territory.

Children are encouraged to demonstrate the skills they have learned in a miniature town. The children navigate their way through the village by foot, on bicycles or in a small battery-powered vehicle and are encouraged to demonstrate their skills.

Police officers, fire prevention officers and our trained community volunteers supervise all activities at the village. The Children's Safety Village of Brant provides a safe realistic environment for children to understand and apply the safety lessons they have learned.



Construction has begun on the Children's Safety Village of Brant located at the Brantford Campus of Mohawk College

Currently, the village is in the construction phase and will be opening its doors to the children this fall. Fundraising efforts are ongoing, and there are opportunities for support at a variety of levels. For more information on the village or how you may contribute, please visit our website at www.csvbrant.ca or call the office at (519) 720-6950.

STONEY CREEK CAMPUS

At a time when many employers are demanding that prospective apprentices hold a technician diploma, Mohawk College graduates can enter an apprenticeship with two of the three in-school levels completed. Mohawk College graduates of the two-year Mechanical and Electrical Technician programs at Stoney Creek Campus are earning more than a technician diploma!

Students in the Tool & Die (precision metal machining), Automation (industrial maintenance mechanic) and Electrical (electrical trade) programs complete the in-school portion of the basic and intermediate apprenticeship programming in the related trade as part of their program of study.

Students gain valuable on-the-job training through 4 - 16 months of relevant co-operative education work experience. The program has enjoyed co-op placement rates of 90 - 100% since its inception in 2000. Many students obtain the full 16 months of co-op work experience and receive a full-time job offer from their co-op employer upon graduation and successful completion of the basic and intermediate levels of apprenticeship. The salaries earned by the co-op students range from \$12.00 - \$17.98/hour. The graduate statistics are comparable.

This is a fabulous opportunity for students and employers. For more information please contact Kelly Bates at 905-575-2095 or kelly.bates@mohawkcollege.ca. The Centre for Co-operative Education, Graduate and Student Employment offers free job posting services for employers and job search services for Mohawk College graduates and students.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS are accepted throughout the year. The Alumni Association offers six awards to outstanding alumni who excel in their field of employment. The Alumni of Distinction Awards are prestigious awards that are presented yearly. To find out more information on awards please visit our website at www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni/awards.

You can support your Mohawk College Alumni Association by volunteering a small amount of your time! We are always interested in alumni that enjoy public speaking, mentoring students, sharing stories for the magazine, delivering an alumni address at convocation, or assisting at our information booths at events. If you would like to get involved, please email us at alumni@mohawkcollege.ca or telephone our office at 905-575-2258.

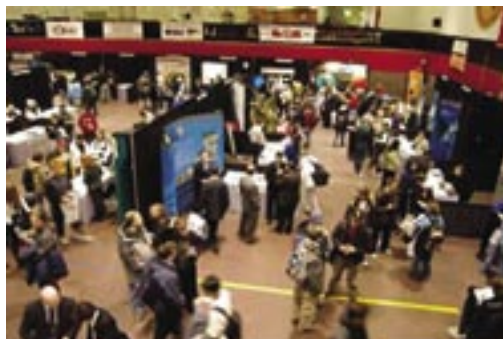
With a validated Alumni student ID card you have Library privileges at the Stoney Creek Campus as well as access to student activities and events. For further information please contact the Stoney Creek Student Life office at 905-575-2537.

EMPLOYERS RECRUIT GRADS ON CAMPUS

Job fairs are popular events that take place twice a year at Mohawk College. In February, the Centre for Co-operative Education, Graduate and Student Employment hosts a Winter Job Fair at the Fennell Campus in Hamilton showcasing students and graduates of applied arts, business, human services and technology programs. In November, the Health Sciences Job Fair is held at the Mohawk-McMaster Institute for Applied Health Sciences located on the McMaster University campus in Hamilton.

Employers recruiting full-time, part-time or summer employees as well as co-op students or interns are invited to participate in the job fairs. Employers can purchase booth space and set up their display in a trade-show style format. The job fairs are well attended and have proven to be a popular option for employers to meet with students and graduates and to promote careers with their organizations.

Increasingly, alumni are coming back to Mohawk College to recruit students and graduates. Brandy Nicholson, Technical Centre Supervisor at Pliant Corporation in Orillia, Ontario, and a graduate of the Chemical Engineering Technology program at Mohawk College, represented Pliant at the Winter Job Fair in February



2004. “We have a good relationship with Mohawk College,” said Brandy. “We’re here to promote our company and job opportunities at the Orillia location.” Pliant has been recruiting co-op students at Mohawk College for a number of years and recently hired 3 Mohawk graduates. Brandy did her own co-op work terms with Pliant Corporation.

For more information about upcoming job fairs at Mohawk College or other services for graduates or employers, please visit the Graduate and Student Employment “virtual office” web site <http://grad-employment.mohawkcollege.ca> or call Linda Basso at 905-575-2291.

The Centre for Co-operative Education, Graduate and Student Employment offers free job posting services for employers and job search services for Mohawk College graduates and students.

THE BRAIN

MOHAWK COLLEGE'S VIRTUAL LIBRARY

Are you planning on travelling to Europe or South America this winter? Need information on hotels, the country or renting an automobile? Find the answers on Mohawk's Brain. This amazing website has links to virtually anywhere, answering your questions from the comfort of your home computer!

Other links include online chat with our library staff for live help, links to sites including WebCT, MoCoMotion where you can view Mohawk announcements and register for a continuing education course on-line, and countless subject links and references.

Visit THE BRAIN today!

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/dept/library/brain/index.html>

2004 STAFF RETIREES

The Alumni Association extends Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Mohawk College 2004 Staff Retirees.

Trish Anderson - Disability Services

Bob Anderson - Industrial & Mechanical Engineering Technology

Alan Atkinson - Literacy & Basic Skills

Millie Atkinson - Mathematics

Eliabeth Broughton - Business Studies

Diane Carlson - Continuing Education

Health Sciences & Human Services

Max Corradetti - Motive Power Technology

Lois Cottrell - Co-Op Education Graduate & Student Employment

Lynn Courtney - Language Studies

Jean Gabel - Business Studies

Margo Goffin - Medical Services

Malcolm Heydorn - Humanities & Social Sciences

Bob Hilverth - Business Systems

Gord Holmes - Business

Management

Michele Keat - Literacy & Basic Skills

Steven Keyes - Language Studies

Ashok Kumar - Chemical &

Environmental Technology

Peter Mann - Building & Construction Sciences

Karen Martin - Nursing

Sharon McCann - Business Studies

Margaret McClelland - Nursing

Mary Mills - English Language Studies

Norm Moore - Media Studies

Ihor Pashynsky - Law & Security

Ray Price - Industrial & Mechanical Engineering Technology

Miriam Primorac - English Language Studies

Christine Rea - Academic Scheduling & Student Research

Lou Sartor - Business Management

Tom Sutton - Mathematics

Ted Thorpe - Educational Technology

Sandra Valvasori - Payroll Services

Marty Wilson - Technical Support Services

Joanne Wolfarth - Controller's Division

ALUMNI SPEAK AT 2004 CONVOCATIONS

At the February and June 2004 Convocations, nine alumni delivered inspirational messages to an audience of more than 3,800 proud graduates and guests.

Mohawk College celebrated with families and friends of the more than 1,800 students who graduated last week at one of six convocation ceremonies at the Brantford Sanderson Centre and Fennell Campus in Hamilton.

Rick Sterne, Chair of the Mohawk College Board of Governors, presented eight gold medals throughout the weekend as the College paid tribute to the outstanding academic and community involvement students make every day.

“Whether you use the skills and knowledge you acquired at Mohawk College to make the world the way it ought to be, or you choose to give back to your community in some other way, you have joined a fraternity of more than 60,000 Mohawk College graduates who touch our lives every day,” he told the graduates. “From federal and provincial cabinet ministers, to media celebrities,

entrepreneurs, skilled trades people, healthcare professionals, caregivers and public safety officials, I’m confident you, too, will help shape our future.”

Mohawk College President MaryLynn West-Moynes praised all those in support of our graduates and urged the employers in the crowd to hire our highly successful graduates - tomorrow - if they hadn’t already. Mohawk College staff, she said, provide our students with the best education and training available anywhere in the world.

At the College’s convocation in Brantford for the 333 graduates in the Faculty of Applied Arts, Business and Health Sciences and Human Services, the distinguished alumni speaker was Deputy Police Chief Ken Leendertse of the Hamilton Police Service.

At the first of five Fennell Campus convocations, Chris Mei, Program Director at WAVE 94.7 was the speaker

for the 345 students graduating in the Faculty of Applied Arts and Business (Tourism and Travel programs). Marnie Flaherty, Chief Executive Officer for Today’s Family, was the convocation speaker at the ceremony for 233 graduates in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Human Services. Linda Haslam-Stroud, President of the Ontario Nurses’ Association, was the alumni speaker at the convocation for the 190 graduates in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Human Services (Nursing and Practical Nursing programs). At the largest convocation on Saturday morning, Diana Zanin, Vice President and General Manager of St. Peter’s Health System, addressed 444 graduates in the Faculty of Business. Alison Murchie, a Bid Manager for Strategic Outsourcing, closed the weekend celebration by addressing 280 graduates in the Faculty of Engineering Technology.



Sandra Ireland, Nursing (1990)

Sandra joins the Mohawk alumni leaders in Nursing, as the President of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), which has a membership of 140,000 nurses in Ontario. Expressing her gratitude, Sandra noted “Everyone at Mohawk College provided me with a career that I could not even imagine.” Sandra is a Hamilton resident and clinical nurse specialist in the Trauma and Neurosciences Program at Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation.

Marnie Flaherty, Early Childhood Education (1982)

Marnie is currently Chief Executive Officer of Today’s Family – Caring for Your Child. In sharing her valuable occupational experiences, she advised graduates to “remember that you are part of a community, you can accomplish incredible things. Use your education, your mind, but mostly your heart, to do what we should all be doing – trying in whatever way we can, to make the world a better place.”



Kelly Cranford, Child & Youth Worker (1998)

Kelly is a Dean’s Honours Graduate, Bartimeus Award recipient and Dawn Patrol Supervisor’s Award for Excellence recipient. She has worked as a Child and Youth Worker and residential counsellor and is currently a sessional instructor and field placement supervisor for the Child and Youth Worker Program at Mohawk.



Diana Zanin, Business Administration (1990)

Diana is a leader in the field of Home Services and currently holds the position of Vice-President and General Manager of St. Peter's Home Services in Hamilton. In her heartfelt address, Diana spoke about the importance of finances, health and support systems and said "the best things happen as a result of hard work, sweat and persistence. Be true to yourself." Her message was strong, stating "Visualize your success. Visualize yourself and where you want to be."

Chris Mei, Radio Broadcasting (1996)

Chris is currently the Director of Promotions and Marketing for local smooth jazz station, Wave 94.7 FM. Among his many accomplishments since graduation, Chris has worked as a Cruise Director for the Royal Caribbean's Cruise Lines. In his uplifting speech, Chris asked graduates to "learn from those who know more...strive to be like those who inspire...never forget what you learned and build on it. It's all up to you now...it can be a great ride."



Ken Leendertse, Law & Security (1979)

Ken's career has grown through his many years of experience with the Hamilton Police Services to the position of Deputy Chief. As an alumni speaker, he stressed that "understanding the challenge and living the dream" is supported by the "solid educational foundation that is the gateway to the future." Ken's three secrets of success are "education, volunteering and being true to yourself and your family," all demonstrated by this outstanding alumnus.

Linda Haslam-Stroud, Nursing (1979)

Linda is President of the Ontario Nurses' Association and works as a renal transplant nurse at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton. She shared her enthusiasm, devotion and commitment to the nursing profession with the graduates from the Nursing and Practical Nursing Programs. Linda stated, "I strongly encourage you to become active in your profession and be an advocate for your patients. The possibilities for everyone in this room are endless. Go out and take advantage of them all!"



Alison Murchie, Computer Systems Technology Co-op (1986)

As a past Alumni of Distinction Award recipient, Alison works for Hewlett-Packard as a Bid Manager for the Managed Services Division. Alison attributes her success to the excellent foundation she acquired while at Mohawk College. In her past position at Armadale Systems, she was involved in the development, implementation and management of a one-of-a-kind computer system to support Ontario's Organ Transplant Program. Alison encouraged the graduates to set goals and pursue their dreams while reading excerpts from the Dr. Seuss book *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

Joe Curto, Mechanical Engineering Technology Co-op (1987)

Joe is an active alumnus who has returned to Mohawk's classrooms to share his "real world" experiences, knowledge and insights with students. He excels as a Six Sigma Quality-Master Black Belt in manufacturing at General Electric in Hamilton. At convocation, Joe encouraged graduates to embrace life-long learning, adding "As new obstacles and new opportunities arise in your future, you will reflect back to the base of knowledge that this institution has taught you. May this preparation for life guide you to make choices that intrigue you, enlighten you and continue to educate you."



shaping the future

CAMPAIGN



Debbie Logel Butler
Executive Director of
Community Relations
and Advancement

There has been lots of activity through the summer months with the Shaping the Future Campaign. With over \$6.7 million raised, the Campaign is well on its way to reaching 50% of its goal. The many cultivation meetings with community and corporate leaders is beginning to result in solid support for the Campaign. The highlight, however, has been an extraordinary gift of \$1 million from Dofasco. Dofasco has been an active partner with Mohawk for many years and this gift is a true testament to their continued interest and commitment to the College. It is also a valuable message that we can take out into the community as we approach other corporations for their support. Thank you Dofasco!

As the Information Technology Centre nears completion, the Campaign's focus is turning to the significant expansion and renovation of the Stoney Creek campus. A new Skilled Trades Training and Awareness Complex will be built, incorporating the existing building, to help us address the critical skilled labour shortage that is almost upon us. The new Complex will allow for the expansion of existing programs with new classroom and lab space; the addition of new programs that will meet the ever-changing



needs of industry; and will provide skills upgrading and retraining opportunities for employers.

The Awareness Centre, located within the Complex, will focus on raising the profile of all skilled trades by working with prospective students even before they reach high school, with high school guidance counsellors and teachers, with parents and the community in general. With the expansion, Stoney Creek will play an even greater role in the future of the College and of the economic growth and prosperity of our community and the businesses and industries that we serve. With the shovel scheduled to go in the ground in May 2005, a great deal of work is ahead of us. For the Campaign, it means we will begin to identify and build relationships with the businesses



and industries that employ our graduates from the skilled trades programs.

We look forward to a busy fall on the Campaign trail and invite you to join us as a volunteer for this exciting initiative. If you are interested, or would like more information regarding the Campaign, we welcome your call at 905-575-2367.

NEW PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM TO BE LAUNCHED!

Do you have a will? Have you planned your estate? Have you planned for your retirement? When doing so, think of Mohawk College.

We are currently developing a Planned Giving program at Mohawk College that will help you with these important issues. A brochure is in the works, estate and financial planning seminars are being

developed and ways for you to support Mohawk College through a bequest, insurance policy or other vehicles are being established. A planned gift is an excellent way to make a significant contribution to the college in the future, with tax benefits for you today. The Planned Giving Program will support our new Future Leaders Fund that will

provide funding for scholarships and bursaries, equipment renewal and other priority projects at the College. Watch for the launch of this exciting new program on the Mohawk College website later this fall, online at www.mohawkcollege.ca.

Also watch for the launch of our Special Moments and In Memoriam programs coming to you soon.

shaping the future CAMPAIGN

You can make your gift to Mohawk College today by filling in this form and dropping it off or mailing it to:

Community Relations and Advancement,
Mohawk College
P.O. Box 2034
Hamilton, ON L8N 3T2

For more information, please call us at 905-575-2482

Personal Information

Name: _____
 Program: _____
 Year of Graduation: _____
 Student # (if known): _____
 Street Address: _____

 City: _____
 Province/State: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Home Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____
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Many employers "match" charitable gifts made by employees to their educational institutions.

Do you work for a gift matching company?

Yes No Unsure

My affiliations with Mohawk College include:

(please check as many as applicable)

Alumni Business/Corporate Staff Member
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 Advisory Committee Member Friend
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Is this a joint gift with your spouse? Yes No

If Yes, please complete your spouse's information.

Spouse's Name: _____

Did your spouse graduate from Mohawk College?

Yes Year: _____ Program: _____
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Charitable Tax Receipts will be issued by the College and sent to you at the address you have listed above.

I would like to contribute to Mohawk College in the amount of

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500

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I have attached my cheque, payable to Mohawk College
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Recognition of Your Gift

I would like to be recognized for my contribution in Mohawk Donor Report, and would like my name listed as: _____

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

Other information

- I have made a provision for Mohawk College in my will.
- I would like to be contacted regarding planned giving options (gifts through a bequest or insurance).

Thank you for your support!

Occasionally, our alumni list is made available to reputable companies, partners and organizations whose products or services may be of interest to you. If you prefer not to have your name made available, please contact the Alumni Office at 905-575-2258, or by mail at P. O. Box 2034, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3T2



Life

of the

Party!

By K. L. Schmidt

You could say that Doug Dreher's business outlook is inflated,

which is exactly the way he wants it to be. As General Manager of the Pioneer Balloon Company – an international manufacturer and distributor of high-quality balloons – his lofty goals tend to come with the territory.

Things have changed considerably from the days when Dreher was a high school dropout working the factory floor at the Otis Elevator Company in Hamilton. With aspirations of being an accountant, he made the choice to go back to school, finishing his high school diploma at the age of 20. His next stop was McMaster University.

"I only attended one year at McMaster," says Dreher with a chuckle. "The campus was so disorganized, you practically had to park in Dundas and walk back to Hamilton. And I didn't see eye-to-eye with the professors."

Still in search of his niche, Dreher underwent a battery of aptitude and personality assessments at Mohawk,

which revealed that indeed, accounting was the field that suited him best. So at the age of 26, he embarked on a three-year course of study at Mohawk College to be a tax accountant, specializing in finance. Still working full time at Otis Elevator by day, he completed his required 36 credits entirely at night school. He was the third Mohawk business graduate to

allowed me to absorb the on-the-job training," Dreher reflects. "The cost accounting systems (at Otis) were very defined. It would have been very difficult for a person to absorb them coming out of Grade 13."

Backed by his education and work experience, it didn't take long for Dreher to start building his accounting career.

"The academic training at Mohawk allowed me to absorb the on-the-job training."

earn his diploma this way, and did it in the same amount of time he would have attending day school. It was 1976.

Halfway through his second year of study, Dreher was promoted to the accounting department of the Otis Elevator Company.

"The academic training at Mohawk

"I applied to the Pioneer Balloon Company. They had heard about Mohawk, but initially were after an accounting designation. Fortunately, the fellow who interviewed me had a bad experience with a designated accountant, who knew plenty of theory, but wasn't very practical. So the interviewer fought

upper management to hire me, and won.”

And so began Dreher’s life as a balloon man. Just one year after he moved to Pioneer, the U.S. and Canadian arms of the organization were rolled into one. The upper management at Pioneer searched in vain for a candidate to be their director of finance, finally discarding their pile of applications and hiring Dreher for the job, based largely on his Mohawk training.

Just 18 months later, Dreher was

courses offered along with Finance gave significant exposure to marketing and sales. Business is a three-legged stool, supported by manufacturing, marketing and sales. If one of those elements is missing, it can’t stand up.”

To this day, 61-year-old Dreher remembers the “top-notch” instructors he met at Mohawk, naming Paul Jaggard and John Sedgwick among the best.

“The teachers made accounting interesting,” says Dreher, lighting up as he talks about the experience. “Their

has regularly used the campus Pro Corp Centre as a training facility for his fellow Pioneer Balloon employees, and has brought in Mohawk’s Human Resources team to train the Pioneer workforce on the job.

“I’m connected to Mohawk at the hip,” he laughs.

Given the scope of the Pioneer Balloon Company, the training boost from Mohawk has been a welcome asset. This international latex manufacturer prides itself on an 80-year reputation

If you’ve ever been to a trade show or even a sale rack at the local mall, you’ve seen the Pioneer Balloon Company’s work in action.



promoted to the position of General Manager – unwillingly, at first. When the CEO arrived in his office to share the news, Dreher thanked him, but turned him down cold, feeling he wasn’t well suited to the job. When the CEO returned, Dreher turned him down a second time. The CEO finally sent his “henchmen,” as Dreher calls them, who convinced him to take the job. Again, he credits Mohawk for the well-rounded education that allowed him to make a rapid ascent up the corporate ladder.

“If a person came in with a CGA (Chartered General Accountant designation) only, they wouldn’t have any exposure to marketing and Human Resources. At Mohawk, other

class of instruction was the best because it came from the industry. Most of the instructors taught part time, bringing their industry experience and academics to the classroom. I’m doing the job I have now because my education at Mohawk was diversified.”

And though his life has changed considerably from the time he graduated – Dreher has celebrated 32 years of marriage with his wife and has a 20-year-old son attending Wilfrid Laurier University – he has kept in touch with his old stomping grounds. Dreher has completed half a dozen additional courses through Mohawk to keep himself up to date on such issues as customs and exporting regulations. He

as a top-quality balloon supplier, with production facilities in Europe, Japan, Australia and Mexico. The Hamilton facility employs 200 people and is a fully functional company in the sense that it carries out its own manufacturing, printing and distribution departments on site. Balloons are produced 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In Hamilton alone, Pioneer turns out two million latex balloons on a daily basis.

And through a printing technique developed at the Hamilton factory, a marketing phenomenon known as the “advertising balloon” was born. The inking technique allows balloons to be printed with lettering and logos in up to five colours, and inflates with no

MOHAWK COLLEGE

Holiday Village & Craft Show



Friday, November 12, 2004

3pm – 9pm

Saturday, November 13, 2004

9am – 3pm

Mohawk College Fennell Campus
Fennell Avenue & West 5th
Hamilton, Ontario

\$2 Admission
(children 3 and under are free!)
Free Parking

distortion. If you've ever been to a trade show or even a sale rack at the local mall, you've seen the Pioneer Balloon Company's work in action.

Dreher admits that although no workplace can be a party all the time, Pioneer does its best to keep up appearances. The office basks perpetually in giddy balloon décor, with staff members grabbing new designs off the manufacturing lines and inflating them just as soon as they appear. When tensions run high, nothing breaks the ice like a game of balloon bounce among the cubicles.

Dreher's management style – like his product – leans towards the relaxed. He prefers participative methods in the interest of maintaining employee loyalty and morale.

"I don't want people looking over their shoulder, I manage by consensus. We sit in the office, everyone talks and we convince each other. It's not structured – I don't believe in the 'Monday Morning Sales Meeting.' We don't have to do that, the communication is very open."

Dreher counts his ability to choose outstanding workers among his assets -- a key element when building a team which does its best work in this kind of atmosphere. Throughout the ranks at Pioneer, attitude and integrity count.

"Never has personal gain gone ahead of the betterment of the people who work for me. Key players are key players because I want them to be, and I truly, genuinely like them all.

"What gives me the most pleasure in my job is seeing people grow. I have an intuitive sense of the people who have what it takes to excel. Once you've found them, you train them with the tools and knowledge they need, and watch them bloom like a flower."

Over his career, Dreher has enjoyed seeing the impact his company has made in the world around him. He has seen Pioneer balloons at weddings and funerals, quiet parties and city-wide celebrations. For him, the joys of the job are some of life's simple pleasures.

"Think of how a child's face lights up when they're handed a balloon, how they laugh and smile and bounce it around. That's what my work is all about." ■

Email Contest

Your Alumni Association would like to Keep In Touch with you!
Submit your e-mail* address using the online form on our website. You will be entered into a draw to win alumni apparel.

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni/connections/contest.html>

Contest closes October 31, 2004

Winners will be announced in the In Touch magazine's Spring 2005 issue. *One e-mail address submission per person please.

MOHAWK

COLLEGE ALUMNI

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The Alumni Association of Mohawk College

Affinity Programs and you

Q&A

The Alumni Association of Mohawk College is pleased to announce a new partnership with BMO Bank of Montreal®, and to introduce the new Mohawk College Alumni Association Mosaik® MasterCard®

Why does the Alumni Association need affinity programs like the Mohawk College Alumni Association Mosaik MasterCard?

Affinity programs have enabled us to fund scholarships and bursaries, lab equipment, legacy gifts, networking and career events and online services..

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We invite you to apply for your Mohawk College Alumni Association Mosaik MasterCard today! Thank you for supporting Mohawk College.

Why was Mosaik MasterCard chosen to be our affinity credit card?

Your alumni association endorses products and services that we believe are of benefit to our alumni. After carefully researching our options, we found that the Mosaik MasterCard offered the best value-added proposition in the affinity credit card marketplace because it enables you to customize your credit card to suit your needs. For further information on Mosaik MasterCard and to apply, see the ad in this issue or visit bmo.com/mosaik/mohawk.

Why should I participate in the Mosaik MasterCard program?

Mosaik MasterCard is a quality product that offers you customized benefits including a choice of loyalty features such as the AIRMILES®† Reward Program. Even better, every time you use your card to make a purchase, a financial contribution is made to the alumni association which uses the funds to support the college, its alumni and its students. It's another way of giving back to your alma mater.

How will I be kept informed about our Mosaik MasterCard program?

The alumni association and the college regularly contact alumni by mail, phone and email to present opportunities and information that we feel will be of benefit to you. We may use any of these methods to inform you about the Mohawk College Alumni Association Mosaik MasterCard.

How will my personal information be handled in regard to affinity programs?

The college is at all times responsible for safeguarding your information. We never release it directly to our affinity partners. When you are contacted about this program, it will be through professional marketing companies who have signed a confidentiality agreement. To read a full privacy statement, please visit www.mohawkcollege.ca.

I prefer not to receive affinity program mailings or phone calls. What can I do?

If you do not wish to be contacted personally about our Mosaik MasterCard Affinity Program, please contact the Mohawk College Alumni Association at (905)575-2258, or by email at alumni@mohawkcollege.ca.

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Mohawk College President
MaryLynn West-Moynes

STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

There's a new plan for Mohawk - and we're all part of the picture

by Kate Schooley

WANTED: PURVEYOR OF INSPIRATION

Successful candidate will demonstrate academic excellence & business savvy, with unfailing leadership and integrity in all areas of conduct. Exemplary citizenship qualities needed for community-wide relationship building. Lifelong commitment required.

It's a job description that would give pause to the most notable of institutions, especially in a climate of heavy competition and funding cuts. But for Mohawk College, stepping up to the plate as a source of community inspiration is about to become part of the daily agenda, as the Board of Governors unveils its new Strategic Plan for 2004-2007.

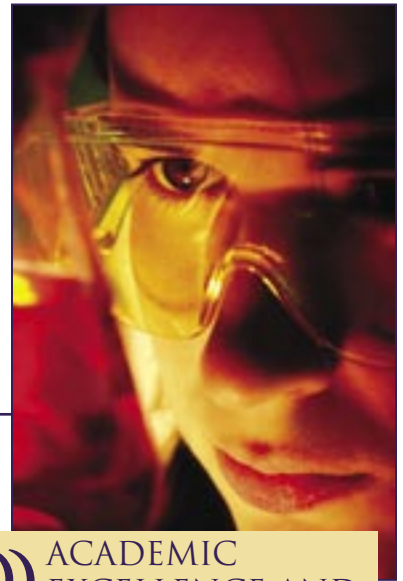
"If we were in the manufacturing world, our programs would be our product," says President MaryLynn West-Moynes. "You can't forget this is an academic environment, but you have to apply business qualities here. The bottom line is, you've got to have a product that is of the highest quality, meeting the needs of students and employers."

Still fresh in the tenure of her presidency, West-Moynes is adamant in her belief that post-secondary institutions have to change to respond to the needs of their community. By building on areas of strength and addressing the College's self-admitted downfalls, a plan has begun to take shape that will change the face of the Mohawk experience. Students and learning are -- of course -- at the heart of it all, with an emphasis on employers, economic growth and campus renewal as well. In short, the College is preparing for an overhaul that will make it indispensable to the surrounding business community.

"The results will be quality education and consolidation at Mohawk," West-Moynes notes. "In the face of shrinking government funding, we need businesses,

alumni and retirees to play a role. We're trying to encourage groups to become a part of making Mohawk the top institution in the community."

The Strategic Plan will employ six cornerstones in its campus-wide revitalization:



1 THE COLLEGE OF CHOICE - THE CHAMPION OF STUDENTS

Any campus newcomer taken aback by the school's rampant urban sprawl will be pleased to discover that Mohawk has adopted an attitude of "one-stop shopping" with regard to student services. Timetable effectiveness and class sizes will be reviewed from the perspectives of both students and faculty. A College-wide working group will also be commissioned to investigate issues such as student mobility, success and retention -- and they will face a reporting deadline of March 2005.

2 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

Re-designing programs to fit employment opportunities and boosting real-life work experience are just a few of the ways that Mohawk plans entrench its ranking among the top third of Ontario colleges. Strategic developments aim to increase the accessibility of programs for mature learners, English as a Second Language and international students, the disabled and Aboriginal groups.





3 THE EMPLOYER OF CHOICE - EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The drive is on for Mohawk to recruit top instructors who can offer exceptional customer service, creativity and market-relevant skills. In return, the College will offer opportunities for personal and professional growth, mentoring and continuing education.



4 ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

With community responsibilities that extend beyond the needs of individual students, Mohawk plans to expand services for the business community at large. The College's current role of employee training and staff involvement with community boards and initiatives will be brought to the forefront.



5 CAMPUS RENEWAL AND EXPANSION

Aligning student services and beautifying the campus, along with a re-affirmation to the commitments of campus safety and accessibility aim to make Mohawk's campus a more pleasant atmosphere for staff and students. Expansion opportunities at the Fennel and Stoney Creek campuses are currently under review, with plans underway to strengthen the school's Brantford presence as well.



6 QUALITY FRAMEWORKS

The last cornerstone of the Plan is what West-Moynes sums up simply as "good business practices." By adhering to a formalized decision-making framework, the Board of Governors aims to reduce redundancy and streamline the implementation process.

A push to increase external communications to the GTA and Golden Horseshoe are expected to boost the effectiveness of student recruitment efforts and public awareness campaigns. And by prioritizing relationships with campus organizations and employers,

the perks of Mohawk's networking base can be brought to bear as the changes get underway.

According to West-Moynes, it's all about improving the quality of services offered to the student body. "Students have to be at the forefront of everything

we're doing. They're going to be at the forefront of the workforce, making a difference in the community. We're doing all we can to help them succeed when they get here – and to prepare them for a progressive career in the future." ■

Peter Rakoczy offers IT Services to the world – along with a little sage advice



WORDS TO LIVE BY

by Kate Schooley

“Don’t let things happen to you. Make things happen.”

These sound words have shaped the career of Mohawk graduate Peter Rakoczy, whose walk-the-talk style has made him an international player in the world of IT business.

Since his graduation from Mohawk in 1980, Rakoczy hasn’t stopped to cool his heels. In fact, his love of learning and drive to be challenged have launched him onto the international technology scene as the new GM of Worldwide Microsoft Consulting Services Strategy.

“Worldwide Services’ primary mission is to deliver high-quality services and transfer knowledge to customers and partners, in order to accelerate the adoption, deployment and long-term acceptance of Microsoft products, technologies and solutions that drive significant business value and satisfaction,” explains Rakoczy. “I am responsible for leading the development and communication of Microsoft Consulting Services (MCS) with supporting value propositions and

offerings to meet market needs. I have responsibility for the acceleration of Microsoft technology adoption, through the leadership and management of Accelerator Teams, focused on strategic ‘go to’ markets.”

Even hearing the job description makes information technology neophytes glad to have Rakoczy in their

corner. And as the explosive growth of the IT industry continues to propel his career forward, this Control Systems Technology/Computer Electronics graduate credits his Mohawk education for providing a solid educational basis from which to grow.

“Mohawk provided me with a good foundation of computing fundamentals and a pragmatic approach. The co-op program was particularly instrumental in demonstrating the application of education to a work environment. It provided me with a great stepping-stone into the working world, and I appreciate what it gave me. The co-op

“Mohawk provided me with a good foundation of computing fundamentals and a pragmatic approach.”

program provides unique views into a variety of companies and career paths, which gives you a running start into the working world.

It was this “running start” that first launched Rakoczy’s career. He was offered a full-time job at Royal Bank of

“It is important that your family understands and supports what you do. I am fortunate to have that support.”



Peter and his three children enjoying some time together

Canada at the end of his final co-op work term at Mohawk, and stayed there for the next 12 years. In his position, he was able to work with a variety of small technology companies, and was impressed with the way they operated.

“It was at Royal Bank where I worked with LinkAge Software as a client and really liked the commitment and professionalism of the team. I approached the president about a role at LinkAge, and he took me up on it. LinkAge was a great small company with many talented people, and I had to learn to wear many hats.”

And it was at LinkAge where the future of Rakoczy’s career began to take shape.

“LinkAge was on a growth path through the development of essential e-mail connectivity software to Microsoft’s Exchange. Microsoft was deciding whether to develop their own equivalent software or acquire it from another company. They chose the latter

in 1997 after an intense period of due diligence.”

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Though he hadn’t thought much about working for Microsoft previously, Rakoczy says he had grown to respect the company and where it was heading. With his combination of large customer and small technology company experience – along with his expertise in enterprise computing – Rakoczy knew he would be a good fit.

Once on board, he was assigned the role of Managing Consultant with a worldwide Microsoft consulting practice focused on e-mail connectivity, called EC3. He rose steadily through the Microsoft ranks: Practice Manager of Microsoft Consulting Services in Toronto in 1998, Senior Practice Manager of the Canada-wide division in 1999. By 2002, he had reached the level of Senior Director of Enterprise Services in Canada, where he stayed until earlier this year, before becoming the GM

of Worldwide Microsoft Consulting Services Strategy.

Now based in Redmond, Washington, 46-year-old Rakoczy admits the climb has been a rewarding one, albeit hard work.

“It is extremely busy I must confess, as Microsoft is a very intense work environment. The culture is one of passion and commitment, and people are compelled to work very hard. It isn’t demanded, it just happens.”

But as a married father of three, he understands the need to balance this dedication to his career with the ever-present demands of family life.

“It is important that your family understands and supports what you do. I am fortunate to have that support. My wife is a part-time, Deputy Small Claims Court Judge, but spends the majority of her time at home with our three children. This makes it possible for me to spend the time I do on my work. I manage balance by ensuring that I am

PETER'S “WORDS TO LIVE BY”:

home each night to spend a couple of hours with the kids. After they go to bed, I usually do e-mail and other work from my home office. On the weekends, I am focused on being a husband and father, although I am back on the computer Sunday evenings.

My position requires travel, which presents an opportunity and a challenge. When I have to travel – which is typically one week per month – I stay in daily contact with my family by phone, e-mail, messenger and web cam. Would I like to spend more time with my family? Absolutely – but the reality of the industry is that there are demands for long hours. I also believe in a strong work ethic and wish to be a good role model for my children in this regard, but not at their expense. I believe it works for us because I love what I do at Microsoft, am committed to my family, and have their support.”

When asked about the secrets of his success, Rakoczy replies that there are many. He has composed a list of tips, in fact, that he follows in his career:

“Be observant, and continuously learn. Your education continues after you graduate from Mohawk. Love what you do, and it doesn't seem like work.”



Even aside from his impressive career accomplishments, Rakoczy's fervent love of his work makes him a standout and a mentor in the business world. He enjoys working with talented people and exciting technology. He gets as much satisfaction from watching those around him develop and get stronger as he does from his own contributions. And he cites one of the greatest joys of his work as the chance to learn and be challenged.

“Be observant, and continuously learn. Your education continues after you graduate from Mohawk. Love what you do, and it doesn't seem like work.”

What a wonderful notion indeed. It's the kind of advice that should be written in fine print at the bottom of every Mohawk diploma. ■

1. Do what you love to do.
2. Be realistic about your own strengths and weaknesses and develop both.
3. Be accountable and acknowledge mistakes.
4. Make decisions for the right reasons – do the right thing. Career advancement is a by-product of doing a great job in your current role – not the end in itself.
5. Observe the best traits of everyone you come across and decide which traits to emulate.
6. Develop your own style based on your unique combination of capabilities.
7. Take some risks and be uncomfortable.
8. Accept feedback without being defensive.
9. Be pragmatic.
10. Help to develop people around you through constructive feedback and coaching.
11. Recognize when it is time to take a stand, and then take the stand with passion - Pick your spots.
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Movin' on Up!



Renovations at the Student Centre reflect how the MSA has become among the most active and progressive student governments in the Ontario college system.

By Lynn E. James

"It was time."

That's the feeling in the Mohawk Student's Association (MSA) as they oversee the renovations currently going on in the Student Centre.

Originally built in the eighties, the Student Centre was the first of its kind to be incorporated onto a community college campus. Constructed on the west side with accessibility from the residence, the student parking lot and from inside the college via the E Wing hallway, its location is in a visible, high traffic area with a large, attractive main entrance.

began to change. The SUC, which had operational control in the Student Centre, merged with the Student's Representative Council (SRC) in 1994 and became the now more familiar Mohawk Student's Association (MSA). The SUC had already created a corporate structure for the administration of the centre and now, student government was fully in control of what they wanted the centre to provide. These associations laid the groundwork for the extensive list of services available to the full-time student population, but creating awareness of this support became

The services, which include such things as free legal advice, emergency loans, a student health plan, a student food bank and used book sales, are an important part of the MSA's devotion to the welfare of Mohawk students.

Retail operations, located directly inside the centre, were created by the Student's Union Corporation (SUC was the original name of the Students' Association) to increase its revenue from operations, which in turn, would continue to finance student services. Total building costs, in 1985 dollars, ran about \$4 million.

As time went by, the students, the college and the economics of the times

more difficult as the college grew.

"We want more students to find us easily, take advantage of the services and always find other students there," is the sentiment expressed by Kyle Smith, President of the MSA. Improving the profile of the MSA, and grabbing students' attention were among the motives for executing the renovations. The services, which include such things as free legal advice, emergency

loans, a student health plan, a student food bank and used book sales, are an important part of the MSA's devotion to the welfare of Mohawk students. "We wanted something different, eye-catching, to let people know we are here to serve them."



With planning taking several years and different MSA boards, the timing and financial opportunities finally allowed the commencement of work. Morgan Seele, current Alumni President, was on the MSA board during this exciting time. They identified that the upper level of the centre, specifically the media centre, was inadequate for the fully operational newspaper, advertising agency, and radio station. The administrative offices too, were disconnected and hidden from view making it more difficult for students to find, and use, the many services the MSA provides. Some upgrades, like the renovations to the Cellar in 1999 and the Arnie in 2000 had to take priority but

Gone is the interminable white line of the old, hard to find corridor that most students simply passed by on their way in and out. Doorways and walls are now slightly staggered and angled with more interior windows and an open, welcoming design.

finally, this year, the dream of changes finally made it off the board table and the drawing board, and are becoming reality.

Key in the renovation's mandate were visibility and accessibility of the administrative and media offices. Although they occupy the same amount of space as before, gone are the eighties style boxy rooms; gone is the interminable white line of the old, hard-to-find corridor that most students simply passed by on their way in and out. Doorways and walls are now slightly staggered and angled with more interior windows and an open, welcoming design. What was formerly




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Pictured above: (L) Lou Molinero, C101.5 FM DJ, Wednesdays 9-4; (Centre-inset) Cover of the C10

wasted space has been re-configured and re-assigned and will also include more student area in the way of a quiet study lounge. The entire concept encourages student traffic.

Students arriving at the Student Centre preparing to enter the campus for the fall semester, (still known as G Wing in the college) will soon be greeted with glass walls revealing not only brand new, spacious reception areas, but they will be able to watch the MSA's functioning FM radio station, C101.5, in full swing.

"It's leading-edge radio technology in a college environment," says a proud Les Palango, Station Manager and one of the full-time administrative staff employed by the MSA. Mohawk College graduates from the early eighties (Yes - we know who you are!) will remember the fledgling station broadcasting only into the C Wing student lounge. Later, with the help of cable, and a real broadcast booth looking high over the Arnie in the new Student Centre, CHMR began broadcasting to the great big world outside the campus. Now, as C101.5 FM it operates as an instructional station with a look and sound indistinguishable from its professional counterparts. The design of the new space will mimic the "store front" style now being employed at

Now, as C101.5 FM it operates as an instructional station with a look and sound indistinguishable from its professional counterparts. The design of the new space will mimic the "store front" style now being employed at other mainstream stations.

other mainstream stations.

Palango manages a staff of about 50 students and volunteers that include alumni who still come back and voluntarily host weekly radio shows. Once a Radio Broadcasting student himself, Palango was offered his first radio job while in his second year of the program. Debating his future, he turned to his then instructor and mentor, Norm Marshall, who gave this simple advice – "Take it!" Now he is a student mentor and instructor himself in a station that prides itself in promoting the alternative music of local talent. Earlier this year, as a celebration of their fifth year as a FM station they produced their own CD, "Sounds of the Hammer,"

a compilation of bands making a name for themselves in the Hamilton and surrounding area.

Adjacent to C101.5FM will be a fully digitized Satellite, the MSA-sponsored student newspaper. The Satellite is an institution of sorts, beginning its days as "Opus" when Mohawk was still known as the Hamilton Institute of Technology or HIT. Many alumni will remember it fondly as it evolved into "The Phoenix" in the eighties. As The Satellite, it is produced and distributed weekly to each of Mohawk's campuses. Adline, the advertising agency, was conceived and is continuing to be run by advertising students, who help design and sell the bread and butter advertising for the media centre.

Across the hall, close to its original position, will be the main reception area and offices for the Student Centre managers and co-ordinators, who count among themselves several Mohawk College alumni, including Wendy Rolfe, Student Services Co-ordinator, who was a Director on our own Alumni board and helped establish the 25-Year Club reunion. The MSA executive, board offices and boardroom will continue to be side by side with the full-time staff with whom they commune on daily basis. Earlier this year, Heath Hall, (named after Ray Heath,

one of the founding members of the SUC, Corporate Secretary and Advisor to the Association for 30 years) was opened for student use. Its retro style booths and mellow, plum coloured atmosphere also boasts a big screen TV.

While the Student Centre renovations will help it become more accessible to students, it also demonstrates the level of professionalism that has been achieved by many years of active student government. Not only does it run a fully, self-contained entertainment complex and media centre, it is also an active member of the College Student Alliance, a group of Canadian college student leaders who are actively advocating for better solutions to the hardships facing Ontario college students. Its Board of Directors includes the MSA's current VP of Finance, Keith Burt, who is also overseeing the nearly \$1 million renovation budget.

The MSA continues to be the pride of the Mohawk College Alumni Association which, for 20 years, was a recipient of its ongoing success as one of its funded subsidiaries. Several of the MSA's past presidents and board members joined the alumni association's board after graduating and continue to devote their time to ensuring the delivery of services and activities to their fellow graduates. ■

Email Contest

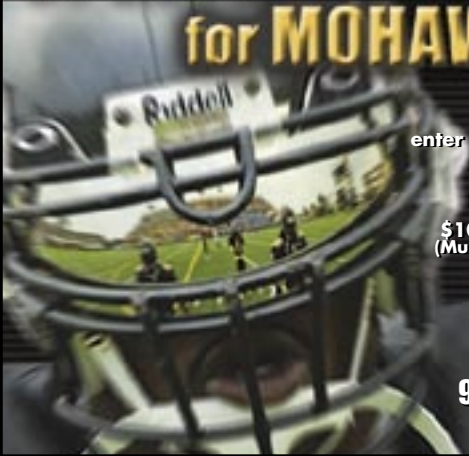
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turn
up the

HEAT

By: ANGUS GILLESPIE

In Touch caught up with Mohawk alumnus Chris Dennis during the dog days of summer in early August just after he'd returned from vacation. A quick scan of the 300 waiting emails was his stark reminder it was time to get back to work at H & S Heat Treating, a company he co-owns.

For over three decades, H & S Heat Treating in Port Robinson at the south end of Thorold has been providing industries with a single source of complete, highly efficient and reliable services relative to their very diverse heat treating requirements.

The company was purchased 35 years ago by Chris's parents, Phil and Fran Dennis, and now their sons Colin, who is president and Chris, vice president of sales and marketing, handle day-to-day operations. Chris assumes the same title at a sister company called Nitrex Metal Technologies in Burlington. Both companies are co-owned by the brothers and their brother-in-law David Orosz, who serves as Nitrex Metal Technologies president.

Chris took the Metallurgical Engineering Technology course from 1976 to 1979 at Mohawk and says there's no doubt his father had a large impact on the direction his career path would follow.

It all began innocently enough in 1969, after a friend from the local Lion's

Club, who was a real estate salesman, had casually approached Phil Dennis. A light industrial plant was for sale in Welland, and Phil was asked for advice on where to list such a property, having worked as an engineer for much of his life. The 2,500 square-foot company was called H&S Heat Treating. The two main principals were at loggerheads over how the

The entire experience at Mohawk was extremely rewarding, from the in-class instruction to playing sports and participating in social activities on campus.

company should move forward. When it became apparent the stalemate couldn't be resolved, it was decided they would each sell their stake in the operation and move on in separate directions to pursue other ventures.

The timing was perfect for Phil. Three years earlier he had moved his family back to Pelham after spending three years in Switzerland where he represented Atlas Steels in both Europe and Asia.

while and Phil had often thought of going into business for himself. That's exactly what he did.

By the mid 1970s, H & S Heat Treating was looking to expand operations, having outgrown its small industrial space. But when the company went looking at options for expansion, although supported by Welland City Council, the

newly passed zoning by-laws prohibited any further expansion at that location.

In 1975, H & S relocated its operations to a larger 5,000 square-foot facility in Port Robinson. Equipment was added, and the company expanded its market focus. The core capabilities were also extended to meet the most critical application needs, such as those associated with the nuclear and aerospace industries. In the years that followed, H & S grew with

the companies it served, in some cases, extending or replacing customers' in-house heat treating capabilities with H & S services.

After high school, Chris followed in his father's footsteps and those of his older brother Colin, who is a PEng in Metallurgy, with a degree from Queen's University in Kingston. With no hesitation whatsoever, he says the entire experience at Mohawk was extremely rewarding, from the in-class instruction to playing sports and participating in social activities on campus.

"The course is now called Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Mohawk," notes Chris, who remains on the advisory committee for the program. Meetings are held twice a year with successful graduates of the school providing suggestions on what aspects of the course school officials should focus to ensure today's students are up-to-date with the latest technologies and methodologies. "I started as a student rep and when I graduated they asked me to come in."

"When I took the course back in the

1970s there were only 12 to 14 kids who graduated," Chris recalls. "About 20 kids started in first year, but by third year they

"It was definitely a hands-on course," Chris confirms. "We had our own foundry for casting and we were able to cast our own beer mugs and ash trays."

had branched off into other areas. But there were at least 40 jobs available, so finding work was not difficult."

"It was definitely a hands-on course," Chris confirms. "We had our own foundry for casting and we were able to cast our own beer mugs and ash trays. Dr. Dedo headed up the program, which was excellent. It prepared us well for the real

world. A bunch of my friends ended up working at either Dofasco or Stelco."

As demanding as the course was, Chris felt it was important to keep a balanced lifestyle. He enjoyed athletics and a social life, and put his 6'1" frame to good use, playing three years on the men's basketball team and serving as team captain in his last year. "Wes Hicks was our coach that year, and we had a lot of fun."

"I lived near campus and the old Arnold Centre was a great place to hang out," Chris remembers. "Back then it was the old one and it was about the size of a fruit cellar. A friend named Botch and I hung out there on Saturday nights and flung beer."

Another of Chris's interesting school activities involved harness racing. "We never really had any training," he notes. "I got to represent Ontario at Lower Sackville Downs, just outside Halifax, Nova Scotia, during the 1978-79 season which was a lot of fun. We also raced in London and Kawartha Downs in Peterborough."

Chris recalls that H & S was still quite small when he graduated and so his father,



Chris Dennis shows off H&S's new Bar Straightening machine to be used for a new project starting in January.

brother and he took part in all aspects of the business. "I started in production, then went to quality control," Chris says. "As the company grew, it was evident I had the gift of gab, so my dad pointed me in the direction of marketing and sales. It seemed like a natural fit for me." The company now has a staff of about 60.

A significant landmark year for H & S Heat Treating was 1990, when Nitrex Metal Technologies was created. The principals who got the new venture off the ground were; Chris, his father Phil and brother-in-law David. It began in a small corner of H & S' facilities, but within five years had outgrown that and was moved to its current Burlington location. Nitrex Metal Technologies has about 35 employees, and has become one of the largest single-service heat-treating shops in North America. Each year Nitrex Metal Technologies uses co-op students from Mohawk while H & S Heat Treating elicits the help of students from Niagara College as well as Mohawk, some of whom have gone on to attain full-time employment with the companies over the

years. In 1995, H & S began production at a 10,000-square foot location in Barrie. The Barrie facility grew to over 26,000 square feet, and was primarily responsible for performing induction (high & low

"As the company grew, it was evident I had the gift of gab, so my dad pointed me in the direction of marketing and sales. It seemed like a natural fit for me."

frequency) and deep-case carburizing services. For strategic purposes the plant was closed in December, 2001 with various production aspects moved to Port Robinson to consolidate operations.

Another big year was 1999 when H

& S achieved its QS9000 and ISO9002 Registration. "Rigid testing, inspection procedures and SPC techniques are employed throughout H & S' operations," Chris notes. "This ensures adherence to customer specifications and consistently high levels of product quality and performance."

In the year 2000, a new era began at H & S Heat Treating, with the introduction of CNC machining to the plant floor. The CNC machining is part of a special project between H & S and one of its key customers. The project incorporates induction heat treating with CNC machining via a customized robot.

Today, both H & S and Nitrex Metal Technologies are involved with multi-million dollar upgrades for new automotive contracts.

Chris lives in Fenwick, Ontario, just south of St. Catharines, with his wife Dana, 17-year-old son Tyler and 14-year-old daughter Brittany. As for his father Phil, who is now 78, he likes to spend his free time flying his vintage 1948 Stinson airplane. ■

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A FIGHTER, A FRIEND

Mohawk mourns the passing of MPP Dominic Agostino



Hamilton-East Liberal MPP Dominic Agostino had a lifelong passion for politics. Even as a young city councillor in Hamilton, the Mohawk graduate imagined himself sitting in Queen's Park. His bulldog political style and ready wit earned him a reputation as an outstanding Liberal legislator with a true calling for public service. Hailed as a fighter for the disadvantaged, he will be remembered in Hamilton and across the province as a man who stood by his politics and his principles.

Agostino, 43, died March 24, 2004, of liver cancer.

Born in Italy, Agostino was the son of a steelworker who came to Hamilton at the age of nine. He was educated at the Cathedral Boys High School and graduated from the Social Service Worker Program at Mohawk College before working as a rehabilitation counsellor with the Ontario March of Dimes.

Around the Mohawk campus, Dominic left a strong impression. Dick Capling, a retired professor, as well as Chair and Dean of the College, remembers:

"In the classroom, he came across as both naïve and trusting – he always believed he could do something. He was very genuine, very serious, and thoroughly liked by those around him."

Agostino gained notice quickly after graduating from Mohawk. At only 20 years of age, he was elected as a trustee to the Hamilton-Wentworth Separate School Board, where he served three terms.

He was elected to Hamilton City Council and Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Council in a by-election in 1987, and was re-elected in 1988, 1991 and 1994. As alderman, in addition to chairing numerous committees and task forces, he served as chair of the Regional Health and Social Services Committee

for five years.

In 1995, Agostino was elected to the Ontario legislature as a member of provincial parliament for Hamilton-East, and was re-elected in 1999 and 2003. He served as critic for community and social services, environment and labour, management board and housing; he also served as chief whip of the official opposition. Since October 2003, he acted as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment under Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Agostino gained his reputation as a political fighter early. Following his 1995 election as an MPP for Hamilton-East, the feisty politician had to be sworn into office a month after his fellow Liberal colleagues. He refused to take an oath that swore allegiance only to the monarchy, insisting that he wanted to add Canada to the pledge. Eventually, he swore two separate oaths in order to take his seat.

When he ran for office again in last October's election, Agostino was sidelined with pneumonia in the early days of the race, orchestrating part of his campaign from his hospital bed while his team continued on the trail without him. He was released from hospital and promptly re-elected for a third term, and was also appointed parliamentary assistant by Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky.

Respect for his work ran through the Ontario legislature and across party lines. Among his closest friends was John Baird, a PC Member of Provincial Parliament from Nepean-Carleton, who paid homage to Agostino's unfailing commitment to his community:

"Dominic was someone who was tremendously proud of his background, tremendously proud of his hometown of Hamilton and the east end of Hamilton, who had elected him for some 22 years,

far longer than I even realized when I first became friends with Dominic. They returned him in every election for a reason. He never forgot who sent him, whether it was on the school board or at city council or in this place.

"He was a small-l liberal's Liberal. He cared passionately about the disadvantaged. I can tell you that in our first year in government he was Mike Harris' worst nightmare. He never, regardless of the political consequences, backed down from fighting for what he believed in, whether it was popular or not."

Fred Deys remembers Dominic well. "I met Dominic on a number of occasions. He was outgoing and confident. He was good at what he did. He enjoyed meeting people. He helped the average person whenever he could. He was passionate about public life. With the President's new emphasis on citizenship, I can't think of a person who better exemplifies the qualities that we would like to instill in our students more than Dominic"

Agostino's sudden death came as a shock -- few people outside his family and staff even knew that he was seriously ill. And when the news came at Queen's Park, politicians across the board had difficulty accepting the loss of their energetic colleague.

In his eulogy, McGuinty celebrated Agostino's commitment to his work, noting how much he loved a political battle. Among other political figures at his funeral were former provincial premiers Ernie Eves and David Peterson, and current New Democratic leader Howard Hampton.

Agostino leaves behind his mother Theresa, brother Ralph, sister Mary and his beloved nieces and nephews.

We at Mohawk College will miss him dearly – and extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends. ■

Where are they now?

Applied Music

Laura Thomas

(1981 Applied Music)

Upon graduating from Mohawk College, Laura earned her Bachelor of Music degree from McMaster University ('86), then joined the Niagara Symphony as Principal Percussionist. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Conducting ('03). Laura is a Conductor for the Junior Niagara Youth Orchestra, Camerata (Hamilton Suzuki School), and is currently Associate Conductor with the Niagara Symphony.

Business Studies

Michael Genery

(1997 Business Studies)

Michael is currently employed at Standard Parking of Canada Ltd. as an Assistant Manager. On September 8, 2003, Michael proposed to Rebecca Morelli with plans to marry on June 4, 2005. Best wishes to Michael and Rebecca!

Cindy Swanson

(1983 Business Accounting)

Cindy is currently the General Manager of Enterprise Brant, a community futures corporation. Through Continuing Education programs at Mohawk College,



Cindy has developed her skills in human resources, computers and public relations. She has chaired and held many Board positions in her community.

Presently, Cindy is an active Board member on the Mohawk College Board of Governors.

Kathleen (Newman) Russell

(1998 Office Administration-Executive)

Kathleen works at The Synapse Group as an Office Administrator. Kathleen and Glen were married on June 9, 2001. They have a daughter, Meghan, born on May 5, 2002.

Lori Wright

(2001 Office Administration)



Lori is currently employed at the Mohawk-McMaster Institute for Applied Health Sciences in the Continuing Education Department, as an Assistant (Access for MLT). On September 27, 2003, Lori married Edward Wright, a Mohawk student, who will complete the Computer Engineering Technology Program in September 2004.

Child and Youth Worker

Kristina Tadijanovich

(2004 Child and Youth Worker)

Kristina is currently employed at St. Leonard's Community Services, Albion Street Residence as a Residential Counsellor. On February 14, 2004, Raymond Guthrie proposed to Kristina with plans to marry in July 2005. Best wishes to Kristina and Raymond!

Katrina (Connell) Fleming

(1997 Child and Youth Worker)

After graduation, Katrina was employed at the Hamilton Children's Aid Society (CAS) and Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS). Katrina re-located to New Brunswick, where she worked as a Child and Youth Worker for three years. In 2001, Katrina and her husband moved

to China to teach and travel. They recently moved to Edmonton where she works as a Child and Youth Worker at Bosco Homes. The couple have a one-year old daughter named Fiona.

Early Childhood Education

Michelle (Montague) Czarkowski

(1992 Early Childhood Education)

After graduation, Michelle attended and graduated from Brock University's Linguistics Program. In 1996, Michelle married Richard Czarkowski, and in 1998 gave birth to their son, Hudson. Michelle works for the Region of Durham with the Central East Preschool Autism Services. She is a Senior Therapist and now supervises six staff and five clinical programs. In February 2004, a daughter, Taylor Isobel, was born. Michelle's future goal is to complete her Master's in Behavioural Sciences.

Jodi (Stark) Walsh

(1995 Early Childhood Education)

Jodi has been married for nine years, has three boys and lives in Port Rowan. Jodi has been out of touch with classmates and would like to be updated. She says "hello" and wants to hear from you. Jodi's email address is sjwalshandboys@aol.com

Engineering Technology

Ted Billiald

(1979 Motive Power Technology)

After graduating from Mohawk College, Ted worked at International Harvester Canada in the Engineering Department. In 1984, Ted moved to Muskoka to work for Muskoka Ready-Mix and is currently Plant Manager. Ted and wife, Brenda, have two sons, ages 19 and 22. Ted's family enjoys their lakefront property on Long Lake, near Charlton, Ontario.

Bronko Jazvac

(1978 Industrial Management Technology)

Bronko began his career in the Graduate Training Program at Dofasco in 1978, and has held the position of General Manager of Manufacturing Services since



1998. Bronko has served as Niagara District Chair and two-time National Board of Directors member of the Association of Iron and Steel Technology. He is a long-time member of the Ontario Association of Certified Technologists

and Technicians and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Mohawk College Board of Governors.

Law and Security

Chris Pomay
(1996 Law and Security)

Chris has been employed for over five years in a high level security position for Mohawk Racetrack. Skills gained from the Mohawk College Law and Security Program assisted Chris to ease through his on-the-job training.

Chris enjoys his job, but most particularly enjoys working with the public. Chris is proud to be a Mohawk grad and would like to keep in touch with his classmates from the 1994-1996 Law and Security Program. Chris can be contacted at cdp_19@hotmail.com

Liberal Studies

Jady Klyve
(1991 Liberal Studies)



Jady graduated from the Liberal Studies Certificate Program in 1991 and received her Career Consultant Advanced Certificate through Continuing Education in 2002. Jady is a McMaster University Sociology alumnus currently working at Mohawk College as an Employment Advisor, teaching in the Career Consultant Program. "With an education, the sky is the limit!"

Nursing

Valerie Woolvett
(1975 Nursing)
Valerie graduated from the first Diploma Nursing Program at Mohawk College. She moved to Galveston, Texas, for a few years, then onto Seattle, Washington. Valerie is currently employed at the University of Washington Medical Centre, as an RN II, for the In-Patient Rehabilitation Unit, specializing in CVA, TBI, SCI. She has held this position for more than 20 years.

Keeping In Touch Contest www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni alumni@mohawkcollege.ca

Keep in touch! Send in a brief update* about yourself, your family, or your career. Several updates will be randomly selected and published in the In Touch Magazine's Spring 2005 issue. You will receive a gift if your update is published! Please submit your updates (40-50 word update, with photo if possible) by **e-mail at alumni@mohawkcollege.ca** or by **fax at 905-575-2443**. Contest closes November 15, 2004. Winners will be notified in January 2005.

We want to keep you "In Touch" with all our Mohawk Grads. Please help us by filling out the following information form. You can also reach us at our website www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni or by **email at alumni@mohawkcollege.ca**.

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 *Gradvisor – An Alumnus who is interested in lending a hand to fellow Alumni, and/or students at Mohawk College.

Are you getting married? Starting a family? Have a new job or promotion? Looking for an old classmate? Let us know what is going on in your life and, if possible, throw in a photo!

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reflections on the Mohawk Experience

Architectural Alumni

“STEEL”

the Spotlight

By Kym McCreary-Stewart



As a student of Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology, you have probably passed it a hundred times, wandering the grounds of the Fennell Campus. For the greater part of the last 31 years, it has sat on the grass just north of the West 5th entrance. It is one of those campus landmarks that you see but, well, because it's just part of the “architecture”, you don't really see. If the picture here doesn't conjure up memories, the next time you happen to pass by make sure you have a good look. It is guaranteed to be one of those, “Oh yeah, I remember that thing!” moments.

Designed and erected by one of the first graduating Architectural Technology classes at the newly constructed Fennell Campus, the monument was created in spring 1973. Dubbed “The Steel City Sculpture” by the same group, it remains a quiet testament to all Mohawk's alumni today.

With no visible tribute how do we know this for sure? Gene Stodolak, Mohawk's present-day Director of Co-operative Education and Graduate Employment, knows because he was one of the 19 architecture students who originally embarked on the project. According to Mr. Stodolak, the pre-graduate group concocted the scheme during their final term at Mohawk.

They found themselves spending a great deal of time together since they required access to the necessary crafts of their trade and various other resources only located at the campus. As a result, they became a closely-knit group. It came to them one day as they sat anticipating their futures. They would plan and design a memorial to mark their legacy at Mohawk College and dedicate it back to the community. Mr. Stodolak also credits retired Chair Surjit Mendiratta for inspiring them during their years at the College. “Mohawk was at the forefront of innovation at the time”, says Mr. Stodolak, “and we were anxious to practice our knowledge and skills. Also Chair Mendiratta encouraged us to give back to the community.”

The students each took on tasks within the project, whether it was going out into the community and obtaining the necessary material donations from local businesses and industries, or contributing to the design layout. The welding equipment was borrowed from the College and one Saturday morning in early spring, the cement truck pulled up to Mohawk and the students went to work. The sculpture was erected in one day.

Was permission granted from the necessary administration prior to

undertaking this project? “We felt that it was better to ask forgiveness rather than permission”, responds Mr. Stodolak with a smile.

As for the collective vision of these aspiring architectural technologists, the sculpture is meant to represent The City of Hamilton. The utilization of the steel relates back to Hamilton's long association with the steel industry. The various sizes of cut stacked beams are meant to depict Hamilton's skyline and, similarly, the scattering of nails around the base, symbolizes the people of Hamilton. The structure includes the students' future vision of the City of Hamilton, its growth and development.

When asked if he feels the alumni's original vision is still applicable today, Mr. Stodolak replies, “Definitely, but a metamorphosis has occurred. Hamilton was once primarily the Steel City but is now also recognized for its educational and health focus. The sculpture encompasses this evolution today.”

As for the pomp and ceremony usually associated with these “donations,” there was none. According to Mr. Stodolak, it took a few weeks for anyone to even acknowledge the existence of the structure! Perhaps after almost 31 years, it is time to recognize these talented alumni. ■

Mohawk College Alumni Association



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