

**OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

Innovation is not just in the classroom

**AI IN EDUCATION**

A roundtable view about the possibilities and pitfalls of ChatGPT

**DRIVING INNOVATION AT SLC**

Preparing students for the careers of the future

# voyageur

## THE INNOVATION ISSUE



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**St. Lawrence  
College**

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“By seamlessly integrating VR technology into our teaching, we not only tapped into the tech-savvy inclinations of our students but also engaged the students to be more inquisitive and explorative.”

—Aba Mortley, Professor, Esthetics  
SLC Honorary Diploma Recipient, 2023, page 16

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**ON THE COVER**  
Sam Cowan, Business Admin Marketing student demonstrating VR tech at SLC.



Glenn Vollebregt and his alter-ego Lenn.

# Growth mindset

Embracing innovation for an ever-changing world.

Welcome to another issue of Voyageur, SLC's annual alumni magazine. I'm excited about this edition as it delves into a timely topic: innovation. As you'll see in our feature story, which also introduces Maher Ghalayini, our Senior Vice President, Academic, innovation happens everywhere at SLC. As Maher explains, innovation is about embracing changes in technology and teaching methods which will keep our students engaged and ultimately prepared for their futures, while enhancing their creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Innovation has long been at the core of SLC's identity, shaping our approach to education and preparing our students for the challenges of an ever-evolving world. Our commitment to innovation is not just a strategic choice; it is ingrained as one of our core values and reflected throughout our academic programs and campus life. Innovation is critical for our programs and training to continually reflect the ever-changing needs of employers and industry.

This year also marks a significant milestone for our Animal Health Sciences programs, which proudly turn 50. Our Veterinary Technology and Veterinary Assistant programs are consistently in high demand, and we take great pride in providing this critical education and training. We know our graduates become dedicated

professionals in animal care, and also work in clinical and research labs, applying their skills across a range of positions.

Our Child and Youth Worker/Care program commemorates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, highlighting decades of excellence in preparing compassionate professionals who make a difference in the lives of children and youth. When you consider that SLC is just over 50 years old, these tried-and-true established programs reflect our ongoing commitment to training the professionals our communities need.

The longevity of these programs and success of new programs demonstrate how Ontario needs college graduates and new talent to meet industry needs and for growth. With the programs we offer on our three campuses, and our community of global alumni, which is now more than 120,000 and climbing, we are proud of the talent we see graduating from SLC.

I will close with a note about my photographs for this article—my alter ego “Lenn” also appears, and as you will see in this issue, our convocation videos—one of which Lenn has appeared in—continue to win recognition and awards for how we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. Innovation can be fun, and it is certainly invigorating too. I am proud of the many ways our teams at SLC continually strive to innovate and ensure that our students succeed on their journey to becoming graduates like you at SLC!

Sincerely,

**Glenn Vollebregt, President and CEO**

 @gvollebregt



# St. Lawrence College

The Alumni Relations office exists to encourage positive engagement with our alumni through lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships.

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## The Feed

Celebrating food from around the world!



### A taste of culture

We asked our students what food reminds them of home. Ucheoma Euna Udoha, Health Care Administration, 2022, shares her recipe for Nigerian Jollof Rice.

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups of long-grain parboiled rice
- 1/4 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 can of tomato paste (6 oz)
- 1 large onion finely sliced
- 2 red bell peppers, blended
- 2 fresh tomatoes, blended
- 2 teaspoons of thyme
- 2 teaspoons of curry powder
- 1-2 hot peppers, to taste, blended
- 4 cups of chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon of white pepper (optional)
- 1 bay leaf (optional)
- 2 Knorr cubes
- Salt to taste

#### 1. Prepare the rice

Rinse the rice in cold water until the water runs clear, removing excess starch. Boil for about 10 minutes, then drain well.

#### 2. Prepare the sauce

Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté the sliced onions until they are translucent. Stir in the tomato paste and cook for a few minutes until it darkens slightly. Add the blended red bell peppers, tomatoes, and hot peppers to the pot. Cook until the mixture thickens and the oil begins to separate.

#### 3. Season the sauce

Add thyme, curry powder, white pepper, Knorr cubes,

and a bay leaf to the sauce. Stir well. Season with salt to your taste. Let the sauce simmer on low heat for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

#### 4. Cook the rice

Pour the chicken or vegetable broth into the pot and bring it to a boil. Stir in the parboiled rice, ensuring it's well coated with the sauce. Cover the pot with a tight-fitting lid, reduce the heat to low, and cook for 30 minutes until the rice is tender. Avoid stirring to prevent the rice from becoming mushy.

#### 5. Finish and serve

Once the rice is cooked, turn off the heat and let it sit covered for about 5 minutes to allow the flavours to meld. Remove the bay leaf. Serve the Nigerian Jollof Rice hot, garnished with fresh herbs, sliced onions and tomatoes, fried plantain or coleslaw, if desired.

Enjoy your homemade Nigerian Jollof Rice!

Learn more about our graduates' favourite tastes of home on p.11.



### Where are they now?

Ariane Morin currently serves the agricultural community in the summers as an aerial application pilot in Melfort, Saskatchewan, and winters on her sheep farm in Chesterville, Ontario, working as a freelance welder and agriculture & welding teacher at Tagwi High School.

### Convocation congratulations

“Today, I got to be there while my daughter graduated, same college, different programs.”  
🥳🥳🥳 —Eric Hutton, General Arts and Science, 2009

### A special trip

I am going to Toronto because my first alma mater @stlawrencecollege nominated me for an Ontario Premier's Award for the work I've done with dogs & cats 🐶🐱  
Special thanks to my teacher Jill @professorpipes for putting my name forward. —Natalia Hanson, Veterinary Assistant, 2010 (Premier's Award nominee who returned to Canada from Colombia for 10 days to attend the Premier's Awards ceremony.)

**'Undercover President' welcome to alumni convocation video feedback**  
Brilliant! —Alice Battista, Music Theatre Performance, 2023

Masterpiece —Naomi Koven, Music Theatre Performance, 2023

It's even better the 4<sup>th</sup> time watching. —Jacob Robertson, Fitness and Health Promotion, 2024

Editor's note: video is referenced in President's Message (p.4) and Innovation is Everywhere (p.31).

The Feed may be edited for length and clarity.

# SLC+

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**St. Lawrence  
College**

# SLC Diary

Seen & Heard on Campus



PHOTOGRAPH BY KENT SWIRSKY/PHOTOVISIONS

MILESTONE MOMENT

## Celebrating success: Alpha College's inaugural convocation

On June 21, 2023, St. Lawrence College partner Alpha College hosted their convocation ceremony—the first one done as a standalone event. This vibrant celebration, hosted in Mississauga, gathered nearly 2,000 graduates, their families, friends, faculty members, and SLC and Alpha leaders. The ceremony resonated with joyous cheers and applause from the audience as they witnessed their loved ones crossing the threshold into a new chapter of their lives. →

Did you know? Since SLC formed the partnership with Alpha College, 15,454 students have graduated from Alpha and joined the SLC Alumni community.

In addition to receiving their diploma and congratulations from SLC leaders, graduates were also presented with an SLC Alumni pin as they crossed the stage, welcoming them into the alumni family.

The convocation served as a celebration of the graduates' academic achievements and a poignant reminder of the community that Alpha College fosters for this international student body. Anto Baby, a graduate of the Healthcare Administration program and the ceremony's Valedictorian eloquently expressed the sentiment shared by many students—Alpha College had become a “home away from home.” Graduates of Alpha College go on to pursue careers in business, the computer technology industry, healthcare fields, and more. Convocation ceremonies are a true celebration of students' achievements, and they provide recognition and create memories for all who attend.



Child Care Worker class of 1974.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## 50 years of caring



SLC's Child Care Worker, Child and Youth Worker, and Child and Youth Care graduates and students are commemorating five decades of dedication to nurturing children, youth, and families.

To celebrate this milestone, representatives from the programs are organizing an event on the Kingston campus on May 15, 2024, supported by the Alumni office.

During the event, they will honour the history of the Child and Youth Care field and engage in an evening of music, celebration, and reminiscing. Attendees will also receive a special gift.

If you are a program grad and have any photos you would like to share for the retrospective display, please send them to [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca).

Don't forget to register by May 15 by visiting [stlawrencecollege.ca/cyc-50th-celebration](http://stlawrencecollege.ca/cyc-50th-celebration).



**“We love technology because of its ability to deeply transform an industry for the better, and we see this shared value in the SLC team and everything they do for its student population. Combining academic theory with hands on experience through the Rose Rocket Lab, will be a lethal combo for the next generation of Supply Chain leaders.”**

Justin Baillie  
Co-Founder, Rose Rocket



Anticipation mounts as the Convocation ceremony begins at Alpha.

A GIFT-IN-KIND

# SLC receives gift of specialized software for Supply Chain Management program



There was a celebration as St. Lawrence College renamed a computer lab on the Cornwall campus the “Rose Rocket Lab” after receiving a gift-in-kind of specialized software valued at over \$115,000 from Rose Rocket. This software helps Supply Chain Management students work with industry-leading technology and run advanced logistics simulations.

“This software will allow students to complete all tasks from order entry, dispatch, safety and compliance, right up to and including data analysis to see the impact of the day-to-day operational decisions, preparing them to enter the workforce,” said Carla Kingston-Floyd, Professor, Supply Chain Management.

“I’m so thankful to Rose Rocket for this generous

donation to our College,” said Glenn Vollebregt, SLC President and CEO. “We specialize in preparing graduates for the ever-changing workforce and labour market needs, and this donation will allow our students to work on the most current software available. I’m grateful to our team at SLC, who facilitated this partnership for our current and future students.”

Logistics is vital for the Canadian economy, with Cornwall being a key supply chain hub. The new software was used by Supply Chain Management students beginning in the fall 2023 semester.

Want to learn more about gift-in-kind opportunities? Please contact [development@sl.on.ca](mailto:development@sl.on.ca).



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (OPPOSITE PAGE) KENT SWIRSKY/PHOTOVISIONS, SLC ARCHIVES; ILLUSTRATIONS BY AUDREY MALO

LIFELONG LEARNING

# Micro-credentials offer new pathways



Continuing Education (SLC+) offers micro-credentials—short, competency-based training opportunities that focus on in-demand workplace skills and provide real-world learning experiences. Micro-credentials are for anyone wishing to upskill or reskill or are interested in exploring new and different career opportunities or pathways.

Most micro-credentials are online, so students can learn at their own pace and time, from the comfort of home. Learning is focused to help enhance skills in a short timeframe. SLC+ offers micro-credentials in the areas of skilled trades, health care, hospitality and tourism, logistics, quality assurance and compliance, and more.

Courses can be taken on their own or as part of a series to earn digital badges that demonstrate competencies. Digital badges can be shared with employers and on social platforms to enhance your profile, resume and portfolio. Multiple micro-credentials may serve as pathways to other St. Lawrence College programs.

Learn more at [slcplus.ca](http://slcplus.ca)



**Erin Farrell is the new tri-campus Senior Vice President leading the Corporate Services division, which includes Finance, Risk and Insurance, Facilities Management, and Information Technology Services. Previously the Director of Finance, she was a key contributor to strategic initiatives and helped evolve SLC’s annual budgeting and forecasting processes.**



SCHOOL PRIDE

## SLC Spirit Day



SLC kicked off the new year with a vibrant Spirit Day on January 17, 2024 across our campuses. Students and employees donned SLC gear or the school's red, black, and white colours. It was a day of fun activities and treats, including a hot chocolate bar for the chilly day, photo opportunities with school mascot, Storm, some sweet treats, and Surge reward points for participating. The day was about celebrating being part of SLC, and kicking off the new semester with camaraderie and a healthy dose of SLC spirit.



**Photo op**  
Storm, SLC's mascot, loves the SLC spirit exuded by students and staff as smiles abound, prizes are won, and Surge points are accumulated for participating in activities and offerings.

AT A GLANCE

# Roll call

12,000 + students are enrolled at SLC

Depending on when you graduated, the student body and programs may look very different than when you were studying at SLC. *Voyageur* looks at who our SLC students are for the 2023-24 year.



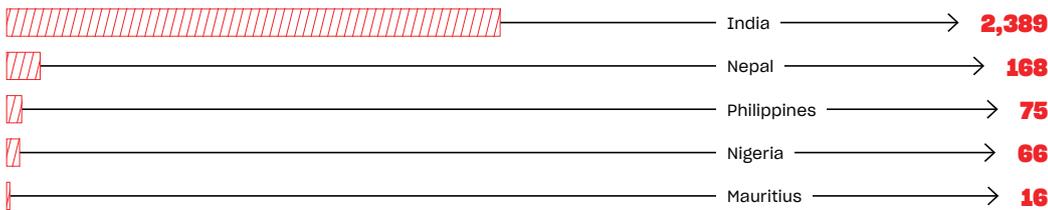
## Where do SLC students come from?



### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



### TOP 5 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



## How many students are studying on each of our three main campuses?

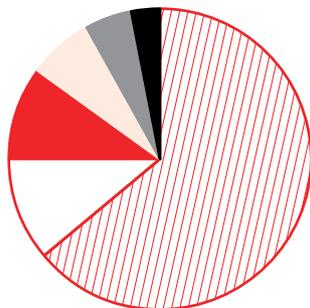
**5,748**  
Kingston

**1,383**  
Cornwall

**715**  
Brockville



## What type of programs are our students taking?



## Our partner Alpha in Toronto

**3,124**

Number of students enrolled with our private partner in Toronto in the 2022-23 academic year.

## In which faculties are our students studying?

**Business (BUS)**  
2,560 students

**Community Services (CS)**  
1,348 students

**Applied Science and Technology (AST)**  
993 students

**Nursing (NURS)**  
952 students

**Trades (TRAD)**  
629 students

**Interdisciplinary Studies and Pathways (ISP)**  
612 students

**Allied Health (AH)**  
464 students

**Arts, Media and Design (AMD)**  
288 students



ASK A PRO

# Navigating the job market

SLC is evolving to meet the needs of students, alumni, and employers. Elaine Lewis, SLC’s Manager, Employment & Career Services, highlights the services offered to help connect job seekers and employers.

## What resources and support does Career Services offer to help graduates find employment in their desired industry?

Grads may not know that Career Services can help alumni customize resumes and cover letters, prepare for job interviews, and develop professional networks for up to six months after graduation. After that, we can refer you to your local Employment Service office for further services. Keep in mind that many interviews, workshops, and job fairs can also be accessed virtually, and our job board is always available for you to browse.

## Are workshops or individualized assistance available to help graduates enhance their resumes and craft effective cover letters?

Graduates needing immediate assistance can schedule a career advising

appointment to address specific needs, including tailoring their foundational resume and cover letter for a particular position.

## Can graduates receive guidance and insights on trends, job market conditions, and opportunities within their specific industry?

Our Career Advisors know the many resources and tools available to conduct labour market research. These tools help graduates identify options, opportunities, and the best paths to pursue for their desired career.

## How can graduates optimize their online presence, to showcase their skills and attract potential employers?

Our career-readiness approach meets students at their point of need in preparing to launch grads into their

careers, which includes helping them optimize their online presence and build their network. Additionally, students have access to LinkedIn Learning for up to one year after graduating, giving them access to many brief courses about building and maintaining their online presence and networking to attract employers. Currents, the SLC alumni portal, can help them meet grads who are willing to help with advice, job seeking, and more.

## What are some challenges with more job seekers using AI to apply for jobs?

Our staff are knowledgeable and can show you the benefits and drawbacks of using AI, like ChatGPT, to generate career tools. AI can be a good start to writing resumes and cover letters but without the personal touch and customization, job seekers risk being overlooked by employers who are increasingly and intentionally choosing resumes that reflect a human tone. It’s important that our students and graduates have the skills to use AI in a way that supports their career journey and not negatively impacts it.

## For our grads that may be hiring or seeking talent, what can you do to support employers?

We have an active and secure job board and can post vacancies and help screen candidates—we also cross-post jobs to the alumni platform, Currents. Additionally, if employers wish to visit one of our campuses, we can arrange opportunities for employers to meet our career-ready students and alumni. We offer job fairs throughout the year and feature employers in classroom or virtual settings for students or alumni who want to learn more about an employer. Reach out and we can help you connect with potential employees!

## How is the job market changing, and what can employers do to respond?

We can help you understand the latest labour market trends and attract strong candidates using many tools available. Many job seekers use social media, ChatGPT, and other virtual tools to find work. We can help employers determine the best way to interact with their target group taking into account the variety of tools available and trends in the job market. ✂

For more information, please visit [stlawrencecollege.ca/services/career-services](http://stlawrencecollege.ca/services/career-services) or our job board [slc.totalhire.com](http://slc.totalhire.com), [currentssl.com](http://currentssl.com).



**MAKKI DI ROTI AND SARSON DA SAAG**

Navtej Singh Athwal  
Business, 2023

I used to help my grandmother to make this Punjabi dish for our family because it needs a good pair of hands to get a delicious mixture of every ingredient used in it. We mix a lot of ingredients manually with a wooden pestle. And I love the feeling of accomplishment after adding the final touches. It makes me feel connected to my family and roots.

# WHAT FOOD REMINDS YOU OF HOME?



SLC's Global Learning Centre recently launched "Taste of Culture"—a tri-campus celebration of food from around the world.

Inspired by this delicious initiative, we asked our alumni to share some of their beloved dishes representing their cultural backgrounds.





“Jollof Rice is a food staple at Nigerian celebrations, known for its delicious, smoky flavour. It’s the star at weddings, birthday parties, and holidays like Christmas. In my house, we gather around this savoury dish weekly, a tradition that keeps us connected.”

**UCHEOMA EUNA UDOHA**  
Health Care Administration, 2022



**MATAR PANEER**

Tanvi Nandani  
Health Care Administration, 2021

Matar Paneer (Paneer and peas curry) was the first dish I learned to cook when I moved to Canada. I remember video calling my mom to teach me how to cook this dish as I felt homesick. We usually eat it with rice or roti. I love how it reminds me of my home and culture!



**RAS MALAI**

Kirandeep Kaur  
Human Resource Management, 2022

It’s a cheese ball dipped in milk, and some milk is added to it, and it’s very sweet and tasty.



**MOQUECA**

Mariana Rosa de Carvalho  
Health Care Administration, 2023

It reminds me of celebration, family, and joy because usually, everybody is happy around a dish of moqueca!

**INDIAN FRY BREAD TACOS AND OLIEBOLLEN**

Shirley Chaisson  
Environmental Technician, 2011

From my Indigenous heritage, Indian Tacos. The fry bread is a bit crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside, then loaded with homemade chili, tomatoes, lettuce, salsa, sour cream, and shredded cheese toppings. Oliebollen is a Dutch treat I was introduced to as a young child and is a New Year’s tradition. The little ‘balls of joy’ are deep-fried to a crispy golden brown and sprinkled with icing sugar. I enjoy them with raisins and/or cranberries.



**MOMOS**

Tenggi Sherpa  
Business - Accounting, 2023

Momos are a beloved dish across Asia, made with a soft dough filled with minced meats or vegetables and seasoned with aromatic herbs and spices. They can be steamed, fried, or pan-seared. It's not just the taste but the experience that feels like home. It's the sight of the dough being skillfully folded, the sizzle as they hit the pan, the laughter shared while waiting for them to cook, and the communal joy of sitting down together to enjoy these delightful dumplings. Momos aren't just a dish; they're a connection to my roots, a reminder of shared traditions and the warmth of home.



**SHAHI PANEER**

Arth Shah  
Environmental Technician, 2021

The spices, the ingredients, and the aroma!



**PUPUSAS**

Maria Bautista  
Business - Marketing, 2015

Originally from El Salvador, these thick, handcrafted tortillas made of corn or rice flour are like bites of pure heaven, stuffed with various fillings—meats, refried beans, and cheese. They are the first thing my family greets me with as soon as I step out of the airport. They are my favourite dish because every bite transports me to happy times with my loved ones. One standout memory is a girls' night with some Salvadoran friends I met at SLC, and we cooked pupusas. Preparing this dish brought us closer together and gave us a mini taste of home.



**“Peanut Butter Balls are something my grandmother made only at Christmas time and was one of my favourite holiday desserts. It involved forming peanut butter balls around maraschino cherries, freezing them, and dipping them in chocolate. Most of my memories of her involve baking and cooking together.”**

**GABBY DECOSTE**

Hospitality and Tourism Management, 2018 and Hospitality Management - Hotel and Restaurant, 2017



Learning,  
hearing, and  
telling their  
stories.

THE BIG PICTURE

# A new Legacy Space

SLC was proud to be the first post-secondary institution in Ontario to create a Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Legacy Space. The grand unveiling took place on Kingston campus on August 28 with members of the Downie and Wenjack families in attendance, honouring the first such space in Gord's hometown. The space is anchored by a vibrant quilt created by Molly Hartin, an expert quilt maker, who has created the quilt, titled "Telling Her Brother's Story" in the image of the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

Legacy Spaces welcome people to come together to talk about making positive changes in education by learning, hearing, and telling their stories.

Plans are underway for Legacy Spaces to be created on the Brockville and Cornwall campuses. The finished spaces will be unique, alternate learning areas for our students, employees, and guests to learn from and in.

Photographs  
by Adam Smith



Drummers Tracey Johnston and Lynda Gerow perform an honour song.





Mike Downie (upper right) and Pearl Wenjack (lower right) at the first unveiling in Gord Downie's hometown.

**CHARLIE DOWNIE & PEARL WENJACK FUND**  
LEGACY SPACE

**THE SECRET PATH**

The Secret Path tells the story of Charlie Wenjack, a 12-year-old Anishinabe boy who died trying to escape the Indian Residential School in Kenora, Ontario, to seek refuge in his family's ancestral home. Charlie was one of approximately 150,000 Indigenous children forced to attend government-funded, church-operated residential schools. Their families experienced emotional trauma from their families, communities, and culture. The last residential school closed in 1996, and the devastating impact of these schools continues to be felt today.

**YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The fund focuses on Charlie Wenjack Fund Legacy Space program provides a profile and ongoing opportunities for organizations to amplify the growing momentum of successful First in their own communities. The Legacy Space demonstrates the organization's active commitment to the work of reconciliation by creating meaningful and lasting legacy, independence, and authentic education about residential schools and Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The governing organization associated with Charlie's will be asked to partner with the fund to create a Legacy Space.

#DoSomething

Box will sell for \$1000.00

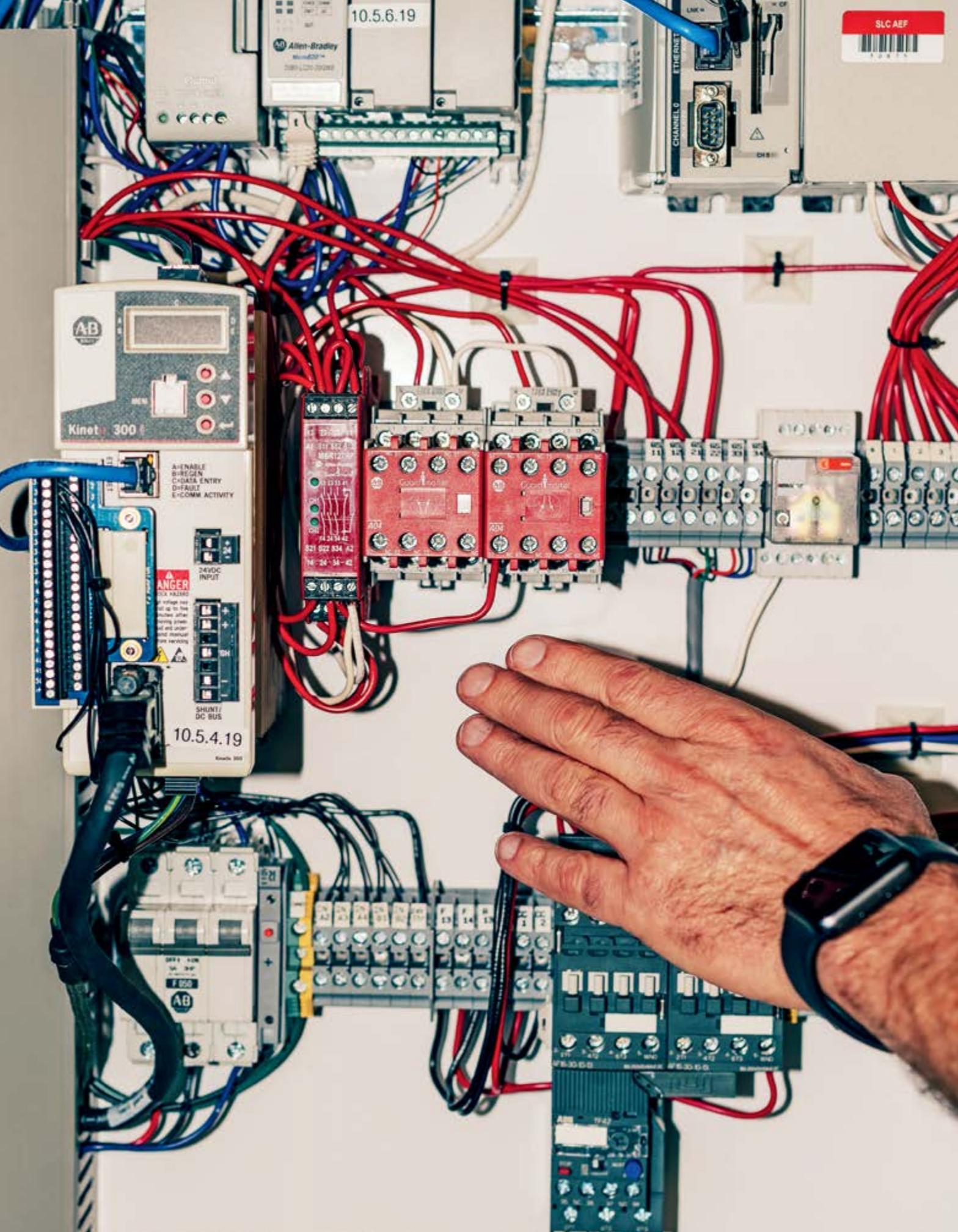


 **SLC IS EMBRACING  
INNOVATION IN ALL  
FACETS OF EDUCATION  
TO PREPARE STUDENTS  
FOR THE CAREERS OF  
THE FUTURE.**

# ***THE FUTURE OF LEARNING***

**SLC'S NEW SENIOR  
VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC,  
SHARES  
HIS INSIGHTS.**

By Maher Ghalayini  
Photography by Ian Patterson



10.5.6.19

Allen-Bradley  
Modular  
2084-120-0000

SLC AEF  
1054

AB  
Kinet 300

AVAILABLE  
BURN IN ENTRY  
DEFAULT  
E-COMM ACTIVITY

**ANGER**  
ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARD  
Voltage may be up to the  
line voltage when  
power is applied.  
Read and understand  
manual before  
installing.

SHUNT/  
DC BUS  
10.5.4.19

Allen-Bradley  
Relay  
10.5.6.19

Allen-Bradley  
F 950  
AB

Allen-Bradley  
10.5.4.19

# AS

**a new leader at SLC**, it's easy to feel the excitement generated by driving innovation in all that we do for our students. In higher education, innovation is not just about technology; it's using a broad range of strategies and approaches aimed at enhancing the overall learning experience, and is fundamentally driven by the College's commitment to putting students first.

Our number one goal as a college is to prepare students for the careers of the future. In my first few months in this role, I have seen how SLC incorporates innovation to engage students in their learning. It involves the creative and effective use of resources to enhance the quality of education, address emerging challenges, and better prepare students for future demands.

Innovation is a vital aspect of the academic division and presents itself in a myriad of ways throughout program delivery. Integrating modern technologies like interactive whiteboards, online learning platforms, educational apps, and virtual reality helps enrich the student experience and engages students in new and different ways.

The days of learning only through a classroom lecture are behind us. We now use diverse teaching methods like project-based, action learning, and personalized learning plans to adapt to different learning styles and meet the needs of our students. Our curriculum emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills for real-world challenges, essential in preparing students for their careers. This is followed by changes in our evaluation and assessments, with a focus



**“I HAVE SEEN HOW SLC  
INCORPORATES INNOVATION TO ENGAGE  
STUDENTS IN THEIR  
LEARNING, AND BETTER PREPARE  
STUDENTS FOR FUTURE DEMANDS.”**

**Maher Ghalayini**  
Senior Vice President, Academic



Mechanical Technician student Peter Krieger, and Electrical Engineering Technician student Regan Hanatschek, work with automation equipment for real world learning.

on competency-based assessments, project portfolios, and adaptive testing. Flexible learning environments and evaluation methods accommodate various teaching and learning styles, providing a personalized and engaging educational experience for our diverse student body.

When we think about our students entering a truly global workforce, we know that it is critical to think about inclusive education and integrating global perspectives and cultural awareness into curricula, including our commitment to Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being. This broader perspective to learning not only prepares students for a diverse workforce but also fosters a sense of belonging while they are studying.

### Where innovation happens

Innovation also thrives outside the classroom in the SLC Innovation Hub—a social lab that fosters inventive growth within the College, and in our communities.

Renowned for its emphasis on creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, reflection, and social impact, the Innovation Hub actively forges meaningful connections throughout SLC and with our local communities. Notably, our students have engaged in events such as the Mayor’s Innovation Challenge in Kingston. A testament to their success, one of the College’s teams clinched victory in the “Smart Kingston Stream” competition in 2023, securing \$5,000 in seed funding to propel their venture forward. We look forward to seeing what else our students compete in this year, and you can read more about the work of the Innovation Hub later in this issue on p. 31.

SLC has further demonstrated its commitment to innovation with the most recent building of the Student Life and Innovation Centre in Kingston, a key component of a \$42-million expansion project. Spanning 80,000 square feet, this ultramodern



Maher Ghalayini, Senior Vice President, Academic, shares highlights of innovation at SLC.

# “SLC’S INTEGRATION OF AI TECHNOLOGY POSITIONS ITS GRADUATES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIELD.”

**Jamie Belec**  
Associate Dean, School  
of Community Services

facility boasts features like group study rooms equipped with SMART boards, an outdoor atrium and deck, an open courtyard, upgraded fitness facilities, a double gym, and a new home for the Waasaabiidaasamose Indigenous Centre. These state-of-the-art facilities are meticulously designed to enhance the overall student experience and create innovative learning environments.

As we look forward, innovation will also be reflected in our value of *Belonging* as we will install new wayfinding directional signage on each campus that is based on Indigenous teachings.

## How innovation happens

SLC’s drive for innovation is paramount in ensuring our relevance and effectiveness in today’s dynamic and rapidly evolving educational landscape. The incorporation of components such as Program Advisory Committees, industry partnerships, changing equipment and environments, and the work being done in the School for Contemporary Teaching and Learning plays a pivotal role in supporting innovation.

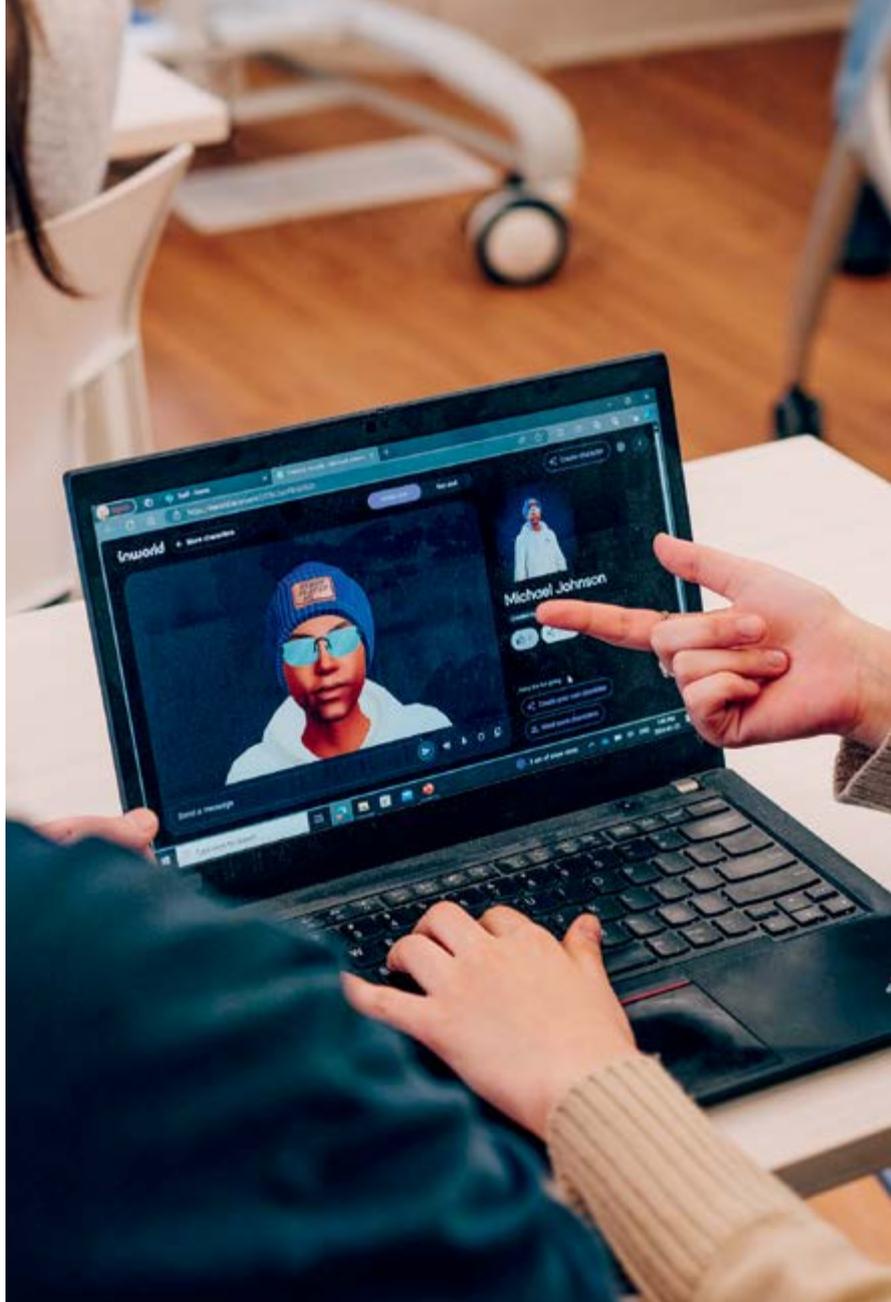
Considered individually, each of these components contributes to innovation at the College. When their results are combined, they are key ingredients in the SLC recipe for ensuring our graduates are career-ready.

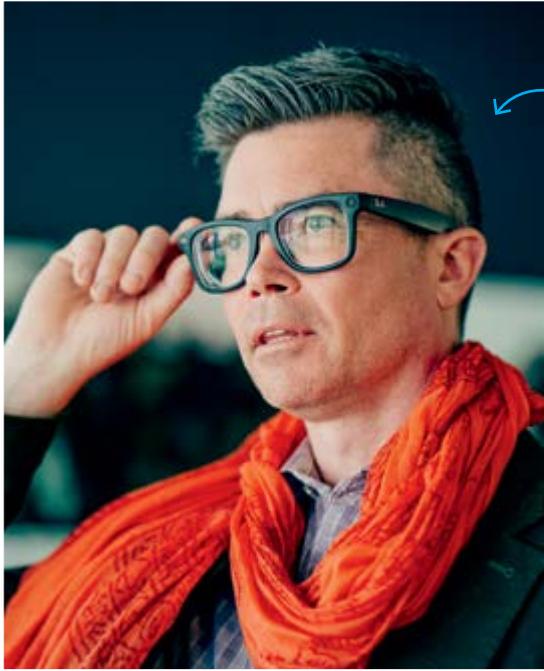
We look externally to our Program Advisory Committees (PACs) to foster innovation within individual programs. Each academic program has its own PAC, comprising industry professionals, alumni, and academic experts who provide invaluable insights into trends, emerging technologies in the field, and evolving job market requirements. Their insight shapes curriculum and aligns educational programs with real-world needs for a smooth academia-to-workforce transition. External insight is also derived from our strategic partnerships with local industry, helping

us understand current demands and future trends so we can adjust our learning outcomes to what students will experience as they start their careers.

As a hands-on school, it is vital to adapt to changing technologies and work environments. Colleges must invest in cutting-edge equipment and adaptive learning environments to simulate real-world scenarios, ensuring a seamless transition for students from the classroom to the workplace.

SLC’s School of Contemporary Teaching and Learning acts as our hub for pedagogical innovation and faculty development. It





### Future Forward Faculty

Michael Carter epitomizes being on the leading edge of tech. As a Computer System Technician Professor, he stays apprised of the latest tech and is the first to embrace the newest gadget to understand both what it does in society at large and how it might augment learning. Michael (left) is wearing the latest pair of Meta glasses. He co-hosts Realms: A Beginner's Journey Through Virtual Reality every Friday for seasoned VR pros or curious novices.

Community Services can engage in avatar-based interactions, creating scenarios to mimic real world situations.

serves as a catalyst for exploring new teaching methodologies, incorporating technology into classrooms, and conducting research on effective learning practices. By actively engaging in this research and development, SLC can ensure that our teaching methods remain progressive and effective, contributing to overall educational innovation.

In my short time at SLC, I have found myself repeatedly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm members of the academic division show toward embracing innovation in all that they do. The objectives we have mapped for ourselves and

the values that will shape how we get there are on full display in the daily work of education, skills development, coaching, and supporting our students. It is our turn as colleges to shine as the calibre of our graduates and their importance to Ontario's workforce is more fully recognized, and it is the innovations happening in our hallways, classrooms, labs, and community that are helping us advance. I am incredibly excited to see where we will go and what will be achieved as we continue to embrace innovation at SLC and in the college sector more broadly. ✂



Recent innovations SLC has generated that are helping set the College apart and prepare our students to be even more career-ready

### COMMUNITY STUDIES

Community services programs are evolving by incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into the learning environment. Students and faculty have traditionally role-played scenarios to practice frontline work and apply their learning. Now, with the advent of AI, students can engage in avatar-based interactions, creating a dynamic learning environment with a variety of scenarios to mimic real world situations. The AI-driven platforms allow students to interact with an AI character that can be directed to behave as if they are experiencing a variety of scenarios—from general client triage to acute mental health crises.

Faculty direct the AI character to establish the scenario and adjust various factors such as emotion level, environment, and energy level, providing students with an opportunity to practice navigating complex community service scenarios. This immersive approach not only refines critical thinking and decision-making skills but also fosters empathy and cultural competence and develops a student's confidence for stepping into frontline situations.

Aba Mortley's  
Esthetic  
students, Kasey  
Palmer and Saria  
LaRocque can  
go deep within  
anatomy using  
VR technology.



## WELDING AND ELECTRICAL

Through the innovative integration of virtual reality technology in the fields of welding and electrical training, students receive an enhanced educational experience that also prioritizes safety and efficiency.

In welding, VR simulations provide a platform for students to access programs and practice welding techniques with various metals and steels. From intricate wiring to high-voltage scenarios, students can troubleshoot and work with diverse materials in a risk-free, virtual environment. This not only ensures the safety of students but also accelerates the learning process, allowing for comprehensive training without the physical risks associated with live equipment.

In the electrical program, VR facilitates experiences in reading blueprints, ensuring students are well-versed in interpreting complex plans before entering risky real-world settings. The technology offers a dynamic platform for learning high-voltage systems in a safe place, developing both skill and confidence before working with live equipment.

VR further enables accurate and quick assessments of student skills, providing immediate feedback for improvement. SLC's embrace of VR in welding and electrical programs positions its graduates at the forefront of these industries, ensuring they are not only well-trained, but also safety-conscious and technologically adept, ready to excel in their future careers.



## HEALTHCARE INNOVATION

As needs in the healthcare sector change and evolve, SLC is responding by creating new and advanced learning

spaces to educate and develop the healthcare workforce.

SLC's Paramedic Lab in Cornwall has undergone renovations to develop an advanced simulation environment. The revamped labs feature video capture capabilities and simulate diverse paramedic scenarios, enhancing emergency response training.

Two new Specialty Nursing labs will be created in 2024 on Brockville and Kingston campuses to benefit both SLC nursing students and those in the workforce wishing to reskill and upskill. These labs will offer specialty nursing curricula such as NICU, PACU, OR, and ER training and will be outfitted with advanced equipment to facilitate immersive, sensory learning for students.

These cutting-edge healthcare labs are made possible through donor support,



including the Tom and Gail Kaneb Family Foundation, the Don and Shirley Green Family Charitable Foundation, the William James Henderson Foundation, NuMED Canada Inc., and an anonymous donor.



## ESTHETICS

While you might not immediately think of the Esthetics program when it comes to technology, new this year, Esthetic students used VR stations and collaborative round tables to deepen their understanding and view of anatomy and physiology. The virtual reality set up allowed them to interact with the human body by taking apart a virtual skeleton and exploring and understanding different bones.

One student, reflecting on the experience, expressed





**“WE PUSHED THE BOUNDARIES OF TRADITIONAL CLASSROOMS TO CREATE AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR ESTHETIC STUDENTS IN THEIR ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY CLASS.”**

**Dr. Aba Mortley**  
Professor, Esthetics

enthusiasm about the engaging use of VR, coupled with the group discussion, declaring it the “best class so far.” Through interactive exercises and discussions, a standard class was transformed into an entertaining and interactive learning opportunity.



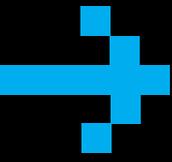
(top) The latest VR technology headsets.  
(right) Health Care Administration Professor, Tanvi Mandani and her students brainstorm in the Innovation Hub.



**CULINARY**

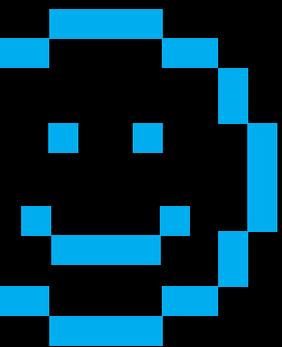
Culinary education is being transformed by integrating VR technology into curriculum. Students utilize VR headsets to simulate and navigate the intricacies of dietary restrictions, allergies, and specialized diets such as gluten-free, vegetarian, vegan, and nut-free.

The VR modules offer diverse scenarios, from preparing allergen-free meals to crafting plant-based dishes, providing students with a realistic environment in which to hone their skills. This innovative approach not only addresses the growing demand for culinary expertise in accommodating diverse dietary preferences, but also ensures that graduates are well-prepared to excel in the evolving landscape of the culinary industry, while also reducing food waste. ✕

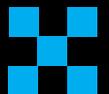


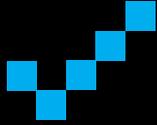
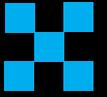
LET'S

CHAT



ABOUT





In the dynamic landscape of post-secondary education, AI is revolutionizing learning experiences, from personalized tutoring systems that cater to individual student needs to advanced analytics shaping institutional strategies, ushering in an era of unprecedented innovation and efficiency.\*

\*credit: ChatGPT

# CHATGPT



# W

ith AI in every headline and its impact on higher education changing daily, Voyageur asked for the perspectives of SLC community members on how they are learning about, working and dealing with AI. Patrick Egbononu, Interim Dean of Business & Community Services, sat down with Denise Nielsen, Professor of Communications and Ethics, Gerhard Freundorfer, Creative Director of Spark (SLC's student marketing and advertising agency), and James Wallace, Manager of Institutional Research and Data Governance, in a conversation about what discussions are happening at SLC when it comes to AI in education.

Embracing AI, the discussion was co-moderated through prompts to ChatGPT to guide this discussion.

**PATRICK EGBONONU** Thank you all for joining today—I'm excited about this conversation on what we are talking about, wondering about, and worrying about when it comes to AI. Let's start with the positive and ask how AI can enhance the learning experience for students in higher education?

**DENISE NIELSEN** I don't feel like an expert, but I've found ways to integrate AI into the classroom to help students personalize. I have a critical thinking class that is all international students who can struggle with some of the concepts and language. I've used ChatGPT to personalize examples for them—an example that really explains it to them. When it comes to students struggling with writing, there are also opportunities to get past blank page syndrome.

But how do we use it for brainstorming? How do we use it for feedback on writing assignments? How do we use it to tutor us without outsourcing our thinking to it? Those questions are the big challenges that we face in the classroom.

"I often wonder how we, as institutions, ensure we're embracing AI—but teaching it responsibly and really reinforcing the critical assessment of its use."



**DENISE NIELSEN**  
Professor of  
Communications  
and Ethics

**JAMES WALLACE** Use of AI raises some interesting questions about how we're outsourcing different types of thinking and, in particular, critical thinking. Students still need to think critically because there are issues with the sources that AI is trained on—they are not value-free and they are not error-free.

Working with data, I see examples where AI can help aggregate information, but at times where an individual voice is required, it's important to remember that there needs to be a human.

**GERHARD FREUNDORFER** In my work, we're a bridge between the classroom and the real world for students that work at Spark. I've pushed the team to both use AI and figure out its boundaries, but also have AI act as a mentor and a prompt to help students go deeper and help expand their knowledge.

Any time we come across new tools that may be applicable to the work that we do, I encourage them to use it, test it, play with it, and share what they are learning.

The work that we do is for paying clients and there is more on the line than just handing in a paper for marks, so they really need to stop and think about how and why they will use it.

**JW** We are in the business of producing educated human minds. We have to remember that however AI tools support this, we must remain squarely focused on that goal.

**DN** I often tell students not to outsource your thinking and that ultimately, no matter what you produce, whether it's AI-produced, you produce it, or it's a mixture, your name is on it. I often wonder how we, as institutions, ensure we're embracing AI—but teaching it responsibly and really reinforcing the critical assessment of its use.

**PE** Let's move to the inevitable question about the dark side of these tools and the risk of a negative impact on the quality of education, quality of learning, student creativity, and the development of critical thinking skills. Is it something we should be worried about and what can we do to mitigate these potential negative effects?

**DN** I think there is a real possibility of eliminating the "learning"—and then why go to school if you don't want to learn? I was in a class where students were learning how to forecast a budget and they were going through all these different steps and I was thinking "ChatGPT could do this," but what ChatGPT can't do is judge the outcome. So, whether I'm teaching them to learn to write, to problem solve, or to make decisions, they have to learn how to do that in order to judge the results that AI might produce. We can use ChatGPT to record something and to come up with a solution and to analyze the data. But if we don't know if it's right, then we're just trusting it and I don't think you can do that. And, so, learning has to happen somewhere along the line.

**JW** It goes back to how the human element is so critical—AI needs to be used to scale learning, not to replace it.

**GF** I think one of the risks of these AI tools is that as they scale and get better, we will see people start to prefer to communicate with AI tools rather than person-to-person. People may pull away from the messiness of human relationships—which give so much meaning in our lives—to the safety and convenience of AI chat bots that will never disagree and always make you feel good about how things are going.

**JW** Another big problem it's creating is volume—we only have two eyes and we use screens primarily to view things. As a researcher, I'm finding this already with the volume of information that's published online. I can only imagine what it will be like when AI is producing this content as well. There might be ways to code it so that you can identify which are AI-produced outputs, but it still could be that you can't find the trees for the forest.

**PE** So, as an educational institution, what can we do about this?

**DN** We have to go back to humanizing education because that is the connection we have—we have to find ways to make sure that the human element is still there and that students are collaborating with each other. How can students use AI as a tool to support better interactions, better communication, better critical thinking, better problem-solving processes, and better collaborative and interdisciplinary work. If we can figure that out, we're on the way to having a strong graduate.

**PE** I think the way we teach has to change. I think what we teach has to change. I think our approaches in the classroom and our relationships with students have to change.

**GF** AI tools provide an opportunity to increase the innovation capacity of our students—these large language models with natural language processing can become a programming language—they will provide opportunities for multidisciplinary teams to tackle problems and create digital tools and digital solutions that can help

"I think the way we teach has to change. I think what we teach has to change. I think our approaches in the classroom and our relationships with students have to change."



**PATRICK EGBONONU**  
Interim Dean  
of Business &  
Community  
Services

solve these problems. They can start scaling and building faster, and open up a new wave of innovation.

**JW** I think there's a philosophical question that needs to be addressed somewhere along the line about why we must bring AI tools into all that we do. How we introduce AI tools to match what is happening in industry and society.

**PE** Which is a great segue to our last question: Can we integrate artificial intelligence into our curriculum at the College such that the student learning experience is enhanced, not replaced—where students are equipped with the AI skills and the knowledge they need to be leaders and innovators in their careers?

**DN** In the classroom, it comes back to rethinking the way we assess. I've taught communication courses for 20 years, and we've assessed in the same way which is to ask a student to research and write an essay. That will have to change because an essay is no longer a relevant output if it can be produced by AI. I'm not saying writing is irrelevant because writing is part of the thinking process and the ability to articulate your ideas clearly is critical. But writing an essay to show your knowledge is not something I think will stick around in education.

So I think we have to look at it program by program, class by class and embed the tools that make the most sense – for example, you don't want your paramedic showing up and having to put into ChatGPT "How do I fix this heart attack?"

**GF** If our students can have that interdisciplinary knowledge, but also know where the boundaries are and can situate themselves on the boundaries, they're going to be top performers and create a lot of value for our society.

**PE** Thank you all—it's a fascinating time to be in education and it kind of excites me, but also kind of scares me. Education has been the same for 200 years and, all of a sudden, it's changing daily. These conversations help us look at it from all angles and adapt and prepare as things evolve. ✕

**AS A FINAL THOUGHT, WE ASKED EACH PARTICIPANT TO CHOOSE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE THE FUTURE OUTLOOK OF AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

**Transformative**  
Optimistic for the possibilities about taking students' learning to the next level but understanding things can transform for the worst, too. —DN

**Transparency**  
It's at the centre of a lot of what we need to do in order to keep an eye on a path that will be sustainable. —JW

**Adventure**  
We don't know what's going to happen in the future. Move forward with the spirit of adventure and make the most of what comes. —GF

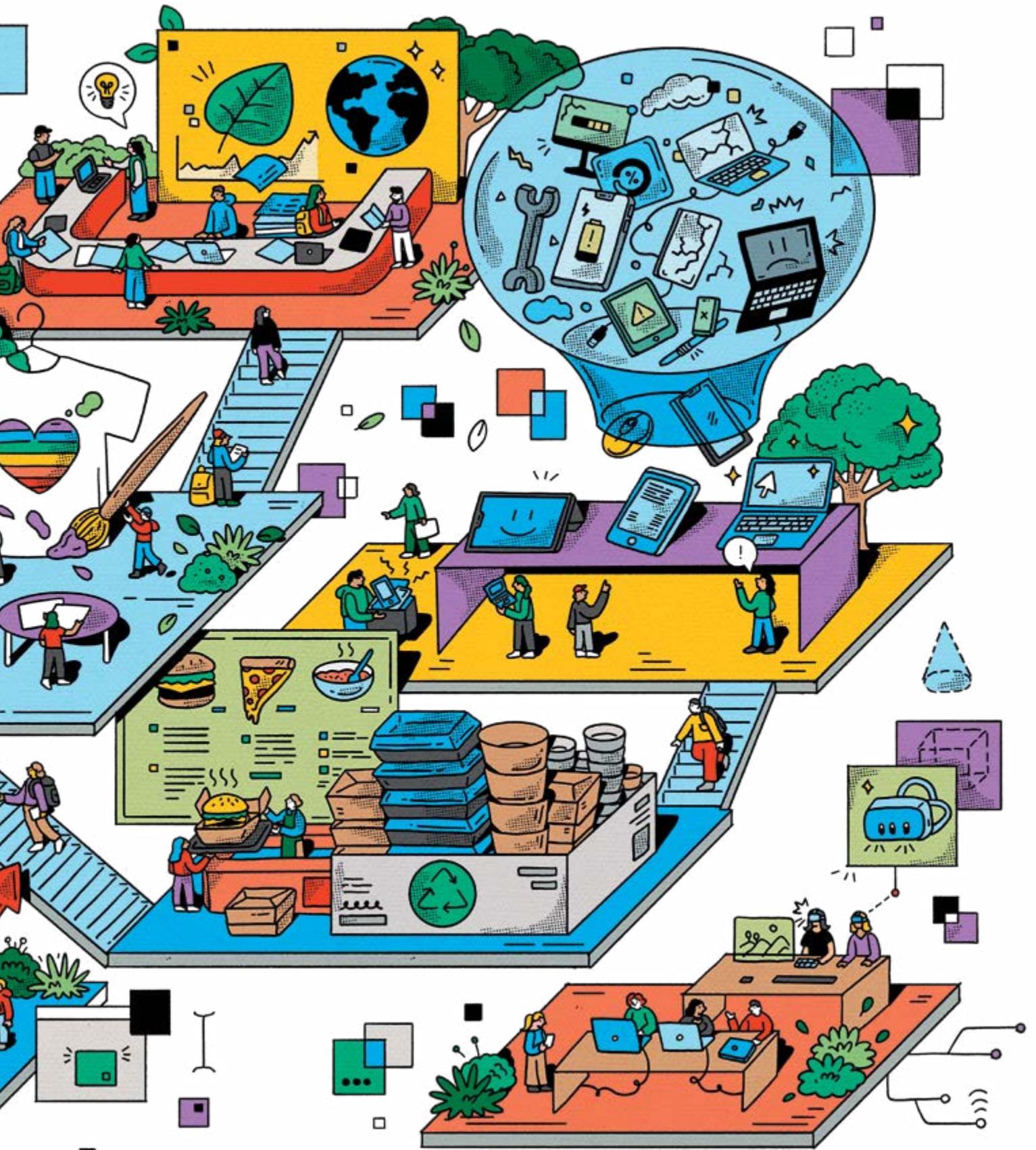
**Potential**  
It all depends on how we harness it. —PE

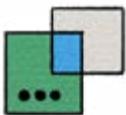
By Briana Gordanier  
Illustrations by Kathleen Fu

# INNO- VATION IS EVERY- WHERE

A LOOK AT HOW SLC OPERATES







SLC's vision to deliver innovative learning opportunities, rooted in the College's communities, extends beyond academic programming, and can be seen in various areas and initiatives. Not all innovation requires technology, and, as you will see, SLC's innovations at an operational level are being driven by dedicated students, employees, and alumni.

The range of areas and departments doing innovative work at SLC is broad—from the internal, like co-curricular programming, to the external, like the College's global alumni network. Operational commitments to innovate are on display in areas like Sustainability, Belonging and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and in the broad range of programming developed by the aptly-named Innovation and Business Engagement department. In the examples below, you will see how an innovative approach is helping to increase engagement while driving progress toward achieving strategic objectives for SLC.

## **Sustainable innovation**

In 2023, the Sustainability department at SLC launched several innovative projects that are now operationalized—meaning they have become part of how the College operates. As part of our commitment to climate action, GHG reduction projects are currently underway, and with strategic investments in infrastructure renewals coming in the next five years, SLC is poised to achieve its 50% building greenhouse gas (GHG) emission target by 2030 compared to a 2010 baseline. The CANO reusable food and beverage container program, launched in April 2023, is helping reduce SLC's environmental footprint. Members of the campus community can download the CANO app to access reusable food containers in any campus cafeteria and return them to one of the centrally located kiosks when done. Jadon Hook, SLC alumnus and Sustainability Coordinator, shares, "it is inspiring to see current students take action to reduce their environmental footprint." In its inaugural year, the program achieved 810 sign-ups and diverted 94kg of single-use plastic waste from landfills.

Another sustainable innovation at SLC engages students in extracurricular community-based climate leadership. The 2023-24 Climate Leadership Program, delivered in partnership with the City of Kingston and Enactus Canada Climate Action Challenge, had student teams participating in project planning workshops and

pitching their projects to a panel of judges in fall 2023. The top three project teams were awarded funding and support to implement their community projects in 2024. Last but not least, the first tri-campus Bioblitz events also took place in the fall of 2023, bringing together SLC community members and volunteers with trained ecologists in environmental learning and data collection for our three main campuses. Participants learned about ecological resiliency and identified invasive species. The data collected is a base for the ongoing development of SLC's Sustainable Landscape Management Plan, including innovative strategies to support resilient and diverse ecosystems on all campuses.

## **Innovations in belonging**

New, ongoing programs and expanded community partnerships are two innovations SLC's Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion department recently implemented. The Positive Space Training working group launched a new training session available to students, staff, and faculty—the success of which was supported by a student on placement. The training builds awareness, understanding, and acceptance of gender identity and sexual diversity issues, and people completing the voluntary training become a resource to SLC's 2SLGBTQ+ community members. Attendees also receive a sticker to display, to symbolize their participation in helping make SLC an accepting and supportive space after completing practice sessions to demonstrate their application.

SLC launched a renewed Pride committee in June 2023 and coordinated several new events while updating annual tri-campus events. Taking an innovative approach resulted in a College-wide design contest which showcased artistry and creativity in celebration of Pride, and the winning design was printed on t-shirts available for Pride events. At "Paint Your Pride" events, groups painted centrally located outdoor campus spaces, and multiple Meet and Greet events provided safe and supportive spaces for SLC's 2SLGBTQ+ community members to connect and build friendships.

To further push SLC's Belonging and EDI efforts forward, a Black History Month planning committee was established in February 2023, and built community partnerships and organized events in celebration of Black History Month and Emancipation Day. The African and Caribbean International Association of Eastern Ontario (ACIAEO) partnered with SLC in the Cornwall Culture Fest event, sharing culture through traditional food, conversations, and stories. SLC also partnered with the City of Kingston in July 2023 on several events around Emancipation Day—all activities attributed to SLC's efforts to invigorate and innovate how, where, when, and what is done to embody the College value of belonging.

## **Innovating everyday**

It is no surprise that many innovations at SLC are being driven by the Innovation and Business Engagement (I&BE) department. In October 2023, the team launched

# A HUB OF ACTIVITY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Operational innovations abound in the Kingston campus' Craig Centre for Innovation, commonly known as the Innovation Hub. While Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual Reality (VR) are changing the landscape of academia, they're also enhancing co-curriculars, campus events, community initiatives, and creating efficiencies in work. An example of this is the Hub's weekly "Realms" events, which break down barriers to accessibility and augment classroom VR content with VR use training. Mature and international students and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are less likely to have access to or experience VR before attending postsecondary education. By providing free, accessible VR user training, Realms ensures all students can get the most from VR educational content in the classroom. The Innovation Hub also partners with the Global Learning Centre to bring immersive multi-cultural experiences to life during events and campus tours. Where time doesn't permit, attendees can still explore Kingston, or when an event is themed around a particular culture or global region, VR enables people to drop in and experience the geography, cities, and culture virtually.

Beyond VR and AI, the Innovation Hub's work supporting Enactus, the SLC chapter of a global non-profit empowering student entrepreneurial action, brings innovative community

projects to life all year round. Recently, computer science students began a technology refurbishing project supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals while providing needed devices to local shelters. The students are competing in a national competition during winter 2024 for the program, which will collect discarded devices ranging from desktops to cell phones and sort them for use value. Recoverable materials will be refurbished and distributed to shelters, and non-recoverable materials will enter the Sustainability department e-waste diversion-from-landfill program.

The Innovation Hub is open to the community for space bookings and often offers programming to external clients. As Steve Janssens, Manager, Craig Centre for Innovation, shares, "The Innovation Hub isn't just a part of SLC; it's a vibrant community collision zone where students and community members can let their creative spirits soar and make a real difference. It's about turning ideas into opportunities and bringing people together."

an Innovation Spotlight Award program, which recognizes innovative SLC staff. Recipients are recognized for recent demonstrations of the value of innovation in one or more areas including improvement to the quality of college programs and operations, contribution to more efficient and effective methods, original and creative problem-solving, and collaborative leadership. Nominations are reviewed monthly, and winners are announced through the SLC newsletter.

A new student co-curricular, micro-credential entrepreneurship program "Innovate and Elevate," is another initiative fostering innovation in the SLC community. The program expands on a previous mentorship pilot and was redeveloped in fall 2023 with student applications accepted and selections made in December. A group of students is participating in entrepreneurship curriculum, one-on-one mentorship, and in-person monthly workshops through winter 2024, culminating in a pitch competition in early April. The top three candidates will attend the European Innovation Academy three-week study abroad program in Porto, Portugal, from July 14 – August 2, 2024.

## Innovation is everywhere

As SLC alumni, you've more than likely noticed that innovation is everywhere—and you may have seen recent examples as well! SLC's Alumni and Development department, in collaboration with the College marketing team, showcased innovation in their submission to the 2023 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Awards. SLC brought home Circle of Excellence awards—a Grand Gold and a Silver in Video, Student Audience (long) category awards for the 2022 convocation "Welcome to the Alumni Family" video. The video weaves comedy through vibrant, community-centred stories to create "a whole new vision for attracting new alumni to the community," said a member of the judge's panel.

Innovation is not only valued at SLC; it is woven into the how, why, when, and what the College does. Through our commitment to achieving operational excellence, teams work to ensure innovation is evident in aspects of the SLC experience, from unique co-curricular and community-based experiences to being welcomed into the global alumni network. ✖



We encourage you to follow the Innovation Hub at @innovationslc on Instagram, Innovation Hub SLC on LinkedIn, [www.innovationhubslc.ca](http://www.innovationhubslc.ca) on the web, or contact them at [innovation@sl.on.ca](mailto:innovation@sl.on.ca) to kick off your community innovation project.

# OPEN NEW DOORS



## Take your diploma or degree further

Graduate certificates provide you with career-focused education and specialized skills and SLC offers you a variety of ways to learn: full-time, part-time, in person, and online.

- Addictions and Mental Health
- Autism and Behavioural Science
- Business Analytics
- Communicative Disorders Assistant
- Cybersecurity
- Digital Marketing Communications (DMC)
- Health Care Administration
- Human Resource Management
- International Business Management
- Project Management
- Registered Nurse Critical Care Nursing
- Registered Nurse — Prescribing
- Supply Chain Management
- Therapeutic Recreation
- User Experience Design (UX Design)



[stlawrencecollege.ca/gradcert](http://stlawrencecollege.ca/gradcert)

# Alumni News

Celebrating your milestones, testimonials, and fondest memories



Storm wears the traditional vest and joins in on the festivities.

Did you know? SLC has students from over 60 countries.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARYA RAJU

CULTURE ON CAMPUS

## Diwali and Navratri celebrations

Recognizing the rich heritage of our diverse alumni community, SLC proudly hosted Indian cultural celebrations Navratri in October and Diwali in November. The festivities commenced with dual Navratri celebrations at our Cornwall and Kingston campuses, a sacred Hindu festival spanning nine nights and ten days. This period is dedicated to paying tribute to the diverse incarnations of Goddess Durga and commemorating her victory over the demon Mahishasura,



symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.

Collaborations between the Kingston Student Association, Cornwall Student Union, and Alumni and Development, the events were heartening affairs where participants engaged in Garba dances, revelling in traditional Gujarati songs to pay homage to Goddess Durga.

Diwali, a Festival of Lights, holds immense significance in Hindu traditions and is observed by millions globally. Spanning five days, this festival symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Our festivities cast a subtle glow of lights over our Kingston campus, featuring a Bollywood dance night, traditional snacks, and mithai (sweets). Special contributions from alumni Charmi Patel (Computer Program Analyst, 2022) and Jinal Patel (Computer Networking and Technical Support, 2021), along with their dedicated team at Event Stories, played a key role in tastefully decorating the venue. We are also grateful to our Global Alumni Ambassadors advisory committee: Shivani Sharma, Harsh Trivedi, Barkha, and Sanket Sathiya for contributing their time to plan these events.

Beyond celebrations, these events provided an



opportunity for students and alumni to share facets of their culture, fostering a sense of home. The exchange of stories and experiences between alumni and students created a vibrant atmosphere on campus. While this year's Diwali and Navratri celebrations marked a first, they signify the beginning of a tradition we aim to nurture in the years to come. We eagerly anticipate hosting more events that resonate with the experiences and ideas of our alumni as we continue to strengthen the bond within our diverse community.

**Let us know if you have any ideas for similar events from your culture.** Join the Global Alumni Network and become a Global Alumni Ambassador. Email [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca) to learn more.

TOP 40 UNDER 40

## SLC alumni bring home community awards



SLC was well represented at the celebrations of the Top 40 under 40 honourees in Brockville and Kingston this fall. In Kingston, SLC honourees included Daniel Liao, Dean of Applied Science and Skilled Trades, Constantin Mugenga, SLC Board member and grad, and SLC alumni Cory Firth, Connor Holway, Krista LeClair, Kailey Longhurst, Cedric Pepelea, Melissa Phelan, and Gregory Ridge.

In Brockville, SLC honourees included Associate Dean, Business Jamie Puddicombe, and SLC alumni Jessica Almond, Kyle Armstrong, Phil Audet, Allison Hess, Kirsha Hutchcroft, Lauren MacDonald, Brittany Mattheie, Hannah McCuen, Sarah McGuire, and Alexandra Stobo.



Kristin Bennett from Brockville YPN presents Jamie Puddicombe, SLC's Associate Dean of Business, with his award. Two weeks later Kristin, an SLC graduate took home the Young Professional of The Year award at the Brockville Chamber of Commerce awards.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (THIS PAGE) HARI SINGH, LIZ GORMAN; (OPPOSITE PAGE) STEPHANY HILDEBRAND, DMYTRO YAROVY; ILLUSTRATIONS BY AUDREY MALO

IN PRINT

## Alumna's photo appears in a national magazine



**“The sheer number of SLC folks on these lists are a testament to the work we do as a College to promote excellence, and to train future leaders across all of our programs. They are yet another reason we can all feel #ProudtobeSLC!”**

Glenn Vollebregt  
President and CEO

Stephany Hildebrand, 2020 Environmental Technician and a Visual Communications Coordinator at the River Institute’s photo was featured in a Canadian Geographic article on invasive species on the St. Lawrence River in their May – June 2022 issue.

The opportunity came from Sean Landsman a professor and photographer at Carleton University, who knew Stephany’s photography talent and work with the institute.



Stephany’s photo of River Institute’s Matt Windle and Kate Schwartz in the field.



COMMUNITY

## Tree of Peace initiative



Keith Hare, Business – Data Processing, 1984; Computer Programmer, 1984; Ontario Management Development Program – Business Management, 2008; and longest-standing support staff at the Brockville campus, championed a legacy project—the Tree of Peace project at his alma mater.

As part of SLC’s commitment to creating a community of Belonging, the College organized an Indigenous Day of Learning for staff and students. One of these events—Good Mind: Building Meaningful Relationships with Action—gave attendees a chance to learn how the Haudenosaunee principle of the “Good Mind” encourages people to take pride in their culture and community.

Keith’s goal is to plant a Tree of Peace—a White Pine—on the Brockville campus as a symbol of the Good Mind principle and as a symbol of Truth & Reconciliation for anyone in our College family and our larger community.

To learn more, please visit [givetoslc.com/treeofpeace](http://givetoslc.com/treeofpeace).



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Working with intention

When it comes to the mind, Cory Firth is leading with heart.

Sometimes, stepping forward in the right direction requires pausing and taking a step back. For Cory Firth, a 2012 SLC graduate of the Advertising and Marketing Communications Management program, his path to success unfolded when he finally decided to walk it on his terms.

Although Cory quickly rose through the ranks in his chosen marketing and communications field within companies like the Ontario East Economic Development Commission, Via Rail Canada, and iSTORM New Media, he reached a pinnacle when he founded TailoredScale in 2016, a storytelling and customer acquisition agency. With clients like Amazon Universal Studios,

the television show South Park, and Kim Kardashian, Cory seemed to be at the top of his game, but his body was revealing something different. “I developed a tumour in my throat the size of a baseball,” explains Cory. “It ended up not being cancerous, but it made me think about what was causing stress because that’s where it came from,” he recalls. “I thought I needed to build a business and work with all these big brands to be successful when it was actually making me sicker.”

With a genetic predisposition for depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation that was making matters even more challenging, Cory knew it was time to

make a shift. A seven-day ayahuasca retreat in Costa Rica ultimately changed his course by introducing him to the healing power of psychedelics. “That experience shook up the snow globe and allowed me to see things from a new perspective. One of those things was my work. I had these great skills that I could use to continue pursuing a materialistic and capitalistic pursuit, or I could take a step back and see if I could apply those skills elsewhere.” And that he did. In 2019 he began work to improve public access to and research on the benefits of psychedelics.

In October 2022 he co-founded Neuma, the first psychedelic experiential learning centre in Canada, located in Kingston. “It is very unique in that we’re doing legal psychedelic work. We’re not focused on treating people’s mental illness, but we are about helping people become more informed so that they can help themselves,” says Cory. The centre aims to guide personal growth and overall well-being based on a foundational theory perspective that provides the optimal setting, skills, and support. In September 2023, Kingston Economic Development Corporation voted Cory one of the Kingston Young Professionals Top 40 under 40 recipients.

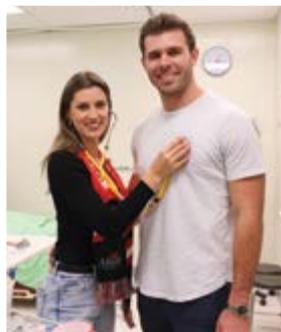
In 2023, Neuma and SLC teamed up to offer a joint, micro-credential, professional training program that teaches the history, science, principles, and philosophy of psychedelics in therapeutic care. This groundbreaking integration into the Ontario post-secondary education could impact traditional medicine fields. Cory also hosts events and learning opportunities in conjunction with SLC’s Innovation Hub and does speaking engagements at the college whenever requested.

His new perspective on success is an excellent blueprint for future graduates to consider. “The idea of work is when you put your heart and intention into the thing that you do,” says Cory. “Go create a path that’s worthy of sharing with other people so they can do the same.”

—By Kim Pallozzi



Cory returns to SLC’s Kingston campus, pictured outside the new Student Life Centre.



Kaity Biggar checks Zach's heartbeat as they tour the lab space at her alma mater.

**What made you decide to be a travel nurse?**

I always dreamed of becoming a travel nurse. Canadian nurses can only apply to work in four states, and my heart went directly to Texas. My journey began in

San Antonio, working in the emergency department, then on a medicine floor. It was one of the most challenging times of my life. But I'm so happy I did it.

I went to Austin to visit the city, and fell in love with it. And here I am now, sitting in Austin with my fiancé.

**What was your time like at SLC, and do you have advice for students?**

While at SLC, I paid my way through school and worked three jobs. I recommend that students try to find balance.

If you want to become a travel nurse, pursue it. People get so excited about travelling but don't because it gets challenging. I would love to speak to Canadian nurses who want to come to the US because it has changed my life.

My advice is to go for it and shoot your shot. I'm a big advocate of making the most of your life.

**What was your journey on The Bachelor like?**

They flew me to California for the in-person interviews as I was about to sign a new nursing contract, and I was so scared. When I got on a second call with a producer, she asked, "Would you regret not going? This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity"

I'm so grateful for the experience. I told people before the show I was content with who I am. I love myself and know what I have to offer. I think relationships are built in the challenging times, and Zach and I overcame hurdles on the show together, which was a testament to our relationship.

**How has life been after The Bachelor finale?**

Life has been great! I can't express my gratitude enough. I try to answer everybody's messages and spread the love as much as possible.

I'm still nursing. But with the platform of The Bachelor, you get presented with amazing opportunities and PR events, and it's a wild world. —By Kris Ward

THE Q&A

# The start of something big(gar)

Kaity Biggar's Bachelor journey.

Kaity Biggar is a dual SLC graduate, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) degree in 2019 after completing Pre-Health Science in 2014. Her life took a serendipitous turn when her aunt nominated her for the pop-culture phenomenon "The Bachelor."

Kaity was named the winner when she and 2023 Bachelor Zach Shallcross fell in love and got engaged. The community rallied behind her worldwide journey as she was featured in interviews and events at SLC.

**Tell us about starting your Nursing career at Kingston General Hospital (KGH)?**

I first worked at KGH through my nursing placements while at SLC. After graduating, I worked on the surgical floor,

the COVID unit, which was a scary and intense experience as a new grad, and then, joined the emergency team. It was a fast-paced environment; with a great support system.

# The SLC Premier's Awards nominees 2023

The 2023 Premier's Awards were presented on November 27 at a gala ceremony celebrating Ontario's outstanding college graduates, that recognizes college graduates making important social and economic contributions. SLC nominated graduates in each of the seven categories, with three-time skilled trades graduate Saifullah Sanaye winning the Apprenticeship category. Saif set the tone for a beautiful evening by delivering an uplifting speech which spoke to the importance of awards like this being an opportunity to lift everyone else at the same time.





**APPRENTICESHIP**

**Saifullah Sanaye**

Automotive Service Technician Level I, II, III (2007, 2008, 2009) Professor of Automotive Technology / Automotive Program Coordinator, St. Lawrence College; Chief Executive Officer, The Mechanic; Technical Advisor, Automotive Technical Consulting; Electric Vehicle Technical Trainer, St. Lawrence College; Curriculum Developer and Technical Trainer, Automotive Industries Association (AIA) Canada

Saifullah Sanaye is blazing new trails as an expert in hybrid and electric vehicles (EV) who partnered with the AIA Canada and his alma mater to develop two unique programs that are expanding to other colleges. The highly skilled automotive technician, instructor, and entrepreneur is a leader known as “the guy your mechanic calls.” He looks at vehicles from a different angle and addresses hard-to-solve problems and is teaching this skill to others. He provides highly sought-after consultant services to multiple dealerships and aftermarket repair shops, providing advanced vehicle diagnostics and training to licensed and apprentice technicians. As part of his Premier's Award win, a \$5,000 bursary will be created to support students studying automotive technology at SLC.



**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Natalia Hanson**

Veterinary Assistant, 2010  
Co-founder of HOLA (Humane Outreach for Latin Animals); Marketing Consultant, Humane Canada

When it comes to leadership in animal activism, Natalia Hanson knows no bounds. A proud global citizen, her groundbreaking achievements in campaigning for animal welfare have spanned the globe. Having volunteered in countries in Africa and Latin America, Natalia has shared her passion and expertise with various organizations to help promote their causes. Natalia is the co-founder of HOLA, a charity that backs accessible and low-cost neutering.



**CREATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN**

**Tim Warnock**

Graphic Design, 1994  
Concept Artist / Vice President, North Front Studio

Tim Warnock is an illustrator, graphic designer, visual effects, concept artist, and entrepreneur, running his own creative design company. Tim's notable achievements include collaborating with Industrial Light & Magic on blockbuster films' visual effects, such as The Avengers, Transformers: Dark of the Moon, and Pacific Rim. He also co-created the concept art for Amazon Prime's “The Expanse” television series. Through his company, North Front Studio, he has collaborated with Riot Games on Legends Of Runeterra.



BUSINESS

## Brenda Andress

Municipal Administration, 1991  
Founder/CEO, SheIS Sports Network Corporation;  
Founder/CEO, SheIS Inc. (NFP)

Brenda Andress is equal parts education and sport. Brenda, founder and President of SheIs, a non-profit promoting women's sports, has spent a lifetime arming herself with intelligence and leading women to a place of belonging. Brenda has led local municipalities' parks, recreation, and culture divisions—normalizing leadership by a woman in a male-dominated industry, and, along the way, founding industry-leading initiatives in both domestic and international marketplaces. Her grassroots approach to building, learning, and leading launched her into the Canadian Women's Hockey League, where she served as the league's Commissioner from 2007-2018.



HEALTH SCIENCES

## Amber Hultink

Paramedic, 2008  
Commander, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service

Amber Hultink is a highly respected paramedic, leader, and innovator. The first female Commander of the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, she's recognized as a caring and passionate advocate for vulnerable populations, including seniors, who face barriers to accessing health care. This drives Amber's pioneering work to expand the role of paramedics to provide patient-centred support in peoples' homes and neighbourhoods. Her forward-thinking leadership in community paramedicine and palliative care paramedicine was especially vital during the pandemic. She's known for developing effective, ground-breaking programs in Renfrew County, models that are shaping paramedicine nationally.



RECENT GRADUATE

## Ucheoma Udoha

Healthcare Administration, 2022  
CEO/Founder, Crispvision, Project Lead, Alzheimer Society of Durham Region

Uche Udoha is a highly accomplished healthcare professional and innovative entrepreneur. Her selflessly dedicated social impact continues to improve the lives of all those her work touches, locally and internationally. She is committed to serving in-need populations with her ever-expanding skillset, including optometry, business leadership, health care administration and project management. For Uche, every achievement and award has been another opportunity to give back to humanity. Through her work, she is currently bettering the life quality of rural Nigerians, Alzheimer's Society clients in Ontario, and the career building capacities of current and incoming international students with her alma mater college.



TECHNOLOGY

## Grant Courville

Microcomputer Engineering Technology, 1986  
Vice President, Products and Strategy, BlackBerry IoT

Grant Courville's work is helping to drive the digital transformation in the automotive industry to redefine commuting and travel. Throughout his 30+ years in the technology sector, Grant has been on the cutting edge. He was an early developer of QNX, a Canadian software development company acquired by BlackBerry in 2010. Following the acquisition, he joined the BlackBerry QNX executive team and is BlackBerry QNX's Vice President, Products and Strategy. His mission is to make car operating systems safe, secure, and reliable, keeping drivers connected to their phone and data while travelling without compromising driving ability or safety.

# Echoes

1970

**Paul Dickey**

Civil Engineering Technology  
Serving as Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Brewing Program at Niagara College.

1972

**Michael Waddell**

Business Administration - Marketing  
It was an exciting time at SLC in the late 60s and early 70s. The campus was new; the lecturers were new and mostly close to our age. It was a real learning experience for students and staff as the campus was just getting off the ground. Student numbers were smaller, which meant many great new friendships for a wide array of programs. We worked hard and some days played even harder. We could be in classes all day and then very easily sit down for a beer with the likes of Connie Wylie, Jim O'Brien, Pat Doyle and Bob Martin, just to name a few.

1973

**Larry Gibbons**

Animal Care Technology  
I have published short stories in Canada and the United States and have two books that have been published. One is called White Eyes, and the other one is a novel which is called Dead and Not Dead. I'm working on another novel.

1979

**Adrian Lusby**

Business Administration - Industrial Management  
I still consider my time at SLC to be the best time of my life. Our teachers really cared about our success. These were fun and productive years, and

I would not have achieved the same level of personal success were it not for my time at SLC. I made lifelong friends and we were more like a family than just a cohort.

1982

**Dean Stanley**

Child and Youth Worker  
My time at St. Lawrence College in Kingston was exceptional, providing me with the foundation for a phenomenal and diverse career in child welfare. During my tenure with the Children's Aid Society, I also had the opportunity and pleasure to supervise several students from both the Cornwall and Kingston campuses who were enrolled in the Behavioural Science program and the Social Service Worker programs.

1983

**Tami Walsh**

Nursing Assistant  
Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), Tami Walsh, says her favourite thing about her job is walking the halls of Providence Manor. After an expansive 43-year-long career, Tami will now hang up her estimated 65<sup>th</sup> pair of shoes.

1989

**Karen Poste**

Business - Marketing  
As a Belleville resident, the Kingston campus gave me the ability to spread my wings as an independent person with the security of knowing that family support wasn't far away. I grew my wings at SLC and I've been flying ever since.

1996

**Naomi Lavergne**

Legal Assistant  
I celebrated 25 years of employment at my legal assistant job with the same firm; this year it will be 26 years. I still enjoy the work and am very happy with the career path that I chose and the education I received at SLC.

1999

**Donna Brown**

Fine Arts  
I set up an Art Award and will continue supporting this— Brown/Mossop Award in Arts.

2010

**Carole Steacy**

Windows Applications  
I have worked at Gananoque Police for 28 years and took night classes to receive my diploma which helped me to obtain my current position.

2011

**Kaleb Verk**

Bachelor of Applied Arts (Behavioural Psychology)  
Attending SLC was an amazing experience that honestly did prepare me well for my career. While going to SLC I got married to my wonderful wife who supported me through BPSYC and my master's degree afterwards. It's funny to say, yet still very true, whenever I see someone wearing SLC swag I feel proud of them and try to chat for a quick moment.

2016

**Garth Bradshaw**

Business - Human Resources  
I went back as a mature student with a second career. Had two of the best professors, Mrs. Spring and Mr. Currie. They were a huge help in getting me through my school year. I cannot thank them enough.

2017

**Michael Kowal**

Pre-Service Firefighter  
Education and Training  
Currently taking primary care paramedic in Alberta while teaching firefighting.  
I loved SLC; Captain Paul and Captain Weldon were amazing. Cpt. Weldon has continued to help me with my career years after my graduation.

2018

**Sabrina Provencal**

Child and Youth Care  
Attending SLC and getting two full-time placements in my field of interest was incredibly valuable, and I would not be where I am today had I not gotten those opportunities.

2020

**Keerthi Reddy Changal**

Supply Chain Management  
I started as a Strategic Sourcing Specialist and was promoted to Assistant Project Manager in six months.

2021

**Andy Rousseau**

Medical Laboratory Assistant /Technician  
I started my job at LifeLabs in Trenton as a part-time casual; a few months later, I got part-time regular, and now I'm working at the Perth location full-time. Had I not had my knowledge from SLC, I would not have made full time after only a year of working.

2022

**Courtney Gorman**

Social Service Worker  
I was and still am supported by SLC. A few people made my time exceptional, even though we were virtual, our program thrived, and I am forever grateful! #slcproud



# Passings.

## 1969

Joan Hughes, *Early Childhood Education*  
Robert Oatway, *Business-Data Processing*

## 1970

Joseph Blanchard, *Mechanical Engineering Technology-Level II*  
Hans Gurski, *Mechanical Engineering Technology-Level II*

## 1973

Gordon Bamber, *Industrial Management*  
David Campbell, *Business-Marketing*

## 1974

Mukund Godbole, *Industrial Management*  
Nancy McNaughton, *Diploma Nursing*  
Evelyn Millward, *Public Administration*  
John Petepiece, *Retailing Management*  
Grietje Vrieswyk, *Health Care Aide*

## 1975

Gordon Ball, *Municipal Administration*  
Charlene Hodgson, *Business*

Walter Metcalfe, *Municipal Administration*  
Mary Mika, *Diploma Nursing*  
Margaret Potter, *Health Care Aide*  
Denise Shaw, *Municipal Administration*  
Thelma Stitt, *Nursing Assistant*  
Emma Wooldridge, *Nursing Assistant*

## 1976

Brenda Caldwell, *Diploma Nursing*  
Cathy Long, *Health Care Aide*  
Don McKenzie, *Diploma Nursing*  
Christine Nicholson, *Secretary-Legal*

## 1977

Edith Campbell, *Social Service Administration*  
Sheila Cotton, *Stenographer*  
Dorothy Lalonde, *Health Care Aide*  
Shirley Mulder, *Diploma Nursing*  
Margaret Sanborn, *Registered Nurse-Management Skills*

## 1978

Lillian Gould, *Health Care Aide*

## 1979

Patricia Gaskin, *Business Administration-Finance*  
Barbara McNair, *Visual and Creative Arts-Fashion Design*

## 1980

Brian Kavanagh, *Instrumentation Engineering Technician-Industrial*  
Garfield Ogilvie, *Business-Advertising and Public Relations*  
Dorothy Simpson, *Health Care Aide*  
Rosa Zegarra, *Nursing Assistant*

## 1981

Patrick Coffey, *Business Administration-Finance*  
Janet Klein-Swormink, *Business-Human Resources*

## 1982

Julie Green, *Business Administration-Marketing*  
Wendall Morrell, *Junior Programmer*

## 1983

Reta Amey, *Home Support*  
Irma Knutzen, *Home Support*  
James Roettger, *Electronics Technician-Accelerated*

## 1984

Brian Acker, *Electronics Engineering Technology*  
Mable Baumhauer, *Accounting*  
Katherine Olmstead, *Registered Nurse-Occupational Health Nursing*  
Evelyn Secours, *Home Support-Level II*  
Wilda Seyeau, *Home Support*  
Anne Thomas, *Gerontology-Multidiscipline*

## 1985

Evelyn Badour, *Home Support-Level II*  
Vera Best, *Photography*  
Kenneth Lahey, *Instrumentation Engineering Technician-Industrial*  
Peter Massey, *Auto Body Repairer-Advanced-Apprenticeship/Debosseleur*

## 1986

Carl Coville, *Motor Vehicle Mechanic-Basic-Apprenticeship*  
Charlotte Harnden, *Secretarial Arts-Legal*  
Melvin Thompson, *Construction*  
Rod Placer

## 1987

Julie Cliffe, *Early Childhood Education*  
Ronald McIntosh, *Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technician-Maintenance*  
Joan Steele, *Business Administration-Finance*

## 1988

Ethel Edwards, *Home Support-Level II*  
Pauline McCrum, *Fine Arts*  
Dola Page, *Nursing*

## 1989

Doris Kandler, *Home Support-Level II*  
Stephen Rand, *Business Administration-Finance*  
Elizabeth Weir, *Fashion Merchandising*

## 1991

Nadine Doyle, *Child and Youth Worker*  
Monique Gaudet, *Carpenter General*  
Ruthanna Macpherson, *Home Support-Level II*

## 1992

Margaret Carruthers, *Home Support-Level II*  
Jason MacDonald, *Appraisal and Assessment*

## 1993

George Carey, *Human Services Management*

Sheila Dean, *Ceramics*  
Michelle Macey, *Correctional Worker*  
William Smith, *Building Environmental Systems Administration*  
Barbara Titterington, *Life Skills Coach*

## 1994

Mary Donaldson, *Home Support-Level II*  
Sharon Kirkey, *General Arts and Science*  
Sean Mackey, *Hotel and Restaurant Management-Co-op*

## 1995

Timothy Cassidy, *Law and Security Administration*  
Stephanie Gregory, *Health Care Aide*  
Paul Herder, *Residential Building Renovations Helper*  
Lisa (Gough) Murphy, *Early Childhood Education*  
Judy Wyatt, *Home Child Care*

## 1996

Henry Biles, *Teacher of Adults*  
Joyce McKay, *Fibre Arts-Traditional Rug Hooking*

## 1998

Geoffrey Fellows, *Carpenter-Advanced-Apprenticeship*

## 2000

Barbara Berry, *Business-Marketing*

Lori Phillips, *General Arts and Science*

## 2001

Mark Steacy, *Business-Human Resources*

## 2003

Magee Druce, *Electronics Engineering Technician*  
Bryan McCue, *Windows Applications*

## 2005

Robert McColl, *Assistant Cook*

## 2006

Kathleen Hogarth, *Social Service Worker*

## 2010

Charlene Gervais, *Human Resource Management*

## 2011

Jennifer Labelle, *Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

## 2013

Stéfan Corriveau, *Business-Accounting*  
Celina Couto, *Practical Nursing*  
Tracy Lynn Getson, *Civil Engineering Technology*

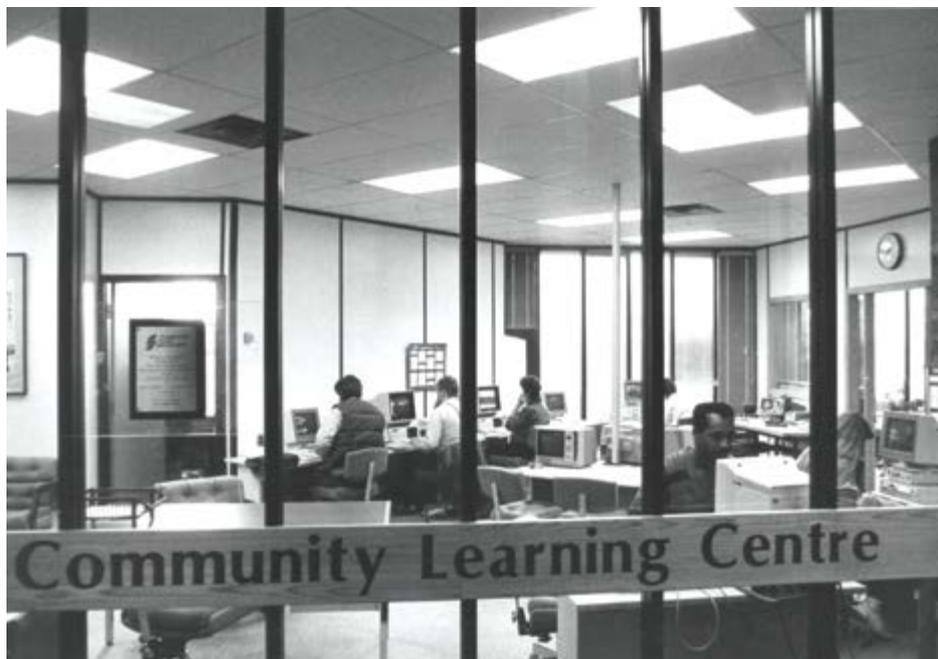
## 2022

Jenn Lowe, *Mental Wellness and Addictions Worker*

## Staff Passings

Nancy Ashton  
Richard Dunn  
Victor (Garry) Ernst  
John Hamilton  
Ross Hermiston  
Michael MacKinder  
William Murphy  
Eugene Motluk

Passings is compiled from publicly available obituaries and family notifications. To add or correct a listing, please email [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca)



Retro look back at the Community Learning Centre in 1980s.

# Highlights of the early decades

Beginning in the early 1970s, and continuing over the following decade, there were a number of major changes in college programs. The following examples highlight several of these changes and the creative college personnel who initiated them and supported our students—showing innovation at SLC from its earliest days.

One of the most significant was the transfer of nursing programs from the hospitals to SLC in 1973. On the Cornwall campus, this transfer was overseen by Tatiana Labekovski (or Mrs. L. as she became known). She also established a joint committee with the Children's Aid Society to study child abuse in the community, encouraged the

development of a toy-lending library at the Cornwall campus, and coordinated a committee for the study of mental health issues. The corresponding transfer of Nursing on the Kingston campus featured staff such as Pat Nekus, Marj Mason, Orla Myrfield, and Clare Rayner—the latter playing a key role in the work of the SLC Retirees Association ever since its formation.

Dick Jarvis was one of the first teachers hired in the Animal Care program and worked to get second and third-year students clinical experience at the Kingston Humane Society. He also started the move for the College to purchase the "Animal Inn," an initiative which ultimately led to a

combined Humane Society/Animal Care Clinic for SLC.

Marilynn Yeates developed correspondence courses for Early Childhood Education students to make the program available for those who had small children at home and couldn't attend classes. Introduced in 1978, this alternative form of learning received an enthusiastic response—across Canada, and then internationally. Gradually, the entire Home Child Care Certificate was made available through correspondence.

Correspondence programs of municipal associations were administered by SLC's Centre for Government Education & Training (CGET), which by the mid-1980s had some 600 students a year. SLC graduation

certificates were displayed in municipal offices across Ontario and across Canada. Ian Wilson from CGET, bravely accepted an invitation to provide some training in Iqaluit one February, and took with him the certificate of one of our graduates to present to him there.

A Technology Learning Centre, which later became part of the Community Learning Centre, developed modules of learning that students could commence at any time, supported by independent study notes and videotapes. The latter centre was headed by John Mason, also included Paul Van Nest, Frank Lockington, and Barry Keefe.

Other innovations included making work placements part of the required credits to graduate, establishing bursaries to help students financially, and expanding services to students to help them meet their life challenges as well as their academic ones.

Let me close with this example of the collegial and supportive atmosphere. It was only 7:15am on September 5, 1986, students were lined up outside the Financial Aid offices. By mid-morning, Eunice Warren, Shirley Warne, and Linda Snider were exhausted. Just then, Marg Matheson walked in with a pot of coffee, followed by Marg Taylor, Dennis Murphy, and Sandra Denard, all of whom spent the day helping out. As one of them observed afterward, "it's that kind of spontaneous teamwork that makes working at the college a real pleasure." —**Dick Tindal**

Find out more about the Retirees Association and check out our website [stlawrencecollege.ca/about/careers-at-slc/retirees](http://stlawrencecollege.ca/about/careers-at-slc/retirees)

Interacting with a manikin in our health care SIM lab



CICE alumni celebrate with Storm



One of our first graduating nursing classes of 1975!



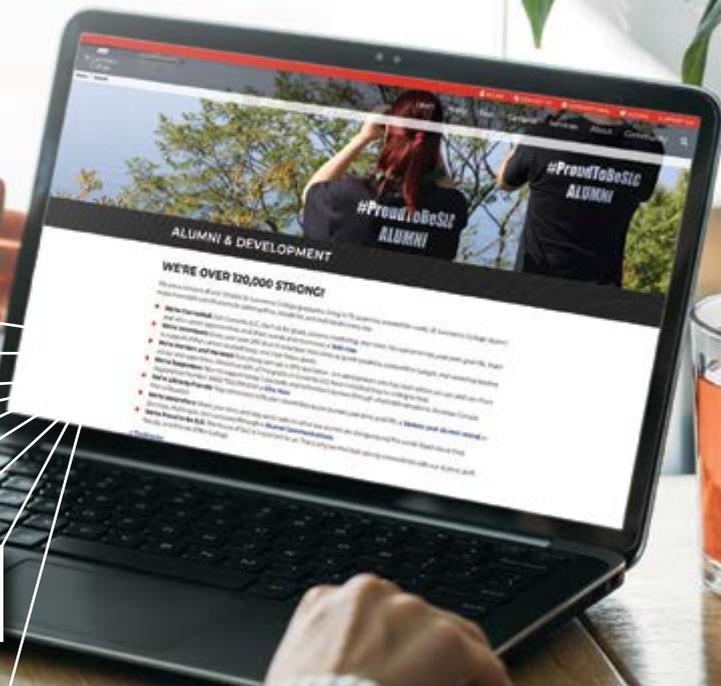
# Milestone celebrations at SLC

We've celebrated academic anniversaries across our three campuses.

**50 YEARS OF NURSING:** Fifty years after St. Lawrence College opened its doors to the first nursing students in 1973, alumni from the first class to present day celebrated 50 years of nursing at SLC. Attendees toured the new health care simulation labs, explored the history of Nursing at SLC through a retrospective photo display and connected with current students and faculty who volunteered as tour guides for returning alumni with celebrations at the Cornwall, Kingston, and Brockville campuses.

**CICE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS:** SLC celebrated ten years of Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE) graduates in June. The special day included an alumni panel, a keynote speaker and fun celebration activities, as graduates and students travelled from Brockville and Cornwall to attend the celebration at the Kington campus Event Centre.

**Want to organize a reunion?** We can help. Contact us [alumni@sl.on.ca](mailto:alumni@sl.on.ca)



# Check out the SLC Alumni website to learn about lifelong benefits of being part of the SLC Alumni community.

- Get discounts on travel, food, attractions, hotels and more
- Sign up to join the Global Alumni Network
- Download or view Voyageur Magazine (and archives)
- Update your records online
- Learn about opportunities to support SLC
- See alumni profiles



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