

50 years of Nursing
and the path forward with
stand-alone degrees

Meeting change head-on:
micro-credentials and rethinking
traditional programs

Ukraine crisis: CEO in
exile keeps communications
thriving in wartime

voyageur



CREATING
BUILDING
BLOCKS
AND
DEVELOPING
IN-DEMAND
SKILLS TO
ADDRESS
LOCAL
WORKFORCE
NEEDS

TRADING UP





Your hub for careers, mentoring and more

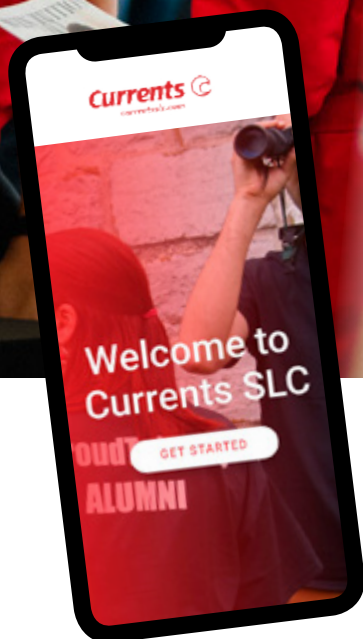
If you are not on the platform or haven't logged in lately, here are a few highlights of what you may have missed.

Career opportunities: Now including those from the SLC Total Hire Job Board and SLC employment opportunities

Training opportunities: Event listings including job fairs, recruiting nights and student showcases

Current students requesting help with career questions

Exclusive contests and more



**More info on how to join
and download the Currents
SLC app: [CurrentsSLC.com](https://currentsslc.com)**

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“With more electric vehicles on roads, there is an immediate need for Electric Vehicle Training. Some technicians may have decades in the field, but they need this training.”

—Saifullah Sanaye, Automotive Service Level I, II, III, Technician program, 2007-2009, page 18

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By Andrea Gunn

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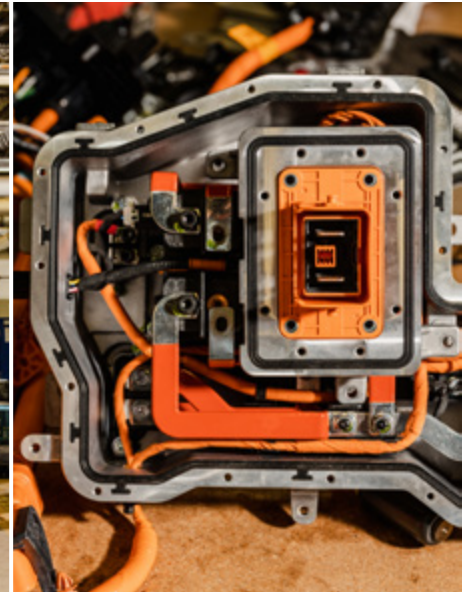
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By Kimberley Falk



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Ariane Morin,
Welding and
Fabrication
Technician, 2023.
Photo by Johnny
C.Y. Lam



Glenn and Storm, the new Surge mascot, in the photo booth at Fall Open House

Growing as we go

Preparing students to succeed in jobs of the future.

If you visited an SLC campus recently, the difference to this time a year ago was remarkable and heart-warming. Everywhere you looked, you'd see students connecting or working in groups, laughing as their course work and projects progressed. Faculty and staff crisscrossed campus, moving between meetings and classes, and community guests and events have even returned, as we welcomed groups hosted by local partners like the Chamber, Economic Development teams, municipalities, and more. It is wonderful to be back on campus, and the recent Open House events, where we open the doors to SLC and welcome prospective students and their families to see all that we offer, were equally well attended and energized!

That said, it's not like SLC stood still during the pandemic—that is hardly the case when one considers the milestones we have marked as a College. In this issue of Voyageur, we talk about SLC's 50-year career

educating nurses, who are more important than ever to our communities. SLC has seen numerous changes and growth in the nursing programs, from learning spaces, and state-of-the-art simulation labs to offering our own stand-alone nursing degree. It is incredible to think of the impact SLC's graduates have had and continue to have on the nursing profession and the health-care sector.

SLC's Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE) program celebrates its tenth graduating class. CICE is a two-year certificate program designed for adults with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, acquired brain injuries or other significant learning challenges who wish to further their education/vocational training in a community college setting. We are proud of the decade plus spent helping CICE students achieve their academic goals and connect with employment.

Milestones are one indicator of progress, and another is growth. SLC continues to expand the number of programs we offer and to enhance how SLC+ and our continuing education division connects with lifelong learners. We also plan to increase the number of students we welcome to our campuses in the coming years. This planned growth is in direct response to the needs of provincial and national labour markets, as colleges like SLC are a major contributor to Ontario's economy, and the demand for our skilled graduates has never been higher, particularly in key areas like healthcare, trades, and manufacturing.

Our approach to growth is measured and considerate, with the first step being to regain enrolment lost during the pandemic. We also expect to see a higher percentage of international students on all SLC campuses, as demand remains high for our programs and Canada continues to be a preferred destination for students.

I have recently taken on the role of chairing the provincial Committee of College Presidents, and I am the Chair of Colleges Ontario—from that provincial level, I can confirm that college education and training remain pivotal to Ontario's future prosperity and the rapidly growing demand for a more highly qualified workforce. As a college graduate or supporter, you know that colleges and our students are up to the challenge because we connect our students to the world and, along the way, connect employers with the talent they need for their businesses to grow.

Since being created 55 years ago, colleges have helped train Ontario's workforce. We will evolve in response to employer and industry needs, while continuing to prepare our students to succeed in the jobs of the future. As an alum of SLC, you are part of that work, and I would like to close by thanking graduates who took the time to respond to the magazine survey we conducted. We are committed to evolving how we connect with our global alumni community, and your insight is welcomed and appreciated. Remember Currents, your alumni hub for staying connected. If you are reading this magazine but didn't receive a copy yourself, please contact our Alumni team to update your record.

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



Thanks for sharing your opinion!

Thanks to all the grads who completed the Voyageur survey. We asked you to share your opinions and ideas, and you did! In this issue, you will see some of those changes already and watch for more changes to come in future issues: • Stories about faculty and staff helping students • More alumni profiles/career stories • Opportunities to get involved as alumni • Future plans at the College

A full-circle moment

“I don’t normally open direct mail letters, but something about this one called to me.”

—Chantal Borst, *Advertising and Marketing Communications*, 2003



Chantal Borst chose to make her first gift to the College this year and establish The Resiliency Bursary. As a previous bursary recipient herself, she remembers the difference that donor support makes for SLC students and considers The Resiliency Bursary a way for her SLC story to come full circle.

The Feed may be edited for length and clarity.

Voyageur appreciation

This issue of *Voyageur* is truly a piece of art. From the table of contents to where in the world to the global connections section, everything is so eye appealing. As an alum from 1975.... yes that far back, I have seen a lot of publications from colleges and universities. This one is top of the line.—Joan Currie, *Diploma Nursing*, 1975

Volunteer appreciation

When your alumni come back as guest speakers on a panel—and your PAC chair comes—your heart grows even more. SLC Projects for Impact.—Deanna Davies, *Business - Advertising and Public Relations*, 1991, *Professor, Business program* (via Twitter)

Opening doors

Paul McLaughlin became not only one of my favourite teachers but a mentor, who encouraged me to look at the Certified General Accountant program.

In 1978, struggling with a CGA course, I contacted Paul and came to his office at SLC to get his help with understanding Present Value analysis. I passed the exam but never got to tell him how much he helped me because he died of a heart attack before the results were announced. When I attended my CGA graduation, I thought of Paul, who had directed me to the CGA path.

I remember Paul teaching the theory as detailed in the textbooks but adding, “but in real life....”. He shared his real-life experience with us, which made all the difference for me. Years later, as a part-time teacher at Seneca, I found myself saying the same words and teaching Present Value analysis....and thinking fondly of the teacher who had encouraged me.—Angie Rose, *Self-employed, Accountant Business Administration-Finance*, 1976

See more opening doors stories from our graduates on p. 11

SLC+

More
Opportunity

SLC+ continuing education courses take you ahead of the competition.

- + Registered Nurse Critical Care Nursing
- + Venipuncture/IV Insertion
- + Social Media Marketing
- + Accounting Basics & Advanced Financial Accounting
- + Dementia Studies
- + Safe Food Handler
- + Perioperative Nursing
- + Gas Technician 2 & 3
- + French

**Explore more options
at slcplus.ca**


**St. Lawrence
College**

SLC Diary

Seen &
Heard on
Campus



Did you know? A Tree of Peace initiative is planned at the Brockville campus this year.

JOURNEY TO HEALING

Indigenous art installations on each campus

Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers created art installations in the Marianne van Silfhout Gallery, on the Brockville campus, and at outdoor sites on the Cornwall and Kingston campuses. Using large premade crochet and knit pieces made of red yarn, each installation is unique to its location and contributes to a nationwide project funded by the Government of Canada. The nationwide project by Chambers entitled #hopeandhealingcanada that broaches the subject of decolonization and our connections to one another. →

The project helped raise awareness for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

Chambers began this ongoing installation project in June 2021 and has created more than 100 site-specific installations across Canada. As Chambers explains,

“Many (but not all) of these public spaces serve to present a colonial viewpoint and primarily speak about the settlers who arrived and lived here but not the Indigenous people that were displaced along the way. The decolonization of such places is a ponderous task and must be shouldered collectively.”

The discussion of reconciliation and decolonization is hard to start and harder still to maintain.”

The yarn was sent back to the artist so that its story can continue in other installations as she continues her artistic journey to build awareness.

Learn more about the project: traceymae.com



LET'S DANCE!

SLC MTP students are the first to perform a new Canadian musical



When Executive Producer Bob Hallett of Great Big Sea and Come From Away suggested a student workshop for *Let's Dance!*, a rock and roll themed story about finding yourself, alumna Victoria Wells-Smith, Music Theatre Performance 2010, thought back to her training at SLC and reached out to Janet Venn-Jackson, MTP program coordinator, and a door was opened. “It was such a quick turnaround, as faculty member Chad McNamara and the new Dean, Les Casson, were enthusiastic and supportive. It was a collaborative effort, and the results were phenomenal,” said Victoria.

The production was a culmination of a workshop

process completed by SLC's MTP students, led by Terra Bruce Productions, a creation company based in St. John's, NL.

“*Let's Dance!* was one of three workshop projects SLC Music Theatre Performance students completed with industry creatives in fall'22. The workshop experience gives students a chance to engage directly with the creation of new work—to help shape it and give it a voice. It's an incredible creative experiential learning opportunity, and we are thrilled to partner with artists in the creation of new repertoire,” said Les Casson, Dean, Faculty of Creative Industries and Brockville Campus.

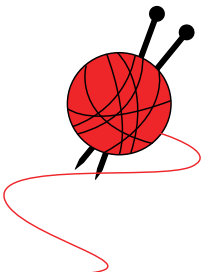


Let's Dance! SLC performers take us back to the 60s.

Let's Dance

Director: Heather Braaten
Choreographer: Chad McNamara
Set Designer: Joshua Quinlan
Costume Designer: Graham McMonagle
Lighting Designer: Frank Donato

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LEFT) SEAN BURNS (RIGHT) BERNARD CLARK; ILLUSTRATIONS BY KA YOUNG LEE



THE STUDENT VOICE

Kingston Student Association celebrates 50 years!



“As a president, I make sure that their voices and needs are heard. We always put students at the forefront of our work.”

Agum Wadhwa,
President of the
Kingston Student
Association

2022 was an exciting year for the Student Association (SA) at SLC’s Kingston Campus as it celebrated its 50th anniversary! Starting as a small student-run organization in 1971, the SA is now an integral part of the Kingston campus, responsible for advocating for and protecting students’ rights and ensuring a holistic experience for every student on the campus.

Over the last 50 years, the SA has served some 100,000 students and has led multiple projects, most notably overseeing the construction of student spaces such as Davies Hall and the Student Life and Innovation Centre, implementing the universal bus pass program, creating a Food Pantry for students, and managing St. Larry’s Pub. “Our main goal is supporting students—financially, academically as well as spiritually,” says Agum Wadhwa, President of the Student Association. “As

a president, I make sure that their voices and needs are heard. We always put students at the forefront of our work.”

To celebrate this milestone, the Student Association hosted a golf tournament fundraising event on July 22, 2022, at the Loyalist Golf and Country Club. This event was joined by guests and raised over \$10,000 through ticket sales and donations, which went toward the Community Support Fund which offers emergency financial support to students on the Kingston Campus. “It was wonderful to see the entire SLC community—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—all together in one place,” said Agum. “I am so grateful for the alumni who give back and keep supporting the SA. Through their donations and funds we are able to continue our mission of improving our students’ lives.” The SA also held a week-long 50th Anniversary giveaway, which invited students to participate online to win prizes.



SA members (left to right) Daria Bolshakova, and Agum Wadhwa, reconnected with past presidents Jesse Sibanda and Terry McGinn.

VALUE OF BELONGING

Meet Carmen Law Director, Belonging, Equity and Diversity



We asked Carmen to share five things about herself; what inspired her to pursue this career and apply for this newly created position at SLC, and her vision for the future.

It has been a very warm, welcoming experience joining St. Lawrence College. I have met many incredible students, staff, and faculty who have shown pride, spirit, and enthusiasm for the college community. I have also been met with a desire and commitment to advance and infuse Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) into all facets of SLC's practices. I am very grateful to the EDI Task Force for all their work collecting data, listening to members, and creating recommendations for the path moving forward. They did incredible work to start the foundation for our collective journey toward belonging.

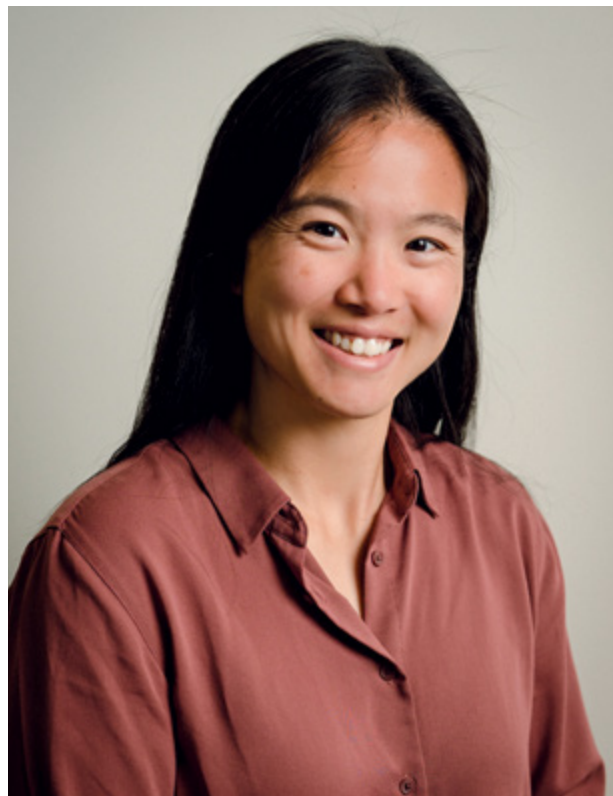
As a first-generation Chinese immigrant and queer woman, I am privileged to work on the unceded and traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. My personal journey for truth and reconciliation is a commitment to learning the true history of Indigenous Peoples and dedicated efforts toward dismantling colonial structures and systems.

I am a lifelong learner through experiences and listening to people's stories. I have been privileged to travel, work, and volunteer around the world. Some destinations have included the UK, Thailand,

Turkey, China, Croatia, Slovenia, and many more. I have met many incredible people along the way, and they have all broadened my scope of perspectives, for which I am grateful.

I am also an activist for equity in many ways, more specifically outside my role, for women and girls in sports. I am co-founder of a non-profit, Lead Thru Sport and use it as a platform to elevate female voices on and off the field.

My passions and values aligned like the stars when I saw the SLC Director, Belonging, EDI position become available. This is an incredible opportunity for me to connect with people, listen to perspectives and be a catalyst for change. A sense of belonging ensures everyone in our community is comfortable being their true authentic self and knows their voice matters. What a great time to listen and elevate voices!



Carmen Law – EDI Vision and Leadership



“A sense of belonging ensures everyone in our community is comfortable being their true authentic self and knows their voice matters. What a great time to listen and elevate voices!”

Carmen Law
Director, Belonging,
Equity and Diversity

AT A GLANCE

Bridging the workforce gap

Responding
to community
needs

Building and strengthening our community's workforce, responding to needs and opportunities through innovation and access.



Workforce Development from 2019-2022

1,600+

opportunities impacting 1,700+ organizations

2021/22 → **717**

2020/21 → **398**

2019/20 → **506**

\$30.9 million

in revenue

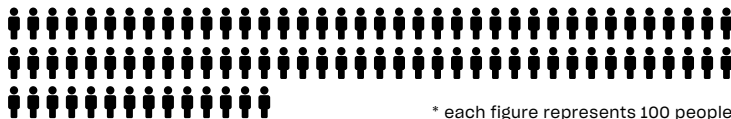
2021/22 → **\$4.1m**

2020/21 → **\$21.7m**

2019/20 → **\$4.8m**

9,000+

participants trained



Career & Employment Services

180+

Career Services
Events

170+

Canada-Ontario Job
Grant Opportunities

600+

Employment Service
Placements

Of the 1000+ students who've booked an appointment with Career Services, within 1 month:

36%

were hired in
part-time positions

19%

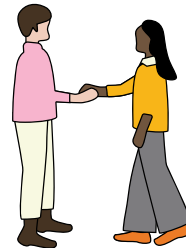
were hired in
full-time positions

14%

attained placement
positions

2%

attained volunteer
positions, bursaries
or other



Top Industries and the number of opportunities*

- 1. Construction**
231 opportunities
- 2. Food & Beverage**
197 opportunities
- 3. Education**
154 opportunities
- 4. Services**
107 opportunities
- 5. Manufacturing**
100 opportunities
- 6. Healthcare**
96 opportunities
- 7. Government**
86 opportunities
- 8. Retail**
84 opportunities
- 9. Technology**
48 opportunities
- 10. Not For Profit**
43 opportunities

* since April 1st, 2019.



ASK A PRO

Head in the cloud

Advice from a developer, author and podcast host.

We reached out to Rishab Kumar, Computer Networking and Technical Support, 2018, named one of WeaveSphere's 2022 "Developer 30 under 30" honourees. Rishab is a Staff Developer Evangelist at Twilio, co-author of *Learn to Cloud*, and co-host of the Random Cloud Chats podcast, *AWS Community Builder*.

What is the "cloud", and how does it impact us?

Cloud is a term used to describe the delivery of computing services over the internet. These services include storage, computing power, databases, and other technologies traditionally provided by on-premises servers and hardware.

The impact of the cloud on individuals and businesses is significant. For individuals, the cloud allows easy access to a wide range of services and applications from any device with an internet connection. This means you can access your files, photos, and other data from your home computer,

phone, or any other device, without worrying about storing and backing up that data.

For businesses, it can help reduce the need for on-premises infrastructure, which saves upfront and ongoing maintenance costs. It also makes it easier for businesses to scale their operations up or down as needed, since they can access additional computing resources on demand. This can help businesses be more agile and quickly respond to changing market conditions. The cloud offers improved collaboration and communication among team members since they can access shared

files and applications from anywhere. This can help increase productivity and make it easier for teams to work together, even if they are located in different parts of the world.

Overall, the cloud has transformed how we access and use computing resources, and its impact is felt across various industries and applications. Whether you are an individual looking to access your data from multiple devices, or a business looking to reduce costs and improve collaboration, the cloud has much to offer.

Why consider a career in cloud?

The demand for cloud computing skills is high and growing. As more and more businesses move their operations to the cloud, there is a need for professionals who are knowledgeable about cloud technologies and how to implement them effectively. This means that individuals with cloud skills are likely to have good job prospects and potentially high earning potential.

The cloud offers a wide range of career opportunities. In addition to traditional roles such as cloud engineers and administrators, there are opportunities for data scientists, software developers, and other professionals who can leverage the power of the cloud to solve complex problems. This means that students interested in pursuing a career in the cloud can choose from various paths and specialize in the areas that most interest them.

It is a rapidly evolving field, so there are always new technologies and innovations to learn about. This can be exciting for students interested in staying on the cutting edge of technology and working on the latest and greatest tools and platforms. ✨

Cloud bits

Cloud computing has become increasingly popular among businesses in recent years. According to a report published by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the adoption of cloud computing among Canadian businesses increased from 54% in 2015 to 75% in 2018. Additionally, the report found that the use of cloud computing was particularly prevalent among small- and medium-sized businesses, with 82% of these businesses using cloud computing services.

Currently, more than 18,000+ job openings in Canada require cloud computing skills, according to LinkedIn and Indeed. And more than 200 of the postings are looking for entry-level professionals.



CAITLIN ZIMMERMAN

Secker Ross and Perry LLP, Administrative Assistant; Office Administration, 2021

Frank Armstrong connected me with an SLC admin grad looking for someone to join their team. His recommendation helped me secure my dream job! His recommendation held so much weight, they were willing to wait for me.

WHO OPENED A DOOR FOR YOU?


An illustration of two people climbing a red rope. One person is higher up, wearing a yellow shirt, and the other is lower down, wearing a green shirt. They are both holding onto the rope.

MEGAN CHAPMAN

Upper Canada District School Board,
Human Resources Assistant;
Business Administration - Human Resources, 2021

Sarah Durant was my Student Success Facilitator when we switched to online. My grades faltered and I reached out to Sarah several times regarding all kinds of setbacks and each time she was patient and helped me through this new learning experience. I am thankful for her role in my college life!

We asked our grads to share stories of those who opened doors to opportunities for them as students. From words of encouragement to helping land dream jobs, our SLC faculty and staff have made an impact. Thanks to all who shared their stories. Here are a few snippets of the responses received. The story continues online—slcalumni.ca

An illustration of a person with long orange hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and purple pants, holding up a large white rectangular sign with both hands.



Frank Lockington hired me as a student to assist him and his team in making better use of their donor database. When I graduated, he hired me full time. His trust, guidance, and flexibility in my schedule, helped me connect with others in the fundraising world. RESolutionTECH now employs 20 employees, many of them SLC graduates.



CORY FIRTH

Nikean Foundation, Chief Storyteller; Advertising and Marketing Communications Management, 2012

Kathy Patterson and Jackie St. Pierre were and still are two incredible mentors, guides, and friends. I went through some tough family struggles, but both of these women showed warmth and kindness to me, which I desperately needed at the time.

DARLENE GEORGE

Private Family, Personal Support Worker; Early Childhood Education, 1985

I was a single parent of a 5-year-old when my mother died suddenly; my father died ten weeks later. Thanks to the warm, caring support of my teachers, Velma Vosper, Kris and Sharon, I graduated with distinction and got an amazing job.

ROBIN PORTER

RESolutionsTECH Inc., President and CEO; Computer Engineering Technology, 2002

RACHEAL KOLETT

Expert Care Physio Group, Front Desk Administrator and Physiotherapy Assistant; Health Care Administration, 2022

Kathy Doering - she shared her time with me every time I felt like I was about to break down. Her energy, warm smile, and hugs are like a cup of hot chocolate with little marshmallows on a cold winter night. ❤️



VICKI KILPATRICK

St. Lawrence College, Program Coordinator and Professor, Personal Support Worker (PSW); Practical Nurse, 2000, Pre-Health Sciences, 2005 and Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 2009

I am a three-time SLC grad and current prof and program coordinator. One of my former BScN teachers now teaches in my PSW program, and I recently hired a former PSW student of mine to teach, so we are three "generations" working together to train PSWs at SLC.

MEGAN STACEY

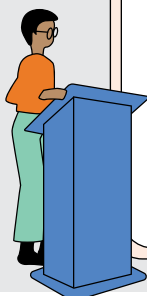
Truffles Catering, Catering Manager; Advertising/Integrated Marketing Communications, 2011

It was a simple tweet... Kathy Patterson tweeted that there was an opportunity for SLC students to study at Disney; I reached out, and six months later, I arrived in Florida!

MATTHEW LOW

Lowe's Canada, Pro Sales Manager - Eastern ON; Business Admin - Marketing, 2022

Bill Crowe took teaching to a different level, when classes transitioned online. His class gave me confidence, motivation, and goals. He warmly welcomed me back to guest speak with his students and invited me to participate as a judge for this year's sales competition.



ELIZABETH CASTILLO BARRAGAN

SLC Innovation Hub, Supervisor; User Experience Design, 2022

Jadon Hook helped me gain confidence and the tools to improve my resume. He is always willing to assist me and provide references, and I greatly appreciate his support.

MORGAN WILSON

Queen's University
– Economics
Department,
Communications and
Career Development
Coordinator;
Bachelor of Business
Administration, 2020

I had never worked an office job, but Breanne Johnson, Creative Director of Spark, took a chance on me. She helped my administrative growth by trusting me, allowing me to make mistakes, and supporting my ideas. This support was not only crucial in my career journey, but it also helped boost my confidence as a student and a person.



JENN FAGAN (COMPEAU)

KFL&A Public Health,
Communications
Specialist; Graphic
Design, 2004

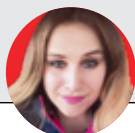
Professor Andrew McLachlan was an outstanding influence and gave me clear, honest direction, forming confidence in my design concepts.



VICTORIA BALBUENA

Self-employed, Commercial Cleaning and Maintenance;
Civil Engineering Technology, 2019

In the final semester, I was losing steam. I didn't know but I was struggling with depression. In a large class, you can feel like you fade into the background. My teacher, Darrell Searles, asked a simple question: "How are you doing? Are you okay?" He had noticed my enthusiasm and focus were waning and showed genuine concern for my well-being. He listened and gave some good advice. I will never forget his kindness.



JOANNA LEONARD

NorWest Community
Health Centres,
Community Health
Worker-Mental Health
Triage; Social Service
Worker, 2019

My communications professor Pam Serf saw that I was struggling with my mental health, and sat with me, delayed a group presentation, and connected me to services at SLC that made my time more manageable.

AKSHAYA ARUN VARAPRATH

Health Care Administration, 2017

Transitioning to a new country and experiencing a different culture, language and people was part of the learning process.

John Conrad, Sarah Durant, Ann Vadala, and Julie White not only lent a hand and lifted me up in my professional journey but also on days when I needed extra motivation.

"I applied to SLC in my early forties because I became a mom very young and got caught up in drug/alcohol addiction. Jody Souka-Marleau took a chance, had faith in me, and pushed me to believe in myself. With her guidance and her ability to listen, teach and support, I learned that my past no longer dictates my future."

JAIMEE LEE SQUARE

Social Service Worker, 2022

ROBIN TIPPETT

Queen's University,
School Manager;
Office Administration,
2007

Michele Lemmon in the Bookstore hired me and encouraged me when I returned to school. Mary Gelinias in College Prep believed in me while I completed my upgrading. Lois Orr, in the Office Admin program saw my potential. Diana Drury hired me for the Peer Ambassador Committee, with experiences outside my comfort zone.

Melanie Christian who helped me fall back in love with math!!! Greg Libitz taught me more about strategy than I learned in any other program. Wayne Runte taught me that help is available to those who ask.

John Pierce in HR connected me to a role that turned into a full-time role and launched my career!

Surging
Ahead

THE BIG PICTURE

Taking the College by Storm!

A fun, energetic furry red mascot named Storm with blue hair and horns is igniting SLC school spirit across our three campuses. They are joining in the festivities such as Orientation, Open House, Convocation and SLC Surge games. Here's just a sample of some of their activities in 2022.



We've got
spirit.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN LAHAY AND TIM FORBES; ILLUSTRATION BY KA YOUNG LEE



Orientation and Open House fun.



BUTELL TING

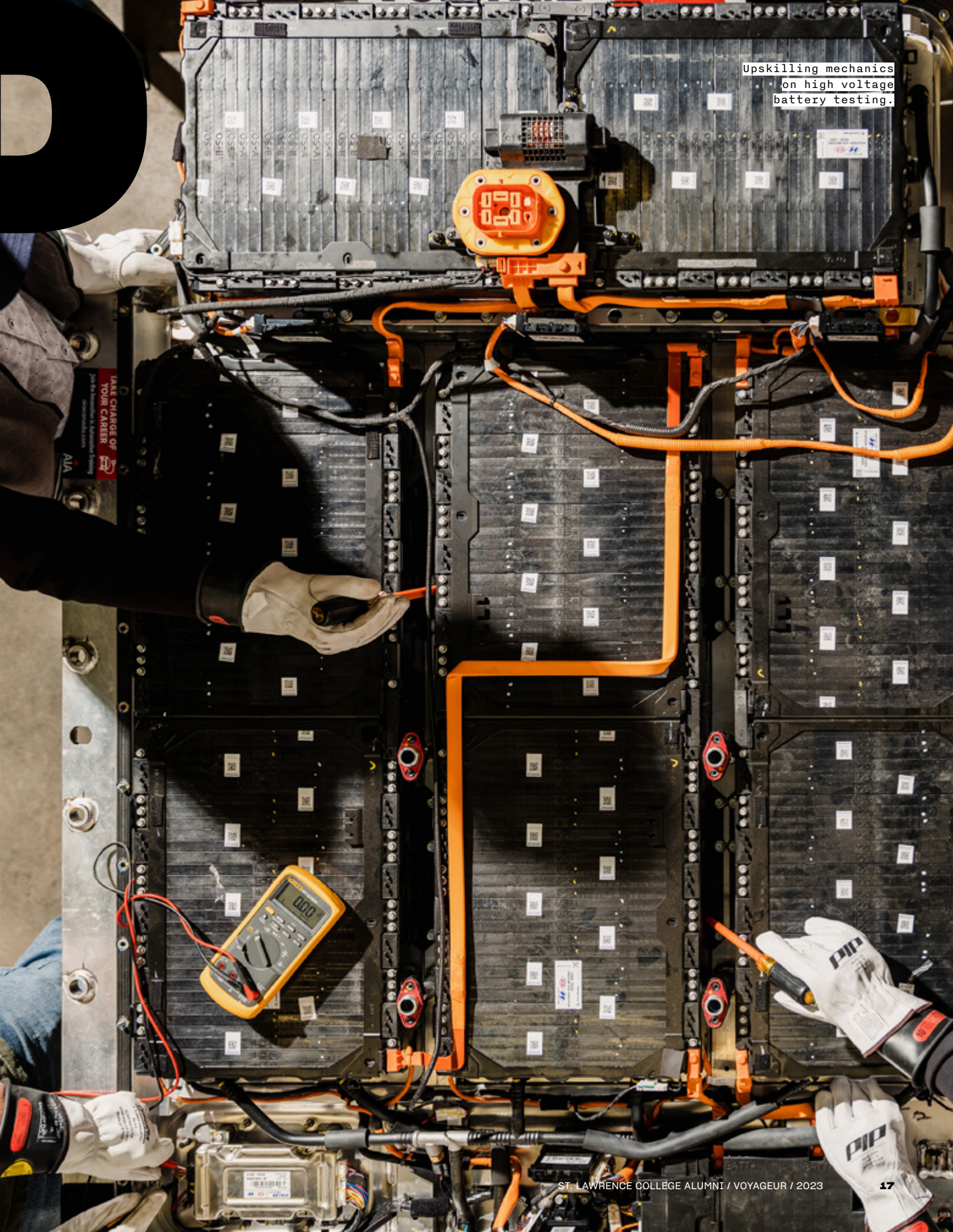
How offering micro-credentials and rethinking traditional
programming is training people for the real world of work

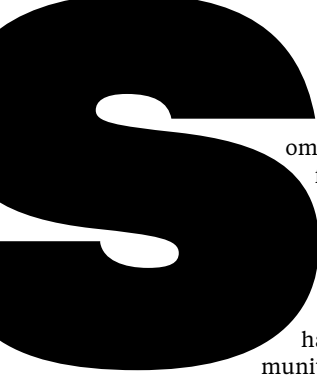
BLO CKS

By
ANDREA GUNN

Photography by
JOHNNY C.Y. LAM

Upskilling mechanics
on high voltage
battery testing.





Some students are entering the workforce after a number of years. Others want to learn the latest technologies—or offer their services to new clientele. Some are accessing online learning tools they wouldn’t otherwise have access to in their home community. Others are trying to overcome major barriers to break into the job market. All of them are being helped by St. Lawrence College.

Addressing hair by texture

Think about your relationship with your hair stylist—or your barber. Having trust in the person who cuts your hair can be so important. If they understand your hair, then they will help define your style and how you present yourself to the world. A great haircut gives confidence. And if you find someone you trust, you’ll probably be loyal to them for years. They’re part of your community.

But what if you can’t find someone who understands you or your hair type? Different types of hair require much different approaches: in cutting, chemical treatments, styling, products, and upkeep.

Professionals in the hair-care industry categorize hair types, from fine to coarse (in terms of texture) and from straight to coiled (in terms of curl). What works for a client with type 2A hair (wavy and fine) will not work for a client with type 4C hair (coiled and thick). And a stylist who has never welcomed a Black woman with type 4C hair as a client may not have experience in cutting or styling her specific hair type. This can be a barrier to that client feeling trust, confidence, and a sense of community.

The Texture with Confidence program aims to change that for Kingston-area stylists and barbers. The free program is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and provides practical skills training to local haircare professionals so that they can support new and existing clients with a variety of hair textures and curl.

Started in October 2022, the inaugural eight-module program attracted 28 hair stylists, barbers, salon owners, and apprentices.

Breaking barriers—textured hair training for hairstylists in Kingston, ON.

Small courses with a big impact

Micro-credentials are short, competency-based courses that can be taken individually, or as part of a larger program. Some of the College’s healthcare micro-credential courses are targeted to new entrants in the workforce; others provide skills upgrades for incumbent workers.

In 2021, SLC implemented a number of new micro-credentials to address pandemic-related needs in hospitals. Although not a micro-credential, the College partnered with Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers’ Association to create a training program for Environmental Service Aid workers with an emphasis on new standards for cleaning and disinfecting healthcare environments.

The College also worked with more than 40 healthcare providers in the region to provide new online training for their staff. In the College’s communities of Kingston, Cornwall, and Brockville, more than 160 Registered Nurses were able to upgrade their critical care skills through part-time study.

Foot care is an important component of health care, especially for older people and those with diabetes. The College created two online foot-care courses: an in-depth course for RNs and a more general course for personal support workers and aides.

The online nature of these courses empowered healthcare staff to learn new skills in a safe manner. “The training provided by St. Lawrence College elevated the ability of our staff to help keep our facility and residents safe during the pandemic, but also increased their skills and knowledge,” says Vincent Lazore, the administrator for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Tsiionkwanonhsote Long Term Care Facility.

A rapid response

“We’re like a rapid response team,” says Dr. John Conrad. “We want to respond to an industry demand for short duration training of 8 to 26 weeks.” John is the Director, Innovation and Business Engagement for St. Lawrence College. It’s his job to break down the barriers to employment by identifying training—and the trainers—that SLC can provide.

In some cases, a need arises as a concern. For instance, an organization wants to support its community and attract new residents with the services it offers; the health care and hair care programs are good examples.

In other cases, a local employer identifies a need for employees with a specific skill set or training. “We try to find those people, get them the training, and match them with the employer,” says John.

When working with an employer who needs to fill a role, John and his colleagues may start with a job description, but then they’ll dig deeper. After all, a basic job description doesn’t always cover what an employee will need to know and do every day. Site visits are arranged to see how the workplace operates, what their employees do and how they do it.

Micro-credential courses and non credentialed training are built around those competencies, so SLC can provide exactly the right training that meets industry standards and that will enable their students to become employees that succeed in that industry.

With the increase in demand for electric and hybrid cars in the last few years, there’s been a need for



PHOTOGRAPH BY SPARK CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS



mechanics who understand those vehicles. “It’s a very different type of maintenance,” says John, “so we’ve been working to upskill people who already fix cars so that they understand the electric vehicle and the battery systems. We try to be very responsive, to get a good sense of what’s going on in the industry.”

SLC’s Cornwall campus now offers upskilling modules on EV cars for already licensed automotive technicians, as well as a separate course for job seekers who want to enter the field. Through the government of Ontario funding, the Automotive Industries Association of Canada (AIA), participants receive free training that SLC was hired to develop and deliver. The College also secured a vehicle and close to \$300,000 of donated equipment to support future electric vehicle maintenance programs.

The College has connections in the work world; it can connect with students who want to upgrade their skills or learn new ones. So, how do they bridge those two with qualified instructors?

“We have a roster of trainers whose talents we tap into regularly,” says John. “They can be full-time faculty, part-time faculty, or approved vendors who will deliver the training for the College.” And for courses that are completely new, John and the entire Innovation and Business Engagement team will reach out to their professional network to help identify experts in their field.

Those new connections aren’t just with industry professionals. There’s immense value in collaborating with other colleges: to share ideas for courses, take the pulse of the job market in other communities, and collaborate on program delivery.

Take the Steel and Aluminum program, a targeted program that ran from 2019 to 2021 in partnership with

Saifullah Sanaye (second from right) developed the curriculum for the Electric Vehicle Training at SLC and instructs students on the differences of working on electric and hybrid vehicles.

four other colleges. Funded by SkillsAdvance Ontario, the program took a regional approach to address workforce development. SLC and its partners worked with 36 employers in nine Ontario communities; together, they delivered 114 training opportunities; trained more than 1,000 incumbent workers and 28 job seekers; and developed five micro-credentials in metallurgy.

“The large workforce development projects where we have worked in a consortium with the College’s in Eastern Ontario have made us less competitive and more collaborative when it comes to workforce development,” says John.

Members of the consortium that delivered the steel and aluminum training are now busy exploring other opportunities for future collaboration.

Building blocks for the future

Some students aren’t getting ready for the job market—not yet anyway. They’re exploring what to do after high school with some hands-on learning with SLC’s Mobile Training Labs. The labs come equipped in two enormous trailers that visit different schools on request. Trailers are parked at the school for a week, and students from grades 7 to 12 get the opportunity to try out some new skills and talk to professionals in specific trades.

Neil Kapila relishes the opportunity to engage students in his trade—welding—and to give them a taste of the work.

“I talk to them about what welding actually is, and I let them know about the two-year program at SLC,” he says. He discusses where his training has taken him—from Sarnia to Kuwait, and all the interesting work he

has done. “And then they get to try it out on a welding simulator. That really piques their interest—and it’s completely safe.”

The idea for the trailers came a few years ago, explains Jamie Puddicombe, Manager, Skills, Training and Economic Development. “We heard from a number of communities that they wanted more engagement with the College. But, for instance, the welding program isn’t offered on each campus. So, we decided to bring the equipment, the professionals, and the engagement to these communities.”

“We’ve been to Morrisburg, Gananoque, Smiths Falls... We’ve issued micro-credentials to 1,800 students in the last year, in carpentry, culinary, welding, and electrical. These kids are making a connection to the trades and to St. Lawrence College. They’re thinking of the next step in their life and what path they want to take.”

Meeting change head-on

Micro-credential courses aren’t the only offerings at SLC that are moving in step with changing technologies and employment opportunities. Two of the College’s certificate programs—one established and one brand-new—also demonstrate a nimble approach to creating curricula to meet demand—now and in the future.

A unique program in Canada, the Music and Digital Media program has been around for at least 15 years. But it is changing all the time, keeping pace with the ever-fluid technology and work options available to musicians and media artists.

The program’s integrated arts focus combines music training with the digital arts, including video production and sound engineering.

Students in the program learn to be adaptable and self-sufficient as artists—and entrepreneurs, if that is the path they choose. They learn about funding for the arts and how to put together a grant application. They learn about copyright law, to protect their intellectual property. They also learn, during their studies, to collaborate with artists in other media. And this builds more awareness of their potential career paths.

“In the very first semester,” says program coordinator Mark Bergin, “we touch on stage props and lighting, dance, art, and music—and how it all fits together.” Students graduate ready to work in everything from musical theatre to video game music. They also learn new digital technologies.

“We’re adding a new course called Advanced Technologies,” says Mark. “But I don’t even know what will be in the course next year!” he laughs. “The nature of the course will depend on what comes along next.”

The College has also created a new graduate program to proactively address the darker side of technology.

The Information and Communications Technology Council of Canada estimates that tens of thousands of additional cybersecurity professionals will be needed by 2025 in Canada.

SLC launched its Cybersecurity program in September: geared toward students with an IT background who want to sharpen their skills in protecting valuable workplace data. Courses are offered in everything from cloud security to computer forensics. Students also work on case studies based on real industry scenarios. All the



Ariane Morin (left) learning the intricacies of welding.

Carpentry student Heidi Sloan (below) demonstrates the type of skilled trades SLC teaches.



A fresh start

Vocational training for inmates preparing for release

For more than a decade, SLC has partnered with CORCAN, the employment arm of Correctional Services of Canada, to deliver vocational training to inmates preparing for release. This training can be integral to helping formerly incarcerated persons successfully enter the workforce.

Participants learn practical skills in areas like small engine repair, horticulture, fruit tree pruning, and carpentry. And as they progress, their work is put to good use, from the vegetables grown by horticulture students for their institution's kitchen, to the community bus shelter recently built by carpentry students.

Each participant receives recognition of their training that can be shown to a potential employer or used to pursue further education upon their release. The program is set up to help these participants overcome major barriers to employment and successful reintegration after incarceration. The College works closely with CORCAN to identify pertinent workforce needs.

Carpentry for the residential housing market is a red-hot skill to have. Len Winsor taught a six-week carpentry course to inmates this year. Most of his students had absolutely no experience in construction. Len

started them off with the basics of tool safety, then went on to teach them framing, flooring, insulation, and siding. "We try and touch on all the components of building a house," he says. But as they go through their building project, these students are strengthening other—equally important—skills. "We treat the course like a job site," says Len. "You show up on time. You work cooperatively with your team. It goes so much further than the carpentry," he continues. "It's helping these guys move into the next phase of their life and make better decisions for themselves. It's a pretty powerful program."

It's not a typical college classroom: CORCAN instructors teach their courses with inmates within the walls of their institution. "It's not a cushy teaching environment," says Jamie Puddicombe, "and it's made more difficult by the fact that you're working with a vulnerable population." But the instructors are making connections with their students, empowering them to learn valuable skills. "Many of these students are receiving the first certificate they've ever had. They're very proud of that—and they should be! A little bit of confidence and some new skills go a long way once they're back out and contributing to society."



Technicians learn the precision required for electric vehicle maintenance.

program's instructors have extensive real-world experience; each one teaches a course while maintaining their work outside the College.

This is strategic, says Brad Barbeau, Associate Dean, Applied Science and Computing. Through their ongoing work, instructors are acutely aware of the latest developments in cybercrime and technology; they can bring this insight to their courses. Their students learn about the real-time evolution of cybercrime and how to tackle it proactively. "This is the tremendous value that part-time instructors bring to the College: their lived experiences," says Brad.

This is one of the common threads among these programs, whether they offer micro-credentials or a graduate certificate. Each one connects students with instructors who are both experts in their fields and passionate about sharing their knowledge.

Small in-person class sizes mean that each student gets to know their peers and connect with their instructors. In the Music and Digital Media program, bands are often formed in the first semester. In the Texture by Design program, apprentice stylists connect with hair care professionals with 30 years of experience. In the CORCAN courses, students get positive one-on-one feedback from their instructor.

And for online courses, students can pursue their credentials on their own time, unrushed but still connected to the wider industry and their peers, wherever they live.

All of them can see the intrinsic value of their studies. Community connections are made. Future opportunities are imagined.

Great things can happen when you create building blocks to a new career. ✕



T H E R O A D




L E S S



Clockwise from above: Luc Chénier with the owner of Kyiv Post, Mr. Adnan Kivan; with the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; with Yuliya Kovaliv, Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, holding his own artwork; participating in a discussion at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland with the Klitschko Brothers—former heavyweight boxing champions Wladimir and Vitali, now Mayor of Kyiv.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF LUC CHÉNIER, KYIV POST



I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO THINGS IN UKRAINE THAT ARE BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS. HOW CAN I NOT CONTINUE TO INVEST IN UKRAINE WHEN UKRAINE HAS INVESTED SO MUCH IN ME?



T R A V E L L E D

BY LUC CHÉNIER

GRAPHIC DESIGN, 1994



THEY SAY MOST OVERNIGHT successes take 20 years.

I was born and raised in Alexandria, Ontario and attended St. Lawrence College at the Cornwall campus. I always like to tell people who wonder where Cornwall is that it's the hometown of Hollywood star Ryan Gosling, and maybe one day they will add the city where Luc Chénier went to college. But seriously, attending St. Lawrence College was a mixed bag for me. While the school and program were excellent, my style and attitude did not win me many fans with fellow students and the faculty. I'm the first to admit that I was somewhat of a rebel and did not like authority or following a rigorous curriculum.

During my second year of Graphic Design, I set out knocking on doors in Montreal to ask companies to give me a shot at doing real work. This helped me learn the art of the hustle, which would come in very handy when I would venture out to Western Canada upon finishing school. Arriving in Regina, Saskatchewan, I would land my first real job at a market-leading advertising

Kyiv Post

UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE



agency called The Phoenix Group, where I would get the chance to work with great clients such as the Saskatchewan Rough Riders football team (CFL), SaskTel, etc.

After working there for nearly six years, I decided it was time to see the world as I knew there was more to learn, and I wanted to make my mark on a global scale.

I sent out my CV and portfolio, and to my surprise, four replied and offered me to fly out and meet with them. This would take me to New Zealand, Rome, Hong Kong, and finally, by pure coincidence, Kyiv, Ukraine.

ARRIVING IN KYIV was like being on another planet for me. The architecture, the city's sheer size (3 million at the time), its people and culture, etc., were so new and strange, yet incredibly addicting. By the time my visit was done, I had agreed to join their agency and help lead a new 'young advertising' market to be on par with the rest of the world. Moving to Ukraine would prove to be the best decision I have ever made and would set off a chain of events that would impact my life, and my way of work, and let me express myself fully by breaking the rules repeatedly and be celebrated for it!

Above, Luc at Kyiv Post headquarters, in earlier days. Right, Luc converses with the then-Swiss Ambassador to Ukraine, Guillaume Scheurer.



My early years in Kyiv were somewhat intoxicating, meaning that sometimes it was positive, and I wanted more (winning agency of the year, top creative awards globally, etc.). However, other times it was like poison that I once tried to book a one-way flight back to Canada due to the frustrations of the market not moving forward fast enough for my taste. However, I learned to tough it out and to persevere and eventually, in time, I was falling less and climbing higher up the food chain in the business world.

The year was 2014, a revolution was in the air, and the Maidan Revolution of Dignity had engulfed the country. Russia illegally annexed Crimea and launched another war in the east of Ukraine. To help Ukraine's image, I was asked to create a video to be played at the Ukrainian government's first investment summit in Washington, D.C., for their meeting with President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. This video once again would change the course of my career and set me on the path to being invited to become the CEO of the legendary English-language newspaper Kyiv Post.

I was given the reins to transform this proud organization on the

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) ANTON SKYBA; (LEFT) COURTESY OF LUC CHÉNIER

SLC RESPONDS TO WAR IN UKRAINE

When the horrific news of the invasion of Ukraine broke, the first thoughts at SLC were for our students from the region who would be affected. A team was quickly assembled to consider what could be done to support these students and spring into action right away.

The outstanding frontline team of International Student Advisors, and SLC's Spiritual Advisor, Kathy Doering, reached out and kept in close touch with the affected students to understand their concerns and needs. They worked to provide both practical solutions for tangible issues and emotional support for students who were worried about family, friends, finances, school, reputation, and more. They hosted support sessions, helped students access emergency funding, connected students with community support and resources, including the Kingston Mayor's Fund, and generally stepped in to help ease worries where they could. It was a true demonstration of SLC's value of Students First.

Then thoughts turned to students considering starting at SLC but whose circumstances may have changed dramatically since applying. Again, the College rallied and created a cross-functional working group to establish support and financial assistance, establishing five scholarships to assist these students fully and ensuring they were connected with dedicated resources in the College to help with their

transition. SLC also participated in the Ontario government's Ukraine scholarships to bring a further four \$10,000 scholarships to students.

Many faculty members also volunteered to help students, arranging rides from airports, and collecting items needed in residence like bedding, microwaves, etc... so that students arriving would have what they needed to settle in. Faculty members Viktoria Barnes, Mark Bergin, and Pam Bovey-Armstrong helped gather items. They met with several of the new students when they arrived and noted, "We saw everything from tears to 'OMG' when we were able to share how SLC would support them. One student noted that because of the war, their father had to cash in all his savings to pay for their first semester, and the student hadn't been sure if they'd be able to stay beyond that. Learning of SLC's support changed everything for them. And now that they've settled in, they're doing well. Not only are the students excelling academically; they are also quite involved in the community, participating in Kingston Youth Orchestra events and taking on the responsibility of coordinating music jam nights at St. Larry's Pub," said Mark.

While there will no doubt be ongoing challenges for these students as the war continues and the uncharted path stretches before them, hopefully, knowing that the team at SLC will continue to rally around affected students to help them continue and complete their education helps ease some of their worries.

—Liz Gorman

brink of closing. Many told me it would end my career, my reputation, etc. But, on the contrary, it was an opportunity to create and save something on a global stage. Within two months of taking over an empty office, Kyiv Post had assembled an incredibly passionate team of determined journalists that would defy the odds and the skeptics by not only surviving but thriving in posting better results than the organizations had seen in years.

THIS EUPHORIA WOULD be short-lived when, in 2022, after several months of sabre-rattling from Russia with the West, I would be awakened on February 24 at 5:18 am to massive bombings close to our home and the realization that the country I loved so much would forever be changed.

After 17 days of travelling with our family life's belongings in a few suitcases, we managed to arrive in Canada. During the next seven months, I would find myself being a CEO in exile, where I would have to find the strength and compassion to lead my team, who mostly were still in Ukraine dealing with the harsh realities that had been pushed on them. All our business plans were thrown out the window, and our main mission was to support Ukraine by delivering the news to the world from the ground across Ukraine, often in extremely hard circumstances such as bombings, loss of electricity, massive hacking attacks on our websites, and countless death threats.

This past October, I had planned to return to Ukraine to work for a few weeks. Unfortunately, the recent escalations on Ukraine's infrastructure made this impossible, as I would be a distraction rather than support. Therefore, it was decided that it would best serve the team and company goals, including Ukraine as a whole, for me to continue my work and support from my current location in Europe (Croatia).

"Most people die at 25 and aren't buried until they are 75."

While I may have taken some unusual twists and turns in my life, I can say that so far, I have truly lived an exciting life and became better and wiser for it. However, I do hope that my road less travelled has helped me to leave a positive mark on this world rather than a negative one... or even worse, no mark at all! ✕

I WOULD BE AWAKENED ON FEBRUARY 24 AT 5:18 AM TO MASSIVE BOMBINGS CLOSE TO OUR HOME AND THE REALIZATION THAT THE COUNTRY I LOVED SO MUCH WOULD FOREVER BE CHANGED.

Luc tries to return to Canada with his family after fleeing Kyiv.





ST. LAWRE

COLLEGE



NU

CELEBRATES



50



YEARS-

MUCH HAS



C

ENCE URSING



—AND HANGED.

In 1973, St. Lawrence College, only six years young, opened its doors to its first nursing students. The College helped to pave the way for nursing education in Ontario, as for many years before 1973, much of the training had been at the hands of hospital apprenticeships. Now, 50 years later, we look back on how the program has changed—including new programs and specifications—the future of nursing, and what plans the College has to celebrate the graduates that have helped form one of the most reputable Nursing programs in Ontario.

By Kimberley Falk
Portraits by Alexa Mazzarello

FROM DIPLOMA TO DEGREE AND MORE, ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE HAS GROWN.

The courses and programs offered by nursing faculty on all three campuses have evolved since the first class graduated in the mid-70s. And they continue to evolve to prepare students for the future of nursing.

For over a decade, SLC collaborated with Laurentian University to offer a bachelor's program in nursing. Now, SLC is in the second year of the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program to be fully offered by the College. Graduates of the new stand-alone BScN degree will be eligible to apply for registration as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Ontario.

"We've instituted new opportunities for our students to take electives that are specialized and to do clinical placements in highly specialized areas that will give them an advantage when they graduate, says Dr. Barb LeBlanc, Dean of Health and Wellness at St. Lawrence College. "Our students have the basic education and specialized training that's in very high demand right now." New specialized programs include critical and perioperative care.

"We're kind of exploding a little bit," adds Laralea Stalkie, Associate Dean for the School of Baccalaureate Nursing. The College is planning to offer a bridge from registered practical nursing (RPN) to BScN, and from personal support worker (PSW) to practical nursing (PN). "We're also expecting to offer many micro-credentials such as phlebotomy and wound care."

SLC is not slowing down in its commitment to students and our communities. "We have a reputation that precedes us, and that's something that we try to foster and cultivate with the students as well," says Laralea, "We hope that continues, and as we grow within our standalone degree, it's only going to get better. We have a committed faculty and high student success. Faculty experience is from the real world, so when [students] go into the clinical setting, they feel well prepared and do exceptionally well."

A coming together of 50 years

Events and plans are in the works to celebrate the 50th anniversary in April and May 2023, coinciding with National Nurses Week. Colleen MacDonald, Program Coordinator for Practical Nursing at the Cornwall campus, is also the Chair of the 50th anniversary planning committee.

"A museum in each community—Cornwall, Brockville, and Kingston—will have a nursing exhibit in place for the anniversary," says Colleen, "While the Kingston Health Sciences Centre already has a permanent exhibit, and Cornwall has a permanent room in the Cornwall Community Museum, Brockville has a new nursing exhibit in development."

"50 years has created a lot of graduates, and so reaching all of them is a challenge," says Colleen, "We want to make sure they all know that this is a part of their story as well."

"Each graduating class has a different experience, and everybody had a different journey. We changed things over time; the certificate became a diploma, and the diploma became a degree," says Colleen.

Sue Niblock, a Nursing graduate from Brockville in 1977, still meets with her classmates more than forty years after graduation—even though they scattered across North America. It did, however, take some time for her to bring everyone back together.

"We'd meet and have lunch and do a little bit of planning, and it just got easier as we went on because we had e-mail addresses, we talked on Facebook, we could text and all these new wonderful things. Whereas when we graduated, there wasn't any of that."

While some have now passed and others slowed down by health issues, they still manage to meet up and remember much of their experience as students in one of the first Nursing classes offered by SLC's nursing program. "It was different for us," says Sue, "We lived together, we took classes together, and we often travelled together, so we were very bonded by the time we scattered."

Sue Niblock's
graduation photo
from 1977.





“We lived together, we took classes together, and we often travelled together, so we were very bonded by the time we scattered.”

SUE NIBLOCK, Diploma Nursing

A portrait of a young man with curly brown hair and a light beard, wearing a white button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A vertical green bar is visible on the far left edge of the image.

“The lab settings at the school are phenomenal. They can’t 100% mimic an actual clinical setting, but they do as good of a job as you can with artificial humans.”

JOHN MACDONALD, Bachelor of Science in Nursing student

A look at the future of nursing in Ontario

As another half-century of nursing at SLC begins, many faculty, students, and alumni consider how much the profession will continue to change. There remain many challenges that need to be resolved, such as the need for more diversity in the profession.

"I have my PhD in nursing, and the focus of my research was on nursing education and specifically the experience of men within nursing," says Barb. According to the Canadian Nurses Association, in 2019, 91% of regulated nurses in Ontario were female. Although the rate of male students is increasing, more needs to happen—something SLC is working on.

"We've done some things to try and retain men that come into the program. We've made changes in approaches to make things more gender-neutral and include the male perspective," says Barb. "There is an opportunity to market more to men. There's certainly a shortage in nursing and we're missing out on 50% of the population. There are a lot of stereotypes about men in nursing, and we need to counteract that. We'll be addressing this now that we have our own stand-alone degree and we're expanding our offerings."

A student experience that's worth the hard work

John MacDonald, a student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, now in his second year, previously completed the Fitness and Health Promotion program before the new BScN program was introduced in 2021.

"The whole program together has been awesome. You can go on clinical shifts during your first semester. You're right in the door, which is great because when the second year comes around, you have that previous experience of being in the hospital setting, making you feel more comfortable overall. You can also work throughout the summer and get more experience in a hospital setting."

John has been completing his second year clinical at Kingston Health Sciences Centre, which he says has opened up many learning opportunities for him, aided by the excellent technology and learning tools available at the College. "The lab settings at the school are phenomenal," adds John, "obviously, they can't 100% mimic an actual clinical setting, but they do as good of a job as you can with artificial humans."

For recent grad Kirstie Grimard, the nursing program was a significant change from her career as a hairstylist. Her Nursing education was challenging, especially when she began commuting from Gatineau to Brockville in her last two years. However, she has had a very successful start to her career—Kirstie won the New Graduate Excellence Award from Nursing the Future (NFT), a national professional nursing and healthcare educational organization. Beginning her nursing career in the middle of a pandemic, she demonstrated outstanding leadership and is considered a promising leader in her profession and within the long-term care industry.

She says her St. Lawrence College education prepared her 100% for the job. "We had placements right away. The program was very hands-on." Where other programs have hundreds of enrolled students, "we were 50 students. So, when [the staff] notice someone's falling off, they really are there to guide you and get you back to where you should be."

Introducing international educated nurses training at SLC

This year, in 2023, St. Lawrence College will begin to work with internationally educated nurses to help with current healthcare and human resource staffing issues. "We're working with internationally educated nurses and providing them with the additional courses and the clinical training they need to become nurses here in Canada," says Barb. "It's certainly something our region and community partners have indicated to us as an area in demand."

"I consider it quite a privilege to lead this excellent faculty and support staff team and to be associated with a college that has this long-respected track record of education of nursing students," says Barb, "We have tremendous connections with our communities, and we've been able to be successful for so long in nursing education because of the links we have with our community partners. Without them, we wouldn't exist, and I like to think that without us, they wouldn't be quite as successful either."

"Many of the changes to our programming are direct results of our partnerships." She adds, "I'm excited for us to move forward and to see what the next 50 years will bring." ✂

Undated photos from convocation. ^



Early day photos from SLC's nursing program graduation. ^



Save the date—Nursing Reunions

Plans are underway. Watch for an email coming from the Alumni Office to invite you to return to our celebrations in April and May.

The SLC Premier's Awards nominees 2022

The 2022 Premier's Awards were presented on November 28 and marked a return to an in-person celebration of Ontario's outstanding college graduates. The Premier's Awards recognize college graduates making important social and economic contributions to Ontario and worldwide. SLC nominated graduates in each of the seven categories.





APPRENTICESHIP

Justin Tse

Chef and Owner, Justin Tse Private Dining and Events
Cook Advanced - Apprenticeship, 2010
Culinary Management, 2010

Justin Tse is an innovative chef charting his own culinary and entrepreneurial path. The pandemic hit the restaurant industry particularly hard, but the culinary influencer has created a unique private dining and pop-up restaurant model, which includes secret tasting menus, using Instagram as his only promotional tool. Justin's career includes working for Michelin star restaurants and in the Arctic, and he was chosen as Canada's Top 30 Under 30 for Food and Hospitality in 2020 and a Canadian finalist for San Pellegrino Best Young Chef in 2015. He continues to serve as a mentor in and advocate for his profession.

**#PROUD
TOBESLC**





Celebrating our Premier's Awards Nominees

It was a magnificent celebration as St. Lawrence College's Premier's Awards nominees gathered for an in-person celebration. SLC's President and CEO Glenn Vollebregt, and Board of Governors and SLC representatives toasted this year's stellar group of nominees representing SLC at the gala dinner. Nominees regaled us with stories from their college days, their varied paths to their successful careers, and their future plans, including staying connected with their alma mater.

MEET
THE 2022
NOMINEES



CREATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

Greg Carruthers

Artistic Producer/Founder, EveryBODY on Stage
Choreographer, The Grand Theatre, London, ON
Music Theatre Performance, 2011

Greg Carruthers is a choreographer, performer and entrepreneur who is on a mission to stifle stigma, reduce the harm done by body dysmorphia, and break barriers for all body types and voices underrepresented because of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and age. As founder and artistic producer of the company EveryBODY on Stage, Greg takes immense pride in creating a company where people can shine as their authentic selves. A proud member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, he is an active voice and collaborator who is creating safe, inclusive spaces in his industry.



HEALTH SCIENCES

Ginette Ferguson

Vice President, Clinical Programs and
Chief Nursing Executive, Hawkesbury &
District General Hospital
Nursing, 1990

Perhaps an appropriate title for Ginette Ferguson would be Chief Nurse Innovator. Ginette has not stopped learning, earning more credentials, and working her way up from direct bedside patient care to top administrative hospital positions, all while supporting students preparing to work in healthcare. Ginette, having served in two Vice President roles has stellar leadership qualities and can manage complicated problems, such as participating in the preparation for Ontario's first COVID-19 patients as 100 Canadians arrived from a cruise ship in Japan to quarantine.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Randy Thompson

Vice President, Business Development,
LivingWorks
Behavioural Science Technician, 1987

Randy Thompson has built his career around compassion, helping others as a social worker and leader in all facets of mental and physical health management, and through personal and professional endeavours related to his own challenges as a cancer survivor and suicide loss survivor. Combining empathy and care with business success, Randy has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others, through one-on-one support, managing group homes, creating healthier workplaces through employee assistance programs, developing suicide intervention strategies, and advocacy work for cancer awareness and suicide prevention.



RECENT GRADUATE

Brian Shelley

Operations Manager and Co-Owner,
The Lure Lab
Co-Owner, General Brock's Commissary
Mechanical Technician, 2021

Brian Shelley's entrepreneurial nature, passion for fishing, and education in millwright studies, complemented by the nuggets of his college experiences in business marketing, outdoor adventure, and trades studies, combined to inspire him to launch a new venture. He put his accumulated experience to work building an innovative and successful manufacturing business, designing, producing, and manufacturing custom fishing lures for a growing North American client base while continuing to own and operate a beloved local retail landmark in downtown Kingston.



BUSINESS

Luc Chénier

Chief Executive Officer, Kyiv Post Media
Founder and CEO, Plan C
Graphic Design, 1994

Luc Chénier is an entrepreneur, marketing expert, and seasoned CEO who has spent most of his career working with international brands, global leaders, and governments. Luc brings his unique and bold blend of creative spirit and business expertise to every project and endeavour and has founded and led multiple successful strategic and communications-oriented ventures. For the past 22 years, he has lived in Ukraine, and recently took on the challenge of successfully reviving the Kyiv Post, transforming it into a respected media company at a critical time just ahead of the Russian invasion. Read more on p.22

TECHNOLOGY

Rosanna Baggs

Senior Project Manager, Morrison Hershfield
President, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT)
Civil Engineering Technology, 2011
Business Administration – Human Resources, 2006



A self-described "Jill of all trades," Rosanna Baggs is a leader and trailblazer in the field of transportation and infrastructure design. She brings significant expertise and knowledge to all of her professional roles. She leads on a broader level in her many positions and as the youngest female president of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT). Adept in her technical knowledge and ability to understand the "psychology of how people use the infrastructure," Rosanna is a skilled problem-solver and an inspiration and mentor to those entering the field, especially young women.



OPEN NEW DOORS

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- Health Care Administration
- International Business Management
- Project Management
- Registered Nurse Critical Care Nursing
- Supply Chain Management
- Therapeutic Recreation
- User Experience Design (UX Design)



**St. Lawrence
College**

stlawrencecollege.ca/gradcert

Alumni News

Celebrating your milestones, testimonials, and fondest memories



Follow
@SLCSurge on
Instagram to
stay connected
for future events
and upcoming
games.



Did you know? This year's Surge Athletics Awards will be livestreamed!



PHOTOGRAPH BY HAILEY DEMILLE

COURT RULES!

Alumni vs Surge

The Surge men's basketball team took to the court on September 24 against an experienced alumni side sporting throwback SLC uniforms, led by former player Bryan McMillan. Bryan, a Kingston Police Officer, and graduate of the Police Foundations program, joined forces with fourteen other former student-athletes, including former women's basketball head coach Remy Simpson, current assistant men's basketball coach Tom Withey, and former captains Ross Carter, Jaz Bains, and others. The current Surge team was no match for the alumni superstars, who finished the friendly game with a win. McMillan and current players hope to make it an annual occurrence.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

SLC launches the Global Alumni Ambassadors program



SLC launched a search for a new Alumni Coordinator, Global Alumni Network, to help advance the SLC in Five objective to strengthen the global alumni network, including the creation and launch of a new Global Alumni Ambassadors program.

Meet Tanvi

Hi! I am Tanvi—proud SLC alumna and now the Alumni Coordinator for the Global Alumni Ambassador initiative at SLC. I graduated from the School of Business – Health Care Administration program and have worked in healthcare management for the last two years. Like most international graduates, I also faced challenges before I could find successful full-time employment in

the field I wanted to work in—despite having the right educational qualifications and international experience within the field. What I needed after graduating was a mentor/guide—someone who could advise me on how to write my resume and cover letter, how to form connections within the community, and what additional skills/certifications I could acquire.

SLC has heard our voice through comprehensive, tri-campus consultation of its international students and alumni and has recognized this unique gap. In response, SLC is launching the Global Alumni Ambassador program as a part of its SLC in Five objective to strengthen the global alumni network. The goals of the program are:

- Connect current students and new grads to alumni who are willing to help and foster a mentor-mentee partnership. (128 international alumni indicated they would be willing to help by providing career and networking advice, volunteer as a guest speaker, etc.)
- Help ambassadors stay connected with SLC as alumni and promote SLC within the community (70 of international alumni expressed interest in sharing their experiences with prospective students within their country and plan events and activities to bring alumni together)
- Build career connections amongst all alumni (119 international alumni are interested in building a network of SLC grads for career support and advice (online and other)

We all remember the difficulty of making that one connection that opened the door to opportunities. Now we invite you to be the person who can be that connection for those who face the same challenges you once did. As a Global Alumni Ambassador, you can guide prospective students, current students, and alumni by sharing your unique experience and advice, supporting global alumni engagement efforts, and promoting SLC in your networks and communities. In return, you can get access to excellent networking opportunities, acquire a wide range of skills, and build life-long professional relationships, while making meaningful contribution to your alma mater.

To find out more about the Global Alumni Ambassador program or express interest in becoming a Global Alumni Ambassador, please email TNandani@sl.on.ca or visit slcalumni.ca or social media @SLC_Alumni.

SMILE!

SLC Alumni selfie initiative wins Gold Circle of Excellence Award



SLC has won a Gold Circle of Excellence Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and a Best of District II Award for the selfie initiative to celebrate our 100,000 grads milestone. CASE is the international industry professional association of which SLC Alumni and Development is a member.

Here is the summary of the winning initiative: “It was a simple but effective idea, born from COVID challenges, that put a real face to our 100,000 alumni milestone. Crossing the threshold of 100,000 grads happened in the crux of the pandemic and limited our resources and options to celebrate this incredible milestone. So, we decided to step away from the faceless magazine covers of recent years and instead fill it with faces that showed our graduates’ diversity and joy for our 100,000 grads issue.”

FORE!

Civil Engineering networks on the links



The Civil Engineering Networking Golf Tournament returned in September and marked a fun day of connecting. Alumni and industry professionals were paired with two current Civil Engineering students sharing industry tips while making their way through

the course and opening doors to future mentoring and engagement.

The tournament included alumni from 1980-2021, faculty, students, and community supporters. Although the day began with rain, it did not dampen spirits and the rain dissipated into a sunny day.

Rosanna Baggs, class of 2011, current OACETT President, and Premier's Award Nominee in the Technology category, was in attendance and delivered an inspiring speech that addressed her education at SLC, career path and advice to all attendees. See Premier's Award story on page 33.

Additional funds were raised for the Solid Ground Civil Student Bursary founded by David Logan and Braedan Rogers, Class of 2020.



P.S: Do you know about SLC's online alumni platform—Currents? Sign up to catch up with your classmates, learn about new job opportunities, build connections within the SLC community, and more!



Do you want to be a Global Alumni Ambassador?

We are looking for enthusiastic SLC alumni who are interested in sharing their SLC stories with the world and representing SLC to their communities!



Email tnandani@sl.on.ca to sign up and read more about the Global Alumni Network in this issue.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Designing by heart

Elly Ayling is telling meaningful stories through art.

Elly Ayling is a dual graduate of the graphic design and website creation and design programs at SLC. She keeps an open mind and heart, and fearlessly changes lanes to expand her portfolio and dive into projects that resonate with her. After a near-death experience in her mid-twenties, her new trajectory pushed her to reevaluate the parts of her career that bring her the most joy. She took immediate steps to focus on work that benefits the community and provides a solid work-life balance while continuing with both freelance and full-time design.

The Ottawa-based designer met her husband, Sean Gross, while they were both studying graphic design at SLC. Their friendship grew into a budding relationship, and they started dating on graduation day.

Elly moved to Ottawa to be with Sean and worked at MediaStyle, a progressive public affairs agency where she dove into telling stories of social justice, which was very important to her.

One of her crowning achievements was co-designing the inaugural Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund logo with her friend Megan Davis—which the socially conscious and iconic singer, songwriter, poet, and activist Gord Downie wore as a medallion. She also creatively supported First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations, trade unions, and initiatives like the Canadian Federation of Students. These projects spoke to her heart and helped connect her to her new city she calls home.

In 2022, Elly collaborated with Urban Barn on an LGBTQ2S+ Pride celebration shirt design with profits going to Covenant House, which sold out within five days; she also recently worked with OnStar on a set of illustrations, telling personal stories from their queer advisors.

Simultaneously, Elly worked full-time with United Way, where she thrived in her storytelling wheelhouse and celebrated the lives of those who benefitted from donations. Her role there was tailored to appeal to a younger audience—fostering



a relationship with millennials and Gen Z youth and inspiring them to donate and positively impact their communities.

This experience has dovetailed in her current role with Air Miles, a position she began in December 2022, where she focuses on encouraging more youth to adopt the rewards program. The brand empowers people to earn Miles to work towards their goals—be it redemption on something as big as travel, new tech, or small rewards like saving on groceries.

Elly's advice to grads is to "pick the three things you love most about your calling or career and focus on those." For her, it is illustration, creative strategy, and design for innovation.

"Keep your mind and heart open to new opportunities. It could forge the key to your future."

Elly's Projects

1. Heirloom t-shirt celebrates Pride.
2. "More You Than Ever," part of Collective Arts' limited series Amplified Voices, created in tribute to the LGBTQ2S+ community.
3. Gord Downie wearing the Downie Wenjack medallion.





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

All in the family

Meet Amanda, the social media sensation behind Useless Farm.

Spreading joy through her eclectic family of animals, social media sensation Amanda, the owner of Useless Farm, north of Kingston, has garnered over 5 million followers on TikTok, and 700,000 on Instagram, including Canadian crooner Michael Bublé, who shared posts and the screen with Michael the alpaca. It's the pick me up you can't help but smile at—the chaotic bliss that is Useless Farm.

Amanda's comical social media posts featuring irreverent characters like Karen the Emu, Brad the Rooster, and Keith the Alpaca and their antics have provided some much-needed comic relief over the past few years. She is no stranger to SLC as she graduated from Human Resource Management in 2011 and Business—Marketing in 2006. Although she does

not share her last name due to privacy concerns, she is a proud SLC alumna who recently surprised students in Rowena Jordan's Carpentry class with an in-person visit at the Kingston campus, where Paul the duck checked out the chicken coop the students built and donated to her farm.

"It's very exciting for the students, not only for learning, but to know their work will be seen by millions on social media!" shared faculty member and alumna, Rowena Jordan.

Amanda points out that "Useless Farm isn't open to the public and isn't a registered sanctuary or rescue—I like to think of it as a retirement home for them—they don't have a job, and they aren't used for anything—they just get to live out the rest of their lives in relative peace. Some of the



Left, Amanda at the farm. Above, Amanda with Rowena, receiving the chicken coop built by SLC carpentry students.

animals didn't have the greatest backgrounds," she explained. "Some of them are companion animals for the animals that I have. For example, alpacas are herd animals and can actually die of loneliness, so when Keith came to me, I knew I had to find him some buddies—that's when we got Craig and our poor sweet Michael." So, what began as a fun farm page where Amanda could share stories and entertaining videos of her growing farm family caught on as several hundred followers shared the brief videos, and the following expanded, being shared by celebrities, on national morning shows, and garnered extensive media coverage.

Curating content from a vast amount of video footage, viral clips of her temperamental, jovial, and sometimes-cantankerous bunch with dance, pop-culture references, costumes, wigs, and the occasional bandage, Amanda delivers laughs and some heartfelt moments. Each animal has a distinct personality, which Amanda playfully shares in her videos and on the Useless Farm website.

Some advice to grads? "Things may not work out the way you thought they would, and EVERYONE'S path is different (take it from someone who gets assaulted by a grumpy emu daily). Embrace opportunities, celebrate successes, and use disappointments and mistakes as opportunities to grow. I'm confident that with the skills and network you've built attending SLC, you are on your own unique path to success!"

"I consider myself so fortunate that I get to share my nonsense with millions of people and am beyond grateful and thankful."

—By Kris Ward

You can find out more about Useless Farm and the animals' personalities here: uselessfarm.com

Echoes

1969

Roger Kavaner

Instrumentation Engineering Technician – Industrial
Left Canada 25 years ago for Panama. Lived in 12 countries in those 25 years... Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Africa, United Arab Emirates... used my SLC training in Dofasco, Ontario Hydro Nuclear, and Amoco Oil (Calgary)...then started consulting for various companies and Canadian Government... left Canada... then import/export of different products in many countries... eventually consulting in Financial Services industry... currently focused on financial services from Spain.

1979

Adrian Lusby

Business Administration – Industrial Management
I still consider the time spent at SLC as the best years of my life.

1983

Karen Dumoulin

Business Administration – Data Processing
My education at SLC provided me the base to continue on to become a CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant) and have a very fulfilling career in accounting. This is why, when I retired and had some spare time, I chose to give back to SLC by putting my name forward for its Board of Governors.

1992

Trudy Seeley

Office Administration – General
Still in touch with many from pre-health. Fellow students went off into different areas of healthcare, and it's always interesting to hear about their journey. It was great to have that foundation year.

2016

Jade Thompson

Visual and Creative Arts – Fine Arts
I graduated with top performance and grades. There were sleepless nights drawing and painting and constructing work for looming deadlines. I made friends I still cherish and care for. SLC was a very enjoyable time in my life that I look back on fondly. The experience was heightened by some very special teachers that I could laugh with, cry with, and create art with. The small class size was amazing, and the staff were compassionate. I loved the campus activities and events. The bookstore/art store was amazing, and the Marianne Van Silfhout gallery was glorious. I lived on campus in residence for the first two semesters, I give love and thanks to Christina Chrysler, program head at the time for the Fine Arts program and gallery curator. Thank you as well to Diane, MiSun, Sophie, and Larry for enriching every lesson and moment spent in class.

2019

Donna Aylott

Social Service Worker
Being a First Gen at almost 50 yrs old was intimidating, “Little Eagle” and Shirley Chaisson made my time at SLC enjoyable not just educational!!

2021

JD Montana

Computer Programmer Analyst
I've had my best years at St. Lawrence College. Made lifelong friends in both of my passions in music and programming at SLC. And I wouldn't trade my experience here for anything.

Kyle Murray

Computer Networking and Technical Support
All staff from teachers to food service were very friendly and went above and behind to help get around the limits of my disability.

Passings.

1973

Charles Thibault,
Appraisal and Assessment

1976

Jean Dugdale, *Municipal Administration*
Georgetta Torney,
Nursing Assistant

1979

Jacques Bertrand,
Diploma Nursing
Mary Laforce,
Early Childhood Education

1982

Annette McLaughlin,
Basic Training for Skill Development – Level III

1984

Jeffrey Chaytor,
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Sandra Stals, *Animal Care Technology*

1985

Douglas Brohm,
Electronic Engineering Technology
Susanne Kellermann,
Stationary Engineering – 4th and 3rd Class
Barbara Russell,
Gerontology – Multidiscipline

1986

Ross Dance, *French as a Second Language*

1988

Laura Foran-Ross,
Behavioural Science Technician
Pamela Young,
Dressmaking – Custom and Alteration

1990

Frederika Grummisch,
Fine Arts
Stephen Mayhew,
Cook II – Apprenticeship

1991

Joyce Barrie,
Registered Nurse – Critical Care Nursing
Sandra Macmillan,
Business
Joyce Dingwall,
Teacher of Adults

1992

Sharon Fleming,
Visual and Creative Arts – Fine Arts

1993

Daniel Thauvette,
Nursing

1994

Hugh Doherty, *Municipal Administration*
Susan Donnelly,
Office Management

1996

Shirley Hannah,
Municipal Administration

1998

David Hunt, *Business Administration – Information Systems*

2000

Janet Gray, *Fine Arts*

2001

Beryle Gaskin, *Fine Arts*

2007

Margaret Ritchie,
Fibre Arts – Traditional Rug Hooking

2011

Wahida Lakhani,
Advertising

2013

Holly Fisher,
Veterinary Assistant

2016

Brain Sempowski,
General Arts and Science – One-Year

2018

Madeline Hache,
Personal Support Worker

SLC Staff

Joyce Dingwall
Leonard Marleau
Sandy McCallum
Bill McLaughlin
Raymond Sabourin
Ernest Schaefer

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



Supporting students throughout the years.

SLC: A community college and much more

Community colleges were established to support their communities by providing job-oriented education and training. Developments over the past half century have greatly broadened the focus of the colleges and the education they provide.

The Early Decades

St. Lawrence College was innovative in its efforts to serve the local community. A good example was the work of Dave Fairbairn, Jim Clark, Ross Hermiston, and John Mason in teaching in prisons. Ross and John were also instrumental in setting up the Rideau Heights project—essentially a satellite campus in an unused church in north Kingston, dedicated to helping women on welfare

prepare for college courses and the job market.

Innovations in delivery methods were also common in the early decades. In the late 1970s, Paul Van Nest developed new modularized course materials to be offered through a Technology Learning Centre (which became the Community Learning Centre), offering a continuous intake of students. Marilyn Yeates initiated correspondence training for home child care providers, which developed into the Early Childhood Education correspondence courses recognized across Canada and beyond. A Behavioural Science Technician program started back then led to the development of an Honours Bachelor of Behavioural

Psychology Degree and an Autism and Behavioral Science Diploma. A Centre for Government Education and Training established in 1984 soon served some 600 correspondence students a year, with St. Lawrence College certificates appearing in government offices across Ontario—and in many other provinces.

The International Scene

SLC didn't just serve distant students via correspondence courses; its staff travelled abroad and delivered courses in many other countries. This is evident from the articles in the Retirees Association Book of Memories with titles such as Anderson and the Kiwi Exchange, Colwell in the

Arctic, Ian Seals the Deal in Iqaluit, the Malaysian Mission, Greg's China Foray, Mackinder in Kenya, Bill and Paul in Hungary, Sylvia and Marilyn in the Middle East, and Joe's Trying Trip to St. Lucia.

The Changing Curriculum

In the early decades, the College's focus was on job-oriented training, with advisory committees consisting of representatives from pertinent sectors being used to ensure the relevance of programs. But, just as the nature of "the community" greatly broadened over the decades, so too did the focus of the education being provided. There was a growing appreciation that success did not just mean getting a job upon graduation but also having the ability and capacity to adapt as the economy changed (and the nature of the jobs available). An early example of the new focus was the introduction of a General Arts and Science Diploma. The rigid separation between university and college programs also gradually dissolved. SLC entered into an increasing number of agreements through which its programs were recognized by universities in Ontario and beyond. The evolution continued with colleges recently gaining degree granting status.

Some College, Some Community!

That job training-focused college established in 1967 to serve Eastern Ontario has come a long way since then. It provides general education as well as specific skill training, and it supports students in communities across Canada and around the world. —By Dick Tindal

Now:
former
Roadrunners
reunite



Then:
celebrating
in 1970



Roadrunners 70-71 reunite!

It has been 50 years since they shared the ice.

The SLC 1970-71 Roadrunner hockey team held a 50-year reunion in Cornwall at our old watering hole, the St. Lawrence House, now known as La Maison, in May 2022, delayed due to COVID.

Some of the players attending had not seen our teammates for 50 years and travelled from as far as Kingston to attend, so there were shared memories, reminiscing, and lots of catching up. Our coach that year was Orval Tessier, who led the Cornwall Royals to the Memorial Cup in 1971-72. We joked that Orval got all his training from us; unfortunately, he was not able to join us at the reunion.

We played out of the Long Sault Arena, which we used to call the Long Sault Ice

Palace. When it was minus 20 outside, it was usually minus 30 inside. We had our own dressing room and were able to leave our equipment. We recalled that the roof had collapsed on the arena when we returned from a road trip to Western Ontario in a snowstorm.

The Alumni Office provided swag bags to each player and the pizza ordered from Riverside restaurant, a staple from our college years. Everyone had a great time, and the players promised to stay in touch with one another. —By Alex MacDougall
*Mechanical Engineering Technician, 1974,
Mechanical Engineering Technology, 1977.*

Want to organize a reunion? We can help.
Contact us 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
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- Update your records online
- Discover opportunities to support the College



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