

Continuing EDUCATION

FALL EDITION



TORONTO **SUN**

Colleges celebrate 40TH ANNIVERSARY



CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

Centennial students march to Queen's Park in November 1966 to thank Bill Davis for opening Centennial College.

LINDA WHITE
Special to The Sun

Over the past 40 years, more than a million graduates have earned diplomas from colleges of applied arts and technology. When they first opened their doors in 1967, colleges were heralded as a new type of education for those whose needs weren't being met by universities.

For early students like Jack Snedden, the third student council president at Centennial College in Toronto, attending these new institutions of learning was much like navigating uncharted territory. "It started off like an experiment, to see if colleges would stick; at least that was my feeling," the Whitby resident says.

"One of the early challenges

was to convince business and industry that college was viable and could produce good people. A lot of people felt college students were second-class citizens unable to make it to university. This was a way to keep them off the streets."

Snedden graduated in 1970 with a diploma in communications, but couldn't get a job in his field without a degree. He landed a job in sales and has worked in the life insurance and investment industry for the past 30 years.

He has watched with interest as colleges have evolved from their trade-school roots. "When I went to Centennial, it was located in

a former munitions factory on Warden Avenue — nothing compared to the facilities of today."

Certainly, colleges have come a long way since those early days. "I think they're the province's best-kept secret," says Anne Buller, president of Centennial College. "We still face public perception issues... I encourage people to think about what they

want to do and to choose the learning that's best for them."

College programs remain career and occupation focused in such fields as technology, health science, business, creative and applied arts, hospitality and tourism, community and social ser-

vice, horticulture and forestry.

In addition to apprenticeship training, colleges offer literacy and English as a second language instruction, upgrading and foundation year programs, as well as customized programs and training for employers.

Colleges also offer a range of credentials: two- and three-year diplomas, certificates, graduate certificates for those who have completed a post-secondary diploma or degree, bachelor's degrees in applied areas of study, and joint college-university programs which allow students to earn both a college diploma and university degree.

Accountability is built into the structure of the college system. For nearly a decade, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been gathered annually

**"I think they're
the province's
best-kept
secret."**

Anne Buller, President of
Centennial College



PUBLISHED BY THE TORONTO SUN
333 KING STREET EAST
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5A 3X5

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CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

The very first college graduating class at Centennial: 14 "Secretarial Science" grads assembled on June 8, 1967, to celebrate Centennial College's first convocation. Ontario Premier John Robarts addressed the tiny group. The 14 women had completed the one-year program, the only one offered at the time.

to measure each college's success and allow them to set goals for improvement. Data has been collected on graduate outcomes, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction since 1998.

Providing access to a range of credentials will remain an important priority for colleges in the years ahead, believes Linda Franklin, president and chief executive officer of Colleges Ontario. "The whole issue of credentials has been growing in importance and value. Certification is an important part of the core skills people have as they move from job to job,

assignment to assignment." Technological advances continue to push the demand for certification, while opening the door to new ways of learning.

"One of the key evolutions in post-secondary education is e-learning," Franklin says.

OntarioLearn.com, a consortium of 22 community colleges that have partnered to develop and deliver online courses, illustrates the success of e-learning. In 2006-07, it attracted more than 41,000 registrations, more than double the amount in 2002-03.

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STILL GOING STRONG

In 1967, 19 colleges of applied arts and technology opened their doors under then minister of education and future premier Bill Davis. Their mandate: to offer occupation-related education serving their local communities and to work closely with local employers, business and industry. Today, 24 colleges offer programs in nearly 600 subject areas, from health sciences to skilled trades and community services. Many now offer degree programs in applied areas of study.

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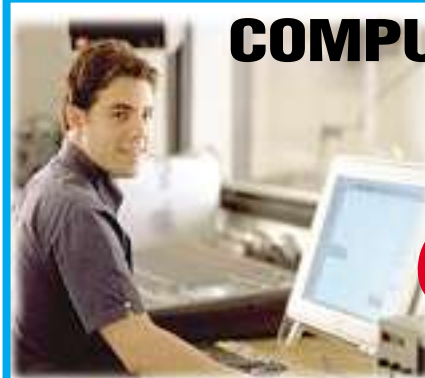


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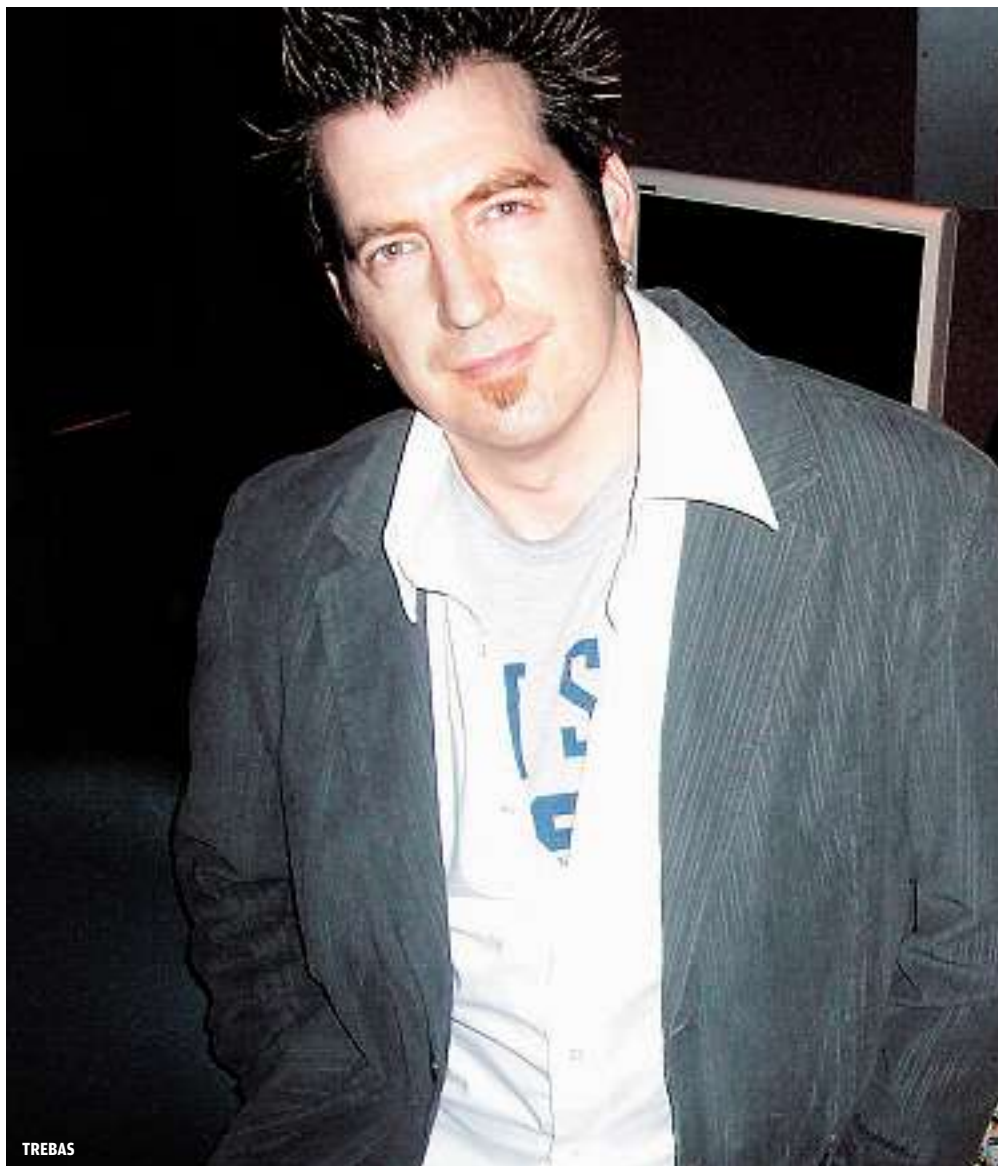
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TREBAS

Jeff Wright is head of the school's Audio Engineering Production and Post-Production program. His recording industry experience has centred on animated TV shows such as *Family Guy*, *Arthur*, *Franklin*, *MTV's Undergrads* and *Angela Anaconda*, and much of his work has garnered numerous awards such as Geminis and Emmies.

Trebas teachers A CUT ABOVE

SHARON ASCHAIK

Special to The Sun

With industry-seasoned professionals providing current and relevant training to students, the Trebas Institute is a leader in preparing individuals for progressive careers in the music and entertainment industries.

Among the high-calibre instructors at Trebas is Jeff Wright, head of the school's Audio Engineering Production and Post-Production program. He has more than a decade of recording industry experience, centred around animated TV shows such as *Family Guy*, *Arthur*, *Franklin*, *MTV's Undergrads* and *Angela Anaconda*. Much of his work has garnered numerous awards, such as Geminis and Emmys.

Wright was invited to join Trebas' faculty seven years ago and became department head two years later. At that point, he revised the program to ensure the curriculum was thoroughly up to date, the latest technologies were being used, and all the teachers were actively involved in the industry.

"It's really important to have instructors on staff who are still involved in the industry, myself included," Wright says. "For me, I do a recording session, then leave the studio and go talk about it in class. It forces me to stay current and that relays to students nicely."

Meanwhile, the school's Entertainment Management program is receiving a fresh boost from its newly appointed department head, veteran administrative law and intellectual property lawyer and teacher, Gayle Pinheiro.

Pinheiro earned her BA and teaching certificate at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and later completed two law degrees at McGill University. She has provided extensive legal counsel to entertainment industry clients, including major companies such as CTV and WWE, independent record producers and individual artists.

Since joining Trebas in June, her goal has been to ensure students not only gain an in-depth understanding of the industry, its major players, copyright, merchandising, trademark and promotion, but also that they have a lasting sense of confidence in their abilities.

"I want to make them fearless and get them to understand that with work and a little dedication, there is very little they cannot do," Pinheiro says. "You have to be able to look at intense, detailed areas and concepts and know that you can master them."

Howard Rosen, head of the Film & Television Production and Post-Production program, has a similar goal, but has a different way of seeing things.

"If we have done our job properly, the students arrive with five questions and leave with 100," Rosen says.

Rosen's day job as president and CEO of Nova Motion Pictures makes him particularly well-suited to his role at Trebas. An established film, TV and digital media producer with 25 years of experience, Rosen has been involved in the development and completion of dozens of productions. He has also collaborated with accomplished producers such as Norman Jewison and Peter O'Brian and has earned Genie awards for his work.

Rosen joined Trebas two years ago and led the redevelopment of what was once two programs separately focused on production and post-production, into one robust program that covers both.

"We wanted to create a program that would give students opportunities to work in all elements of production, and to ensure they had the tools to complete projects from start to finish," says Rosen of the 48-week program, which launched last fall.

To find out more about the five programs available at Trebas, visit www.trebas.com.

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ConEd course leads grad to self-employment



Seneca instructor Graham Clarke examines the exterior of a home, checking for loose mortar. Clarke also works for Carson Dunlop and Associates, the company that delivers the Home Inspection program in partnership with Seneca.

TOM BARTSIOKAS
Special to The Sun

Jeff Wilson helps people with one of the most important financial decisions they'll ever make in their lifetime: buying a home.

It's all part of his job as a professional home inspector. "I love it," says the 45-year-old, who started JefCan Home Inspections two years ago. "Before I was educating kids, and now I'm educating homeowners about their homes."

Wilson, a former high school technical teacher, became interested in home inspections in 2003 after deciding he wanted to be self-employed.

Having previously studied at Seneca College, he picked up a part-time calendar and found the Home Inspection Certificate program, offered year-round at Seneca in class, online or through correspondence.

Delivered in partnership with Carson Dunlop and Associates, the 10-subject program teaches students how to inspect a home from top to bottom, incorporating the standards of practice set out by the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors and the American Society of Home Inspectors.

When they graduate, students are equipped with the knowledge to start their own

practice or work for a home inspection company.

"Most people in the industry are self-employed," says Norma Columbus, program co-ordinator. "An entrepreneur who has good people skills and knows their stuff will do fine in this industry."

Shortly after completing the program, Wilson started JefCan Home Inspections in York Region. At first, he was averaging a couple of home inspections a month, but now he is up to 15, and hopes to double that by next year.

"... you're helping them through one of the more significant buying decisions of their life ..."

Graham Clarke

On a typical inspection, Wilson will examine the interior and exterior components of the home, including features such as structure, roofing, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, heating, windows and doors. Once he's done, he provides a detailed report to help people make an informed decision.

"My job is not to tell people whether they should or should not buy a house. I'm identify-

ing things for people and giving them the condition of the home, allowing them to make the decision themselves."

Graham Clarke, an instructor in the program and vice-president of engineering at Carson Dunlop, says this is an ideal career for those seeking a challenging profession and who also enjoy working with people.

"In this job you meet new people every day and you're helping them through one of the more significant buying decisions of their life, if not the biggest," Clarke says. "Going out to a home inspection, people want to know what's broken and what's not. Once they leave this program, our graduates are trained to uncover just that."

Subjects covered in the Home Inspection Certificate program include: Roofing Inspection, Structure Inspection, Electrical Inspection, Heating Inspection, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Inspection, Plumbing Inspection, Exterior Inspection, Interior/Insulation Inspection, Communication and Professional Practice.

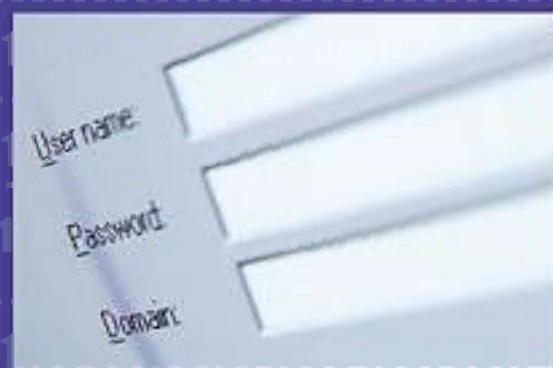
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Water management

Sheridan offers two new part-time programs

DAVID CHILTON
Special to The Sun

For simplicity's sake, Cheryl Snyder jokes that Sheridan College's two H2O certificate programs can be labelled "clean water" and "dirty water."

What they actually are is Water Distribution and Supply—that's the clean water we drink and bathe in—and Waste Water Collection—that's the dirty stuff we want to flush and forget. Both programs are offered through the college's Continuing Education division and are likely most attractive to those already in the industry, says Snyder, manager of CE at Sheridan.

"For us, the prime market for these courses are people who are currently working," she says. "We're not going to be attracting 19-year-olds right out of high school."

However, should they be interested, high school graduates aged 19 and over are eligible to apply to either certificate program.

Both part-time courses are brand new this year and begin

in September on Sheridan's main Trafalgar campus in Oakville and the Davis campus in Brampton.

Their introduction follows a pilot project conducted with water distribution employees of Peel Region after the municipality found it was facing a wave of potential retirements. "That's how it all began," says Bill Costigane, program co-ordinator. "It was very industry driven."

Given that water is an increasingly scarce—and strategic resource—it's hardly surprising the two certificate programs at Sheridan have been introduced. However, the spectre of Walkerton still looms across Ontario's water management system. In 2000, seven people died and more than 2,300 got sick from E. coli contaminated water, and both Snyder and Costigane mention the town in southwestern Ontario in separate interviews.

The Water Distribution and Supply program requires eight completed courses for students to graduate. Each course runs for 42 hours; so at three hours a night, one night a

week, it will take 14 weeks to finish. Wastewater and Collection is a nine-course certificate, so it will take a bit longer.

Students also have the option of taking all 17 courses and earning a combined certificate. Students can pay their tuition fees as they go. Each course costs \$700, and classes will be capped at 30 students per course.

Research report

Among the subjects to be studied in the Water Distribution and Supply program are: Water Supply, Water Storage and Distribution Systems, Water Quality in Distribution Systems and Operations and Maintenance for Water Distribution Systems. Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection covers such topics as: Wastewater Collection Systems, Inspection and Testing of Wastewater Systems and Repair and Rehabilitation of Wastewater Collection Systems.

In both programs students have to complete a research report on a topic agreed to by

their instructors.

Some of the key areas for anyone who works to deliver clean water to households are the location, assessment and repair of water main breaks, Costigane says. "In Toronto, in 2006, there were over 1,500 water main breaks," he says. "Some of these lines are 50 to 70 years old."

Costigane admits that wastewater management usually gets less public attention, but it's no less important for that.

Of course, the type of qualification a graduate has will determine their employment prospects. Costigane says across Ontario the number of jobs available in the water sector ranges from 25 to 65 a year. But it's steady employment—even if the hours can be downright anti-social and conditions brutal—and the pay isn't bad at all.

"With overtime you can earn a pretty decent living," Costigane says. "(And) you don't need a university degree to do it."

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Looking for a good time?

Have some fun and learn a new skill with some of these unusual ConEd courses

SHARON ASCHAIK
Special to The Sun

Humber College is letting the good times roll with a cache of fun new part-time courses starting in September that let participants let loose, try a new hobby and generally step out of their comfort zone.

For instance, have you ever imagined what it would be like to be a travelling DJ? Well now the parties, the popularity and the pretty people of this funky job are within reach, with the 10-week **Mobile DJ/Entertainment course**. Using hands-on, job-ready training exercises and featuring instruction in state-of-the-art sound equipment, this course prepares students to create the right vibes and work magic on the mic. Supported by the Canadian Online Disc Jockey Association Inc., Canada's largest professional DJ association, the course, which costs \$799, helps participants score work in the industry.

For some, stepping out of

their element involves managing Survivor-style heroics in the great outdoors. That's where **Wilderness Survival Skills** comes in: this five-week course, which costs \$218.90, covers how to address all those "what if" potential life-and-death scenarios while backcountry travelling. The course deals with preventative survival, trip plans, survival kits, backcountry gear and clothing essentials, shelter, fire, water, signalling and food procurement techniques. Jeff Probst won't be coming out to evaluate you, but a weekend "Survival Simulation" held at Georgian Bay will more than test your mettle.

For a less extreme workout, try **Totally Tubing**, a crash course on the newest fitness craze. Fitness fans in the know are using exercise tubes to incorporate resistance activities into their workout routines. Humber's intensive three-hour workshop,

which costs \$58.09, teaches the many uses of this portable, inexpensive and very effective piece of workout equipment. Actual techniques and ideal training options are covered, so don't forget your gym attire!

If the only body part you'd like to work out is your drawing hand, check out **Drawing and Rendering Vehicles**.

... addresses all those "what if" potential life-and-death scenarios ...

Running 19 weeks and costing \$799, this course teaches how to create the kind of awe-inspiring concept car renderings seen in automotive magazines and at big car shows. This hands-on, studio-style course covers basic trade knowledge and practices, from understanding perspective and elemental proportions of vehicles, to applying colour media to define shapes and contours.

Seizing on the DIY Asian food trend, Humber is also offering **Sushi Made Easy**. Did you ever think you could become a competent sushi chef in



just six hours? This course, which costs \$97.10, delves into the details of making this exotic food, and features instruction on healthy ways to prepare traditional maki, nigiri and sashimi using authentic ingredients and techniques.

Finally, the growing number of Bollywood fans will get a kick out of **An Introduction to Bollywood Cinema**. Exploring the art and craft of this

popular genre that is a major part of Indian, Asian, Middle Eastern and African culture, the course covers the history, politics, music and screen personalities of Bollywood.

For a full listing of Humber College's new Continuing Education courses, visit http://cecalendar.humber.ca/new_courses.htm.

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Program serves up success

SHARON ASCHAIK
Special to The Sun

Chefs seeking to advance their careers in the country's sizzling hospitality industry now have a way to update their knowledge and skills with Canada's first Chef Program for Journeyman Cooks.

Offered by Humber College's School of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism, the course begins in January and will accommodate 24 working chefs who want to progress in

a high-calibre kitchen and become executive chefs.

While technically a full-time program that must be completed within 14 months, it allows students the flexibility to keep their jobs by scheduling classes around their work schedule.

To take part, students must already possess journeyman cook certification, one year of work experience and a mentor chef.

"We're helping students through a lifelong learning process and guiding them



along in their careers with all the tools they need to succeed," says Rudi Fischbacher, program co-ordinator.

This 14-month program (visit http://postsecondary.humber.ca/chef_jc.htm) features

continued on page 10



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continued from page 9

10 courses that are mainly offered during evenings, giving students the flexibility to study around their work schedules. Included among the courses are: Wine, Liqueur, Beer and Spirits Theory; Advanced Menu Theory; Occupational Health and Safety; Advanced Food Presentation; and Resource Management.

The program was designed with substantial input from some of Canada's finest chefs, including two master chefs and some with international culinary experience.

"You get the bigger picture of what's involved in becoming the leader of a kitchen."

Through practical classes, lectures, online learning and self-directed learning, participants are prepared to take on such roles as chef de partie, sous chef and chef de cuisine.

"When you train to become a chef, you learn how a stove works, a cutting board, how to work your way around a kitchen. With this program, you get the bigger picture of what's involved in becoming the leader of a kitchen," Fischbacher says.

The emphasis on hands-on

learning is particularly evident in the Pastry (Sugar and Chocolate) and Advanced Butchery and Charcuterie courses, Fischbacher says.

"The pastry course focuses on tempering chocolate and pouring sugar to make truffles," he says. "The butchery course goes into curing, grinding and smoking ham, making sausage and more."

A key component of the program involves teaching students how to share their expertise with others in the kitchen.

"Students learn to become good trainers, so that they can effectively lead kitchen departments and pass on their skills to others," he says.

Tuition is \$600 and students are responsible for supplying their own uniforms, knives and safety shoes.

Upon completion, students receive a chef designation certificate from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. They also become licensed to provide basic-level sanitation training to co-workers, become certified trainers of culinary arts, and become eligible to serve on a workplace health and safety committee.

Armed with advanced knowledge and abilities, graduates will enjoy career mobility in an industry that's currently experiencing labour shortages. With The Canadi-



Rudi Fischbacher is the program co-ordinator for Canada's first Chef Program for Journeyman Cooks, offered by Humber College. The new program for working chefs will begin in January.

an Restaurant and Foodservices Association forecasting a need for an additional 200,000 employees within the foodservice industry over the next decade, restaurants will be hungry for the talented professionals who graduate from Humber College.

"As soon as our students graduate," Fischbacher says, "they are gobbled up by the industry and get very good jobs in Canada and abroad."

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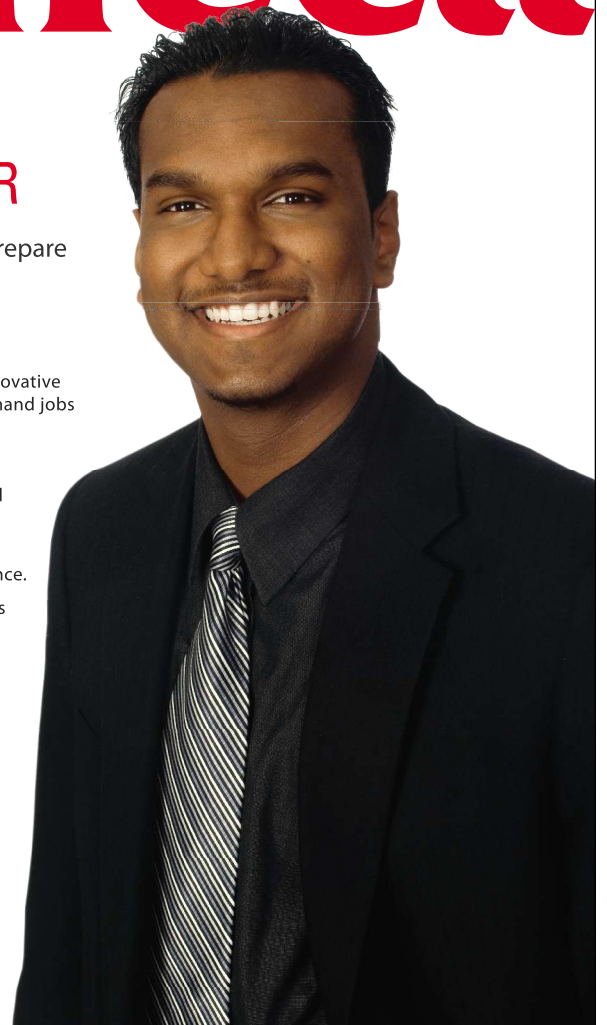
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Yorkville College launches networking, animation programs

LINDA WHITE
Special to The Sun

Yorkville College is launching two new diploma programs this fall. Its networking program allows graduates to earn nine industry certifications and a diploma in just one year, while its 3D animation for video games program will be offered in a new lab.

"Ours is the only networking program in the city with nine certifications from Microsoft and Cisco as well as a diploma, which makes people more employable," says Gwen Seal, president of Yorkville College. "When graduating, that's a real plus ... If a potential employer doesn't understand a networking diploma, they refer to certifications, which are standard."

Those certifications also give graduates marketing leverage. Job prospects for network administration and

security have never been better, as Canadian companies are beginning to bring these services back in-house, Seal reports.

"Job prospects for network administration and security have never been better ..."

Gwen Seal

Yorkville College, a private career college founded in 1986, is a registered Microsoft IT Academy and is applying to become a registered Cisco Networking Academy. All network administration and security courses meet requirements and standards set by those two partners.

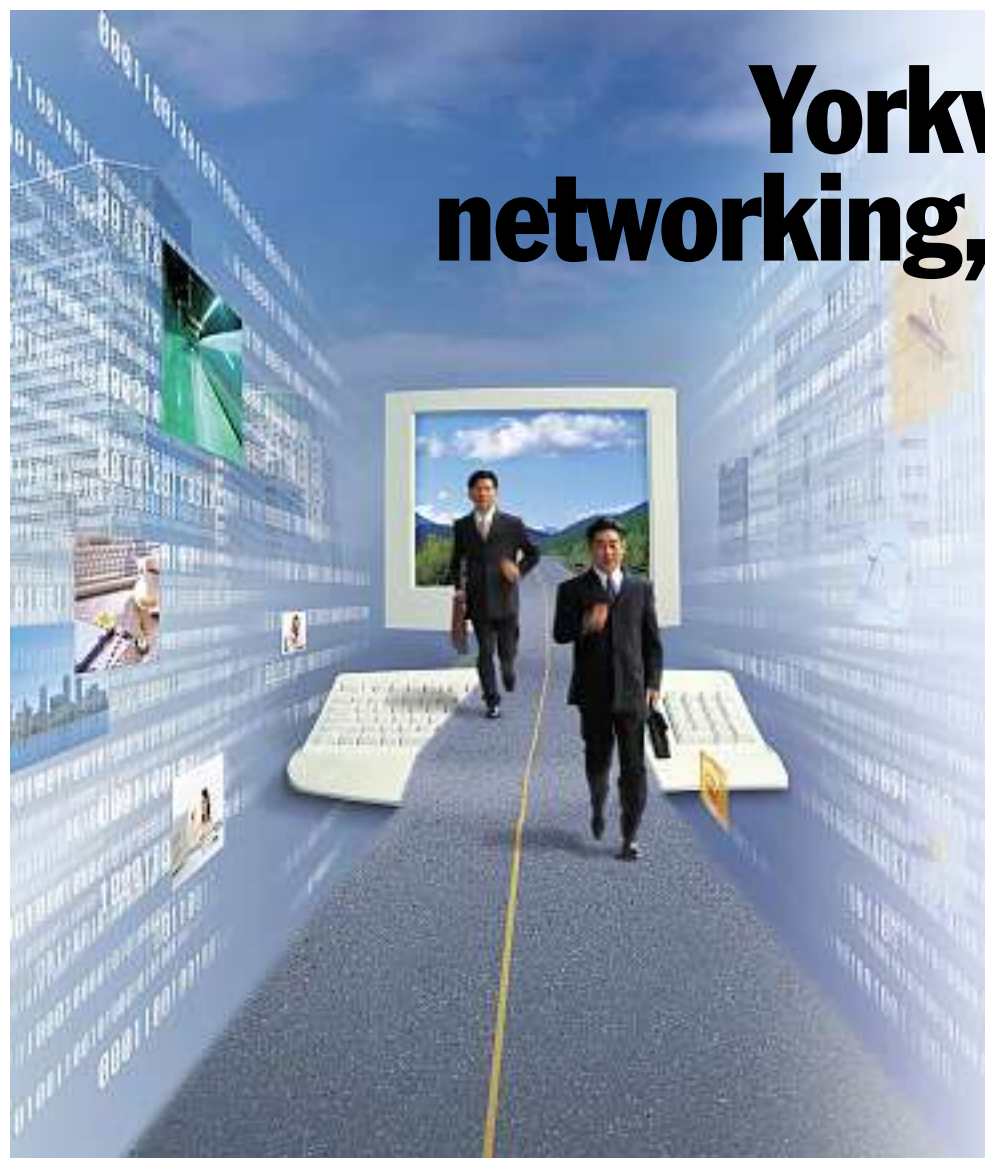
Graduates of its 51-week, 1,020-hour program are eligible to write certification exams in: CompTIA A+, CompTIA Server+, CompTIA Linux+, Cisco Certified

Network Associate, Panduit Authorized Installer, Cisco Firewall Specialist, CompTIA Security+, MCP and MCSE.

Yorkville is also launching a 52-week 3D animation for video games program. "This program is for someone who is entrepreneurial in spirit, is artistic and wants to develop a portfolio," Seal says. "To be successful in this industry, you have to be talented and then you have to be able to market yourself ... It's a real calling."

In addition to networking and animation, Yorkville College offers diploma programs in paralegal, community and social services, early childhood assistant, dental chairside assistant, dental hygiene and computer networking. It also offers English-as-a-second-language workshops. For more information, visit www.yorkvillecollege.com.

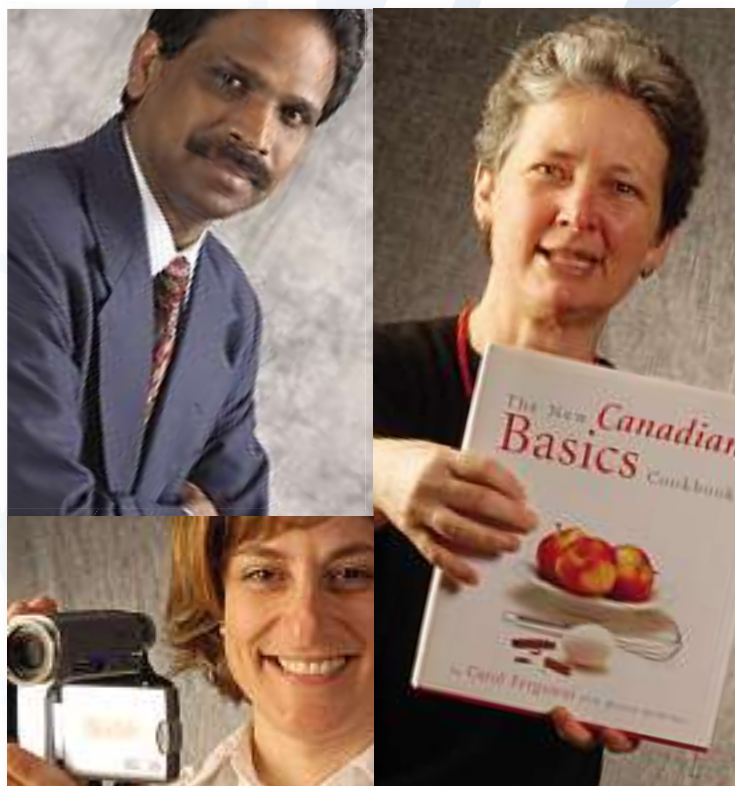
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Our new course calendar is now available at any of our four campuses, or you can call **416-289-5207** or e-mail ce@centennialcollege.ca to request a copy.

Our next open house is on August 30 at our Progress campus from 5 to 7 pm. Visit our website for more information.

the FUTURE of LEARNING

Business admin program opens new doors

LINDA WHITE
Special to The Sun

When Linda Lawlor decided not to relocate to London, Ont., after her longtime employer moved there several years ago, she recognized the benefits of upgrading her skills. Within just weeks of completing a business administration program, she landed a job as an executive assistant.

"My skills were lacking in applications," says the Mississauga resident. She had worked for an insurance company for 30 years and though she received some training

along the way, she had only limited knowledge of Microsoft Office applications.

Lawlor worked at a grocery retailer while exploring her options. After receiving funding through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to upgrade her skills, she chose to attend triOS College Business Technology Healthcare to study business administration. The 34-week diploma program provides a strong foundation in Microsoft Office applications and students can choose one of the following double major tracks:

■ **Accounting & Marketing:** Graduates may pursue positions such as administrative assistant, bookkeeper, accounting and payroll administrator, office manager, executive office assistant and marketing assistant.

■ **Applications & Accounting:** This track prepares graduates to work as an administrative assistant, bookkeeper, accounting and payroll administrator, office manager, executive office assistant or business applications specialist.

■ **Human Resources and Business Law & Applications:**

Graduates may find work as an administrative assistant, office manager, executive office assistant, business applications specialist or human resources assistant.

■ **Marketing & Human Resources:** Graduates are qualified to work as an administrative assistant, office manager, executive office assistant, marketing assistant and human resources assistant.

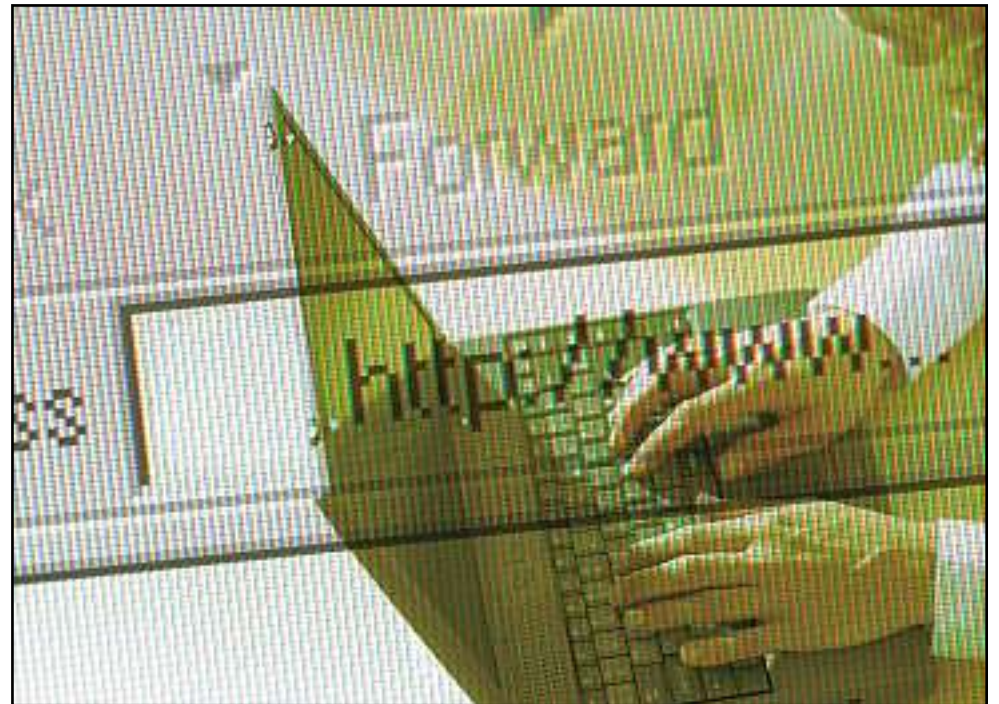
All tracks offer instruction in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Outlook, Business Communications, Career Management, Bookkeeping Fundamentals, Simply Accounting, Accounting Fundamentals and QuickBooks.

Lawlor chose the Applications & Accounting track. In addition to the topics listed above, she studied Advanced Accounting, Microsoft Access and Accpac.

"I had gone through (classified and online) job ads to get an idea about the skills employers were looking for and where the jobs are," she says. "I thought this program would make me more marketable."



LAWLOR
triOS graduate



QUICK FACTS

In 1967, 19 colleges of triOS College Business Technology Healthcare began to help prepare students for careers in business, technology and health care. A Microsoft IT Academy, it is registered with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and has six campuses across Ontario. Visit www.trios.com to learn more.

ing from small businesses to large corporations, educational or government institutions and health-care organizations.

"Returning to school was definitely a boost to my confidence level, so I can say, 'This is what I can offer an employer,'" Lawlor says.

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- Dental Office Radiology Certificate**
- Early Childcare Assistant
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- Pharmacy Technician
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Financial Assistance may be available for those who qualify. HRSDC & Social Assistance recipients welcome.

Registered as a private career college under the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005. **This program does not require approval under the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005.



Promoting personal growth

Helping others reach their potential

CAROLYN WONG

Special to The Sun

Nickolette Reid always had a fascination with fashion and a knack for knowing what made people look good — all she had to do was figure out how to turn this love into a livelihood.

Amongst a pile of course calendars from different colleges and universities, Reid found exactly what she was looking for with George Brown College's Image Consulting Certificate program.

"At the time, I didn't realize the full extent of image consulting as a career," Reid recalls. "And I didn't know what would happen in the end; I just wanted to take those courses."

Head first

The first few classes provided Reid with a solid understanding of what she always knew by instinct and inspired her to jump head first into a career as an image consultant. Even before completing the required six courses, she had started her own company called BL Image Communications and was generating so much business, she had to take time off from school.

Reid says she considers one course in particular to be the catalyst to her success.

"The Image and Personal Development class changed my life and opened up my potential," she says. "It's not just about wishing for things. It's about being precise, creating a plan, giving it your all and al-

ways being a good person. That's what that class taught me and it has reverberated in all areas of my life ever since."

She also met many "wonderful, enthusiastic and life-changing teachers" — all of which were connected to the business themselves. Reid was also impressed with the college's Continuing Education staff, who made the registration process quick and easy. The fact that the courses were held in the evening allowed Reid to continue working full-time during the day.

"Not every day is going to be roses, but if you love what you do, you will be successful."

Nickolette Reid

Reid says she recommends many of the courses to others regardless of their interest in image consulting as a career. Classes like Image and Personal Development, Style, and Colour and Wardrobe, offer students valuable tips and advice that can be applied to all aspects of their lives.

"It doesn't matter if you want to be an image consultant or if you work in a bank, these classes teach you how to create visual success," says Reid, who has based her business on helping others look good and feel even better.

She offers a wide range of



CAROLYN WONG PHOTO

Even before completing George Brown's Image Consulting Certificate program, Nickolette Reid started her own company called BL Image Communications and was generating so much business, she had to take time off from school.

services including image and style management, wardrobe audit, colour analysis, closet organization and personal purchasing. Reid also conducts seminars and workshops for audiences ranging from 20 to 300 people, often using the skills and techniques that she learned in the Effective Presentations course.

"That course taught us how to project ourselves, how to

formulate and execute a presentation, and how to convey thought, excitement and suspense," Reid says. "That has helped me immensely in my work and in my life."

While jobs are available in different facets of the fashion industry, such as marketing or purchasing, most image consultants work independently and have their own businesses. Having learned the ins and outs

of managing an image consulting outfit from George Brown, Reid says she is content to be her own boss despite the challenges that entrepreneurs often face.

"Not every day is going to be roses, but if you love what you do, you will be successful."

To find out more about the Image Consulting certificate or other Continuing Education programs available at George

Brown, visit the web site coned.georgebrown.ca.

Continuing Education at George Brown offers over 1,400 courses in a wide range of subject areas including trades, photography, business, community services, culinary arts, information technology, nursing and more. The college's downtown campuses are located near the TTC subway.

Short courses teach more than just the basics

DAVID CHILTON

Special to The Sun

If you want to buy a diamond, prevent your identity from being stolen, secure your home computer, learn how to manage volunteers or care for elderly relatives, then Centennial College is the place to start looking this fall.

These and other new short duration Continuing Education courses, usually lasting one day and running from three to five hours, won't create experts, but will teach the basics — and then some.

James Denas, who's teaching **Diamonds: Everything You Need to Know**, says after completing his course students will know more about the stones than 90% of jewelers.

Denas, a former heating

Got a few hours to spare? Enrol in some of Centennial's newest Continuing Education courses

contractor turned Antwerp Certified Diamond Grader, says he will speak on how diamonds are formed and mined, Canada's diamond mining industry, how diamonds are graded and cut, how to get the best value when you're buying a diamond and more.

"It really is the king of gemstones," says Denas, who runs *Designed by You - Custom Jewelry*.

The theft of diamonds is the stuff of a 101 movie, but only now is Hollywood — and society at large — cottoning to the idea that identity theft is a big illicit business and a heap of trouble for anyone whose ID has been appropriated.

Of course, **identity theft** can't be prevented entirely,

but C.K. Lung, who's a senior security analyst at CGI, a computer outsource firm, can teach people how to take all reasonable steps to protect themselves.

"My approach is very practical," Lung says. He'll teach students how to recognize the signs of identity theft and where the crooks typically strike. Driver's licence renewals are a favourite target, Lung says, and if your bank statements are irregular then you may well have a problem.

Lung also teaches another course called **Securing Your Home Computer and Home**

Network, the session will focus on installing a personal firewall, installing and updating software to counter viruses and spyware, conducting online banking safely, dealing with reputable firms online and other topics.

Two other new courses beginning this fall at the college are closely related to each other, in that they're socially oriented. The first is **Volunteer Management Techniques**, taught by Laurie Docimo, an independent consultant and owner of *Writing and Projects by Laurie*.

Docimo says she proposed the course to Centennial's CE division because she had not-

iced a lack of professionalism managing volunteers, especially among non-profit associations. She admits the workshop will be simple and straightforward: "It's basic. It's introductory. I could get much more in-depth than this." However, Docimo says she'll teach students how to follow best practices, including strategies on how to avoid potentially polarizing differences between volunteers.

Polarization could be one of the watchwords for Sherri Auger's **Eldercare 101** course, since so often parents refuse to consider moving into care even though their children think that's what's best for them.

The course is aimed at younger adults taking care of

older relatives, says Auger, who will talk about what happens when people age, the benefits — pensions and so on — available to them, the options should an elderly person need to go into care, and what the person responsible for him or her ought to look for in a retirement home. "I don't want people to move (the elderly) more than once," says Auger, an elder care consultant who runs *Estate Matters*.

Lung's first workshop is in September, but other start times vary. All of them are also being offered in 2008, beginning in January and concluding in late spring or early summer. The cost of the sessions differs, too, ranging from \$30 to \$55 for each course.

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Student Feedback

"I am an electrician at Ford Motor Company and took the Electronics and PLC Technician courses to upgrade in 2005. I found them very good. The flexibility to take it at your own pace is great for shift workers and people with small kids. I would highly recommend them."

Kelly Green

"First, I would like to say this course was excellent. It was well laid out and the sequence of modules certainly made sure that the concepts could be built upon so there is no information overload. I would definitely recommend this to others. A challenging yet rewarding experience."

Carla Marett



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