

Sunshine on a cloudy day

Mohawk held its second Student Appreciation Day last week. And, although it wasn't sunny or very warm that day, the student participation and enthusiasm lightened up the atmosphere at Mohawk's four campuses, holding true to the theme "Fun in the Sun".

The first Student Appreciation Day was held in January for full-time fall/winter students, and since that went so well, the Student Life office decided to organize "Fun in the Sun" for the spring/summer students. Karen Lavell, Manager, Student Life and Ancillary Services, said the day brought out a great response from students. "They ended up going to areas that they normally wouldn't go to because of where the activities were located," said Karen, "and the free BBQ lunch was packed."

Some of the other events provided by the Student Life, with the help of the Mohawk Students' Association (MSA), were live entertainment, free caricatures, free smoothies and bubble tea, cafeteria lunch specials, tons of prizes and give-aways, and lots more.



Co-op student Lauren Cassa can't help but beg for more at the Slushy Stand.



Julia Elzinga gets the crowd's support as she sinks the putt.

(L-R) Karen Hann catches a big fish as Leigh Swift and Janet Waterfall gaze in amazement.

Melissa builds on her dream of a career in construction



Melissa Zammit is designing her future in the skilled trades.

Despite its stylish bay window and do-it-yourself charm, Melissa Zammit says it's time to get rid of her outdoor shed.

She was 12 when she built it with her dad's help, and after it was done, she thought it was the most impressive shed in her neighborhood.

Now, 10 years later, she sees that it's really lopsided and the bay window is rather outlandish.

She can afford to be so unsentimental. Today, Melissa has the skills and the confidence to do much better.

The 22-year-old is a second-year student in

Mohawk College's Construction Engineering Technician Program where she is building on a passion that began as a young girl. She is also the only female.

When she told her parents what she wanted to study in college, they were behind her 100 percent.

"My mom said to go for it, and my dad said 'just don't let the guys get to you,'" she recalls. "I walked into that first class and I saw 40 guys and I wondered what I was doing. But that didn't last too long. After a while, I was one of the guys."

Her parents' support paid off - literally.

With the help of her boyfriend who works in the construction industry, Melissa renovated her family's basement last summer. She estimates the two of them put about \$10,000 worth of framing, drywall, taping, flooring and electrical work into what is today a beautifully self-contained basement apartment. The total cost to her parents was less than \$2,000 in supplies.

"They like it because they got the labour for free," she says.

Of course, the upside for Melissa is that she gets to live in the spunky new digs.

Meanwhile, Melissa has been enjoying the Construction Engineering Technician courses because they are project-based. She has completed labs in welding, plumbing and carpentry this year, as well as work on project management and estimating.

Despite her love of the hands-on experience, she finds herself gravitating toward the numbers side of the business. She hopes to land a job as a junior estimator once she has her diploma.

Recently, Melissa was invited to high school students from across Hamilton at the YWCA's "Totally Awesome Young Women's Breakfast" held on International Women's Day.

Getting up in front of 200 young girls was no problem for Melissa. She lightened the crowd up with a funny story - about her lopsided shed.

"It was all about trying to show them, whatever happens, you have to keep going," she says. "There's a lot of opportunity in this field for women."

Melissa says it will take time and a lot of hard work to establish herself in the estimating business and ultimately in project management. But she's says that what's she's going to aim for nonetheless.

In the meantime, her mother has all sorts of other projects - installing new windows, laying carpet, tiling some floors - that she'd like to have done on the family home. The first thing on Melissa's list is to finally dismantle her old shed.

Interaction with law students evidence John likes new beat

In the end, a brown-eyed charmer with a huge smile got to John Belisle.

The energetic and savvy young man had fast-tracked his way from being a uniformed police officer to landing a coveted investigator's job with Peel Regional Police's Central Robbery Bureau. He was solving cases. He was catching the bad guys. He was relying on his instincts and his academic work in applied criminology.

But eventually Jessica got to him.

It might have been the way her eyes lit up every time she saw him. Jessica is John's 17-month-old daughter.

And Mohawk College has her to thank for its new professor in the popular Law and Security Administration/Police Foundations Program at the Brantford Campus.

It wasn't an easy choice - John loved the challenge and camaraderie of investigative work.

"It was very hard. I was fighting with the decision for about a month," says John.

"But I didn't want to miss my daughter's childhood - her first step, her first word. And today I'm very pleased with the decision."

So are the students that get to benefit from his wide range of experience, which he draws upon for teaching everything from an introduction to the Canadian justice system to a course on investigation and evidence-gathering techniques.

"Experience is the best teacher," says John, who demonstrated a knack for teaching early on when he was a coach officer for new recruits in his force.

What distinguishes this professor is that he has seen the Canadian justice system from many angles. John grew up in Montreal and studied criminology at the University of Ottawa. During that time, he worked at a detention centre as a youth intake officer. Then, while he was working on his Master's degree, he did a field placement as a probation officer for the

Professor John Belisle



Ministry of Correctional Services.

After that, he became a provincial offenses officer - an unarmed hybrid between a bylaw officer and police officer - who takes care of everything from noise complaints to security at public parks.

When the Montreal Urban Community Police force discovered John had done his Master's thesis on youth gangs in Canada, they asked him to develop a community outreach questionnaire on the subject. Then they wanted to hire him. But Peel Regional Police made him a better offer at the very same time. Suddenly, John was Ontario-bound.

In Peel, John worked his way up quickly from a being uniformed officer to an investigator with the Break and Enter Unit to a Central Robbery Bureau investigator.

He admits that every now and then he hankers for the challenge, team work and pay off of an investigation.

But the ability to be home at night and on the weekends, to see what new developmental milestone Jessica has reached, makes the change worthwhile.

And John loves the interaction with his students.

"They help keep me young... they help keep me passionate about the policing field," he says.

Getting our heads together...

That was the theme of a one-day conference for administrators and educators of guidance and career education held at Mohawk College Fennell Campus. Co-ordinated by the Ontario Guidance Leaders Association and the Ontario School Counsellors' Association, the conference featured workshops, displays and guest speakers around issues in secondary and post-secondary education.

Literally thousands of students have confirmed Mohawk as their college of choice for September 2004. Limited space is still available in some programs. For more information on Mohawk College programs, please call 905-575-2000 or e-mail admissions@mohawkcollege.ca.



(L-R) Kelly Hoey, Executive Director of the Halton Industry-Education Council, with Mike of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and Trish Walker from T.H.E. Consulting.

MOHAWK COLLEGE SUMMER CAMP

In its second year now, Mohawk's Summer Camp will immerse students between the ages of 7 and 13 in activities that include multimedia, creative arts, science and technology, health and wellness, fashion and beauty, sports and leisure, and so much more.

The camp consists of four programs: WOW Camp, Babysitting 101, "Where the Big Kids Have Fun", and "Kids that Care"-Leadership Camp, which will be divided in seven different one-week sessions. The first session begins on July 5 and the last session starts August 23. Cost of the camp is \$150.00 per week.

For further information, please contact Christine Doolittle at 905-575-1212, ext 3420, or by e-mail at christine.doolittle@mohawkcollege.ca.

Call for Nominations Alumni of Distinction Awards 2004



The Mohawk College Alumni Association is currently looking for nominees for its 2004 Alumni of Distinction Awards. These awards honour the exceptional contributions that Mohawk College graduates make to their communities and professions.

If you know an alumnus who has unique career achievements, is committed to helping others, and has made many extraordinary contributions to society, please contact us. All Mohawk grads are eligible. Deadline for submissions is July 12, 2004.

One individual is selected from each of the six categories:

- New Graduate
- Community Service
- Health Sciences
- Business
- Technology
- Creative Arts & Design

Visit www.mohawkcollege.ca/alumni/awards to view past recipients and download a nomination form or call the Alumni office at 905-575-2258.