A Umni of Distinction



2024 Awards Celebration

Recognizing alumni for their career achievements and contributions to their community that provide an exceptional source of inspiration for future generations.

Congratulations to these incredible alumni!



Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Dinner Menu

Salad

Mixed field greens salad

Main

Roasted butternut squash soup Prime rib of beef Mashed potatoes Seasonal vegetables Vegan: Roast stuffed pepper

Dessert

Apple crumble cheesecake

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Agenda

Opening Remarks

Linda Rourke '90, 2012 Alumni of Distinction Award Recipient

Mohawk College Greetings

Paul Armstrong '88, President, Mohawk College 2013 Alumni of Distinction Award Recipient

Alumni Welcome

Jonathan Vize '05, Chair, Alumni Advisory Council, Mohawk College 2017 Alumni of Distinction Award Recipient

Celebrating the 2024 Alumni of Distinction Award Recipients

Closing Remarks

Lorna Somers, Vice President, Advancement & Alumni Engagement Mohawk College

2024 Alumni of Distinction

AWARD RECIPIENTS



Recreation Leadership, 1988

Affinity Recipient

Janine Gaunt

Senior Manager, Recreation Operations, City of Hamilton Assistant Basketball Coach, Mohawk College

Janine Gaunt is a long-time volunteer in the Hamilton sports community.

A graduate of the Recreation Leadership program, today she is the Senior Manager of Recreation Operations at the City of Hamilton and an assistant basketball coach at Mohawk College.

Since 2004, Janine has been a volunteer basketball coach with the Blessed Sacrament Basketball Club, the Soldiers JUEL Program and Ontario Basketball's Talent Identification Camp. In 2024 she was awarded the Bernetta Scime Assistant Coach of the Year Award for her contributions to the Mohawk Women's Basketball program.

Her volunteer contributions also include serving as an official with the Hamilton Board of Approved Basketball Officials for over 20 years, officiating high school, OCAA and OUA level basketball, in addition to time as treasurer for the Hamilton Board and Secretary to the Ontario Universities Association (OUA) West Panel of Officials. She has coached and been a chaperone for three International Children's Games competitions and was instrumental in the City of Hamilton's hosting of the games in 1994 and 2000. She is currently serving as a Director with the Hamilton chapter.

In her 34-year career with the City of Hamilton, Janine has developed and trained hundreds of youth in the recreation field and has influenced many recreation programs and partnerships in the community. In her current role, she provides guidance and leadership for recreation centres, indoor and outdoor pools, seniors centres, seasonal programs, camps and city-wide standards for the Recreation Division.



Electrical Engineering Technician – Power, 2004

Electrician – Construction & Maintenance, 2005

Apprenticeship Recipient

Jason Herd

CEO and Founder, Tradetraks Inc.

Jason Herd is an entrepreneur helping businesses in the trades be more efficient and maximize their profits.

Jason is founder and CEO of Tradetraks Inc., a Hamilton-based software provider that automates and streamlines the management operations, finances, health and safety, human resources and internal communications for construction and service trades industry companies.

A graduate of both the Electrical Engineering Technician – Power and Electrician – Construction & Maintenance (Apprenticeship) programs, he founded Tradetraks in 2019 and soon plans to expand into the U.S. market.

Jason was named among the top 40 under 40 by SiteNews, a construction trade publication, in 2022.

Before starting his own business, Jason grew his career at Fairway Electrical, working his way up from electrical apprentice to project manager to vice-president, and finally serving as president.

When Jason tried to solve gaps in Fairway's operational processes through technology, he couldn't find an application so he developed one himself—assembling a Canadian-based team that would create Tradetraks.



Communications Arts, 1972

Business Recipient

Beverley Dinham SpencerChairperson, Strategic Management & Training Consultants Limited

Beverley Dinham Spencer is a leader of training and educating in Jamaica.

After graduating in 1972, she went on to become founder and chairperson of Strategic Management & Training Consultants Limited in 1989, and founder, principal and director of allied healthcare training institute SMTC Career Institute (SMTC-CI) in 2017.

Her clients include corporate, philanthropic, health and educational organizations in Jamaica and internationally. The training provided at the SMTC-CI allows Jamaicans to become certified nursing assistants or personal support workers to fill vacancies in Canada or in their home country.

In 2021, under her leadership SMTC-CI became the first international member of the National Association of Career Colleges (NACC) of Canada. This has allowed students to access several Canadian certification courses while in Jamaica.

Beverley has served on several boards in Jamaica and the Bahamas. She is the former president of the Institute of Management Consultants, co-founder, and director of the Jamaica Foundation for Cardiac Disease, later changed to Jamaica Foundation for Community Development (Health) and founding member of the Florida Space Coast Chapter of the National Congress for Black Women.

Beverley has volunteered with a range of organizations, including being a founding member of the Phadrian Community Citizens Association in Jamaica. She was a member of the Taskforce on the Safeguarding and Protection of Children in Sport as well as the E-Covid Sub-Committee on Independent Schools established by the Government of Jamaica.

Following her diploma at Mohawk, she earned a degree from Wayne State University, a master's from Clemson University and a master's from the United Theological College of the West Indies. She is also a Florida certified Nursing Assistant.



Harness Horse Technician, 1988

Community Services Recipient

Stacey HillIndigenous Liaison Officer, Hamilton Police Services

Stacey Hill is the first Indigenous liaison officer for Hamilton Police Services.

Her liaison role, which she assumed in late 2022, is meant to build stronger relationships between police and Indigenous communities. Members of Hamilton's Indigenous community held a traditional welcoming ceremony for Stacey in April 2023. At the ceremony, she was presented with an eagle feather, a high honour in the Indigenous community meant to represent the good work she has done and will do moving forward.

She has worked for HPS for more than 25 years serving as a patrol officer in the east end and now works closely with Hamilton's newly formed Indigenous Consultation Circle to assist Indigenous people in navigating contacts with police.

Stacey has led training at HPS for all officers and civilians to teach them about Indigenous people and their histories, including colonization, systemic racism, the Sixties Scoop and residential schools.

She is dedicated to community advocacy and helped to form the original Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Board. She has served as a liaison between HPS and First Nations members during the dispute over the construction of the Red Hill Valley Parkway, served on a committee dedicated to race relations and missing Aboriginal women, and was a mentor at the Niwasa Head Start Daycare.

As a teen, she was Miss New Credit, an ambassador role for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and she conducted tours of the Mush Hole, the notorious former Mohawk residential school that is now the Woodland Cultural Centre.



Graphic Design Production -Creative, 2010

Creative Arts & Design Recipient

Ricardo Gonzalez Artist, It's a Living

Ricardo Gonzalez is a designer and artist who has travelled the world for his art.

"It's a Living" is Ricardo's brand, and personal philosophy. He has painted a giant wall mural in Paris in 2023, "Amor" on the side of a building in Mexico City and hosted a dozen solo art shows in Tokyo, Mexico City, Paris, Seoul, and New York. His work has been featured in group shows in Vienna, Osaka and across the U.S.

He has also worked with top brands like Apple, Nike, Bentley, Google, Pepsi, Budweiser, Toyota, Monster and many more. For one of Ricardo's most recent brand collaborations he painted his company's name over Google Pixel ads to promote the phone's new mint green colour and was featured in a commercial for the campaign.

After graduating from Mohawk, he worked as a screen printer in Ottawa. Then he returned to his hometown of Durango, Mexico, to work full-time as an independent designer. After attending The Cooper Union Advancement of Science and Art in New York, he worked as a graphic designer and art director in NYC while displaying his art in group shows, before eventually launching his own business.

His awards include a Young Guns 15 from the Art Directors Club in 2017, typography and lettering awards from Print Mag and COMMARTS, and an International Issue Award from HOWDesign.

Ricardo is a member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Art Directors Club and Working Not Working.



Computer Science Technician – Networking & Hardware, 2002

Advanced Network Security & Connectivity, 2003

Entrepreneur Recipient

Rob DarlingFounder & CEO, runQL.com

Rob Darling is a serial entrepreneur who builds successful software companies that deliver business solutions. He is a third time founder with two previous successful exits (acquisitions).

Today he is the founder and CEO of runQL.com, a venture-backed startup that helps BI/Analytics teams answer data requests 10x faster by supercharging their daily workflows in writing, finding, documenting and versioning their database queries.

Previously Rob was the founder & CEO of briefed.in (acquired in 2022), the Chief Strategy Officer for Athena Software (acquired in 2021), the CTO of Communitech, the founder & CEO of LaunchSpot (acquired in 2017), the Director of Enterprise Architecture for Manulife Canada and in his early career he led the Server Systems, Security and Network teams at Mohawk College.

Rob is also an advisor for many startup software companies, a mentor for Google's LaunchPad Accelerator in California and an investor in a Venture Capital fund. His teams, products and solutions have served more than 5 million people in 25 countries around the world including Scotiabank, SVB, Zoom, Financial Times, Financial Post, CBC, BetaKit, Associated Press, Toronto Star, BDC, Manulife customers, Pepsi, Home Depot, Lowes and others. In 2012, Rob was selected by the Globe and Mail as one of Waterloo Region's emerging entrepreneurs.



Nursing (BScN), 2012

Health Sciences Recipient

Lori Zozzolotto

Regional Clinical Specialist, Convatec Canada

Lori Zozzolotto followed her passion for nursing later in life and is making the very most of her career today.

As the regional clinical specialist at Convatec Canada, a global medical company, she specializes in wound, ostomy and continence care. Her previous positions include supervisor of home and personal support services with Acclaim Health, a community nurse with the Victorian Order of Nurses, and an emergency nurse at the Oakville Trafalgar Hospital.

In 2023, Lori received an award of merit from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) for her outstanding contributions to the nursing profession in Ontario.

In addition to her Mohawk-McMaster Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) credential, Lori earned a registered practical nurse (RPN) diploma from Sheridan College, a leadership and management certificate from McMaster University, and studied journalism at the Toronto Metropolitan University.

Lori volunteers with many organizations to enhance the field of nursing. She is the chair of Black Nurses Leading Change, an initiative of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario's Black Nurses Task Force. She is also a development officer with the Ontario Black Nurses Network (OBNN), and a member/presenter of the OBNN's Black Leadership Institute (BNLI), and a member of the standards committee of Nurses Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada.

Along with an ostomy patient, Lori co-founded and now co-chairs the Chatham Ostomy Support Group.



Graphic Design Production – Creative, 2008

Comic Design & Scripting, 2009

Event Management – Convention & Meeting, 2011

Mohawk College Employee Recipient

Amanda White

Director, Centre for Indigenous Relations, Knowledge, and Learning (CIRKL)
Part-Time Faculty, Indigenous Studies Courses

Amanda is leading Indigenous initiatives and working to embed Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing in all aspects of Mohawk College, including academic programs and processes.

In her role as Director of CIRKL, she has supported the establishment of the Centre for Indigenous Relations, Knowledge and Learning (CIRKL), and related ongoing initiatives including partnerships, Indigenous Knowledge Learning Outcomes (IKLO), professional development, and policy creation and updates.

In her time previously as the manager of Indigenous Student Services, Amanda led a contingent of Pathfinder participants and staff to the World Indigenous People Conference on Education (WIPCE) in Adelaide, Australia in 2022 to present on the program. She has also spoke about the program at the Hawaii International Conference of Education, the Chiefs of Ontario – Special Education Forum, and the third Truth and Reconciliation Conference hosted by Mohawk College.

In 2012, Amanda and two colleagues received a Mohawk College President's Award for the program.

She has served on the Mohawk College Board of Governors and joined the Alumni Advisory Council in late 2023. She has worked as a part-time faculty member for the Indigenous Studies courses, supported the conversations to establish a competitive lacrosse program at the college with the Athletics department, and has offered professional development sessions internally and externally on subjects like Land Acknowledgements and terminology.

Amanda White is First Nations, Ojibwe with family from Wiikwemkoong, Manitoulin Island and was born and raised in Hamilton.

In addition to her three credentials from Mohawk College, she has also graduated from Queen's University with a BA in English Language and Literature.



Police Foundations, 2019

Advanced Police Studies, 2020

Recent Graduate Recipient

Adil Khalqi

Police Constable, Brantford Police Service Town Councillor, Town of Milton

Adil Khalqi is dedicated to public service.

Just four years out of college, he is both a police constable with the Brantford Police Service and a town councillor in the Town of Milton.

Hired in 2021, Adil became a police constable; and just one year into his position with the Brantford Police Service, he was nominated for a Police Association of Ontario Police Hero Award in the Community Role Model category. The award recognizes officers or civilian employees for going above and beyond the call of duty. Adil was nominated by a high school student he is mentoring.

In the 2022 Milton Municipal Election, Adil became the youngest Councillor to ever be elected to Milton Town Council. Adil's election platform included pacing growth to match infrastructure and public services capability, improving road safety and having diverse, young and engaged leaders elected to council.

His dedication to giving back began at the age of 10. His list of volunteer affiliations includes several organizations in his community such as MADD Halton, Crime Stoppers of Halton, Milton Navy League Cadets, local food and toy drives, Special Olympics, political campaigns and more.

Adil aspires to be a role model for other young people to become leaders in their community and prides himself on mentoring youth to achieve their utmost potential, and champions the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion.



Architectural Technology, 2009

Technology Recipient

Andrew Moles

General Manager, PCL Construction Canada Inc.

Andrew Moles is leading the rapid expansion of renewable energy projects for Canada's largest construction company.

Andrew began his career at PCL Construction Canada Inc. in 2007 as a co-op student working alongside the team who oversaw the \$3.5-billion new terminal development project at Toronto Pearson International Airport. Today, Andrew is the general manager of PCL Construction's solar division.

Andrew is credited by PCL leadership for pioneering the expansion of PCL Construction's renewable energy division across Canada, the United States and Australia.

Over the years, Andrew has served as a board member on the Canadian Solar Industries Association and as a board member and vice-chair of the Utility-Scale Solar Division of the US Solar Energy Industries Association. He is a Gold Seal certified project manager by the Canadian Construction Association and is a LEED accredited professional.

In 2021, Andrew was recognized by On-Site Magazine's Top 40 under 40 in Canadian Construction and in 2015, received PCL's prestigious Robert Stollery Construction Leadership Award.

Outside of work, Andrew is committed to mentoring at-risk youth, serving as a co-developer and facilitator of the CityKidz Roadmaps to Dreams program in Hamilton

Alumni of Distinction

AWARD RECIPIENTS

2023

Brian Hogben, 2001 Scott Eccles, 2006 Melanie Wong, 2012 Clare Freeman, 1995 Reta Ismail, 2006 Tawnya Brant, 2015 Phyllis Fehr, 1991 | 2008 Crystal Winchester, 2005 Janet Greener, 2004 | 2020 | 2022 Cheyanne Hammell, 2007

2022

Stephen Aikman, 1993
Brad Arnold, 2002
Adam McClare, 2007
Treena MacSween, 1997
Geoff Grant, 1993
Juanita Gledhill, 2001
Lacey VanEvery, 2006
Wendy Lawson, 2001
Rachel Brown, 2008
Liberatore Trombetta, 1992

2021

Kelly Dunham, 1991 | 1993 Daniel Guest, 2013 Ryan Roberts, 2003 Katherine Kalinowski, 1993 Nicole McCormick, 2002 Len Larose, 1995 Carlos Barrios, 2002 Lori Morgan, 1988 Leen Alramlawi, 2016 Albert Duwyn, 1978

2020

Chris Vanhouten, 1995 Karen Breitner, 1988 Lisa McDonald, 1994
Nancy Smith, 1981
Elizabeth Naumovski, 1984
John McGrath, 1983
Dr. Laurie McLaughlin, 1982
Brian Willrich, 1980
Curtis Onaczyszyn, 2019
Dr. Bella N. Dietrich, 2008

2019

Gary Nelson, 1985
Joal Roshko, 2010
Steven Connor, 1994
Nora Melara-Lopez, 2009
Martha Rorabeck-Bradford, 2002
Ted Rakoczy, 1979
Dr. Bonnie Freeman, 1992
Kathryn Crooks, 2013
Luke Johns, 2014
Kathy Lerette, 1997

2018

Wendy Rolfe, 1986
Dr. Beverly Jacobs, 1985
Valya Roberts, 1986
Maggie Fox, 1993
Paul Lloyd, 1972
Janice Dusek, 1975
Gabriela Covaci, 2010
Maria de Castro Santos De Tina, 2015
Jad Saliba, 2001

2017

Brian Hansell, 1983 Steve Stipsits, 1984 Joan Minnery, 1988 Jonathan Vize, 2005 Natalie Sexton, 2005 Linda Haslam-Stroud, 1977 Karen Davis, 1993 David Folk, 1988

2016

Gary Crowell, 1970 Bruce Pearson, 1971 Steven Lennon, 1995 Annette Hamm, 1987 Rachel Devine, 2002 Justin Fyfe, 2007 Sue Vattay, 1982 Bill Chisholm, 1980

2015

Derek Doyle, 2007
Ted McMeekin, 1970
Fred Eisenberger, 1983
Vanh Kalong, 1991
Barbara Shea, 1980
Rocco Passero, 1980
Megan MacLeod, 2013
Daniel Popowich, 1992
Brian Jonker, 1994

2013

Brent Kinnaird, 1994 Sharon Charters, 1975 Ava Green, 1981 Paul Armstrong, 1988 Bronko Jazvac, 1978 Emily Baynes, 2011 Ray Adamyk, 1983 Anthony Frisina, 2002

2012

Debbie Logel Butler, 1981 Marco Felvus, 1999 Kevin Ford, 1975 Steve Marsh, 1981 Elaine Principi, 1982 Linda Rourke, 1990 Mark Runciman, 1977 Narine Dat Sookram, 2013

2011

Ryan Barichello, 2006 Derrick LaRiviere, 1978 Mary Long, 2009 Kate McKenna, 2010 Sharon Pierson, 1986 Dave Pond, 1984 Sue Prestedge, 1974

2010

Brandy Gowling, 1992 Pamela Rose, 2006 Nancy Hemrica, 1979 Michael Le Page, 1984 Linda Marshall, 1982 Kelly Ann Pauly, 1982 Jim Tatti, 1976

2009

Karyn Callaghan, 1978 Cathy Cardy, 1974 Susan Gregoroff, 1976 Bill Kelly, 1974 Gord Lewis, 1977 Sarah Moir, 2008

2008

Debbie Crickmore, 1983 Dave Kuruc, 1999 Peter Newcombe, 1990 Sera Nicosia, 1981 Susan Shaw-Davis, 2005 Cathy Wellwood, 1999

Alumni of Distinction

AWARD RECIPIENTS

2007

Len Falco, 1972 Scot Keith, 1992 Ted Lourenco, 2004 Don MacVicar, 1992, George Morasse, 1970 Ted Scott, 1988

2006

Michael Desnoyers, 1984 Ward Dilse, 1986 Mike Farrell, 1969 John Lafferty, 1976 Mindy Tweedle, 2002

2005

Earl Clarke, 2005 David Dishke, 1996 Marni Flaherty, 1982 Matt Hayes, 1981 John Marshall, 1971 Andrew Murie, 1978 Paul Stratford, 1974

2004

Dominic Agostino, 1981 Sandra Ireland, 1990 Anthony Michelli, 1990 Peter Rakoczy, 1978 Damion Steen, 2003 Diana Zanin, 1980

2003

Lyla Miklos, 1997

2002

Brian J. Mullen, 1991 Sherali Najak, 1991 Karen L. Prine, 1977 Len D. Sharpe, 1969

2001

Carmine Domanico, 1980 Patricia Leonard, 1976 Connie Smith, 1978 Alexander J. Williamson, 1969

2000

Diane Barrafato, 1980 Glenn Gibson, 1973 Alison Murchie, 1986 Pat St. John, 1970

1999

Tom Cochren, 1971 Nancy Heddle, 1969 Frank Peter, 1988 Jay Pollack, 1976

1998

Tony Battaglia, 1976 Brenda Flaherty, 1980 Doug Harrison, 1981 Tony (Master T) Young, 1983

1997

Pamela Bojeski, 1977 Kevin Dunn, 1986 Don Granger, 1971 Amos Key, 1976 Carrie Mines, 1978

1996

Marlene Conway, 1985 Kendra Gregson, 1985 Juliet Hamilton, 1977 Raymond Simmons, 1979 Amos Key, 1994

Premier's Award Recipients

Cheyanne Hammell (2023) Kathy Lerette (2019) Jad Saliba (2018) Sarah Moir (2011) Marni Flaherty (2006) Dominic Agostino (2004) Nancy Heddle (2002) Kendra Gregson (1999) Marlene Conway (1997) Raymond Simmons (1996) Amos Key (1994) Mohawk College and the Alumni Association congratulate all Alumni of Distinction Award recipients for their incredible achievements and success.



190 Alumni of Distinction Award recipients



Recipients from 85+
programs of study



Premier's Award recipients



Recipients from Classes of

1969-2023



donated by the Alumni Association for student bursaries in honour of each recipient

2024 - 2025 Mohawk College

ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jonathan Vize, Chair

Journalism and Communications Media, 2005

Kat Clark, Past Chair

Broadcasting, Television & Communications Media, 2010

Brad Arnold

General Carpenter, 2002

Careena Browne

Health, Wellness & Fitness, 2015 Child & Youth Care, 2018

Kyle Datzkiw

Business, 2016

David Folk

Architectural Technology,1988

Lucas Lubin

Journalism - Print and Broadcast, 2012

Linda Rourke

Broadcasting - Television and Communications Media, 1990

Yash Shastri

Motive Power Technician, 2017 Autism and Behavioural Science, 2022

Amanda White

Graphic Design Production - Creative, 2008 Comic Design & Scripting, 2009 Event Management - Convention & Meeting, 2011

Jess Westbrook

Architectural Technology, 2021

Ex-Officio

Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva

President Mohawk Students' Association

Your ADVANCEMENT AND

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT Team

Lorna Somers

Vice President, Advancement & Alumni Engagement

Tracey Bailey

Jaime Bennett

Tim Bishop

Nicole Boncheff

Frank Castiglione

Amanda Cavasin

Michelle Chooson

Bonnie Dewitt-Tuthill

Linda Fraser

Bailey-Anne Gandy

Mihai Raducanu

Wendy Schilling

Jeff Wahn

2024 Mohawk College Alumni of Distinction

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Juanita Gledhill

2022 Entrepreneur Recipient

Janet Greener

2023 Recent Graduate Recipient

Steven Lennon

2016 Community Services Recipient

Lacey VanEvery

2022 Health Sciences Recipient

Jonathan Vize

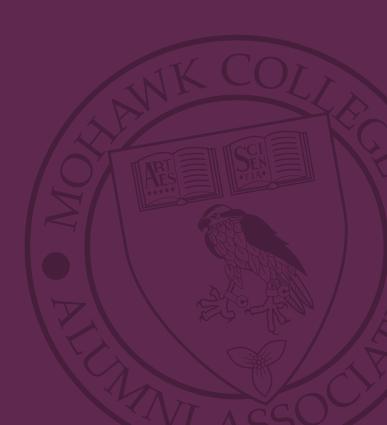
Chair Alumni Advisory Council Mohawk College

Samantha Boudreau

Manager, Talent Acquisition Mohawk College

Gena Dureault

Senior Development Officer Mohawk College Foundation



Do you know an outstanding Mohawk graduate who should be recognized?



Nominations for the 2025 Alumni of Distinction Awards are now open.



② ♠ ▼ @MohawkAlumni mohawkcollege.ca/Alumni Alumni@mohawkcollege.ca