

Celebrating inspiration

The 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards Program



Mike Foster

(Tourism and Travel Counsellor 80)

The joy of the journey

As President of UNIGLOBE Travel Inc., Mike Foster's business is building dream vacations. Despite fierce competition from do-it-yourself Internet booking sites and rapid changes to the industry, UNIGLOBE is a resounding success story, with three local offices employing 30 people and earning sales of more than \$15 million annually.

Mike credits Fanshawe with putting him on the fast track to his success. He hopes to do the same for today's students as a member of Fanshawe's Tourism and Hospitality Division Advisory Committee. On a professional level, Mike is Chair of the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies Ontario Council, and holds a seat on the ACTA National Board of Directors.

"We faced Internet competition by providing a level of attention that the Internet could never compete with. We also invested in our own Internet business to serve clients who require less in the way of consulting, but want a professional travel consultant behind the sale if anything goes wrong." – Mike Foster

Leadership, inspiration and success are the order of the day as we announce our Distinguished Alumni Award winners for 2007. These six individuals were selected for top honours and we thank all our nominators for their submissions. The Fanshawe College Alumni Association, in conjunction with our generous sponsors, gathered to celebrate the stories of inspiration and courage of these individuals at a gala awards evening held at Fanshawe on October 18, 2007. It is our pleasure to share their stories with you.



Colleen Collier, RN

(Nursing 80)

A legacy of hope and caring

As a nurse in the Paediatric Critical Care Unit at Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, Colleen Collier finds her career not without difficulty but always rewarding. Working with children and families has taught her the staggering depth of human vulnerability, courage, and compassion.

Given her wealth of experience, Colleen is a very popular clinical educator and advisor at the Western-Fanshawe School of Nursing. She has won several awards and scholarships for her work. She has been published in two Canadian medical journals and, as an advocate for grieving families, has given more than 70 presentations on topics including critical illness, stress management, family centred care, grief, and communication. She was also instrumental in developing the London Regional Critical Incident Response Team.

"My years at Fanshawe were the key to my success. The faculty inspired me to advocate for the needs of others, to care unconditionally, and to believe that anything is possible." – Colleen Collier



Barbara Desjardins

(Child Care Worker 74)

The art of compassion

Over the past two years, Barb Desjardins has made several trips to Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi to work with victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A registered Art Therapist, she has used art to help victims cope with their losses, express their grief, and begin to move forward. During vacations from her job as Principal at Caradoc South Public School, she has also worked on other international projects that improve quality of life in developing countries around the world.

Barb followed her Child and Youth Worker diploma from Fanshawe with degrees from the University of Western Ontario and certifications from Detroit's National Institute for Trauma and Loss. She is currently the Registration Chairperson of the Ontario Art Therapy Association.

"Through my experiences in other countries, I learned about resiliency and tenacity in the face of total loss, and I witnessed selfless acts of courage, compassion, and determination. I learned that every act of kindness, no matter how small, is huge."

– Barb Desjardins



David Wyatt

(Motive Power Diesel Technician 80)

Showing the way to success

David is the CEO of Middlesex Appliance Limited – a locally owned and operated business that is thriving against tough competition from big box stores. Backed by David's "customer driven" philosophy, Middlesex Appliance is a preferred showroom for many major manufacturers, and has maintained a record of zero layoffs in 28 years in business.

But David is much more than a businessman. He believes in education, and he works with local organizations including the Small Business Centre and Junior Achievement to help others set goals, educate themselves, and follow their dreams. He continually upgrades his skills, and gives his employees incentives to learn new technology. He also keeps close ties to Fanshawe as Past President on the Fanshawe College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"I make it a priority to promote the opportunity of education, especially to those who may feel they have barriers preventing a post-secondary education. Fanshawe opened a doorway for me to begin my career. I guess I have just tried to hold that door open for a few others." – David Wyatt



Danielle Campo

(Child and Youth Worker 06)

Swimming against the current

While Danielle Campo has had to cope most of her life with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy, this has not deterred her from her goals. She is a college graduate, a respected public speaker, and a seven-time Paralympic medalist. In addition to earning three gold medals and one silver in swimming at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, she also set a world record in the women's 100m freestyle. Just 22 years old, she has earned the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, and has been invested with the Order of Ontario.

Today, Danielle is working in her dream job, as a Resource Support Worker with the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society. She is also a spokesperson for Muscular Dystrophy Canada and for Citizens Advocacy.

"In the future, I hope to help people understand the power of having a dream. I want to teach people that it does not matter if you're young, old, rich, poor, disabled or able-bodied. If you have a dream, you can do anything."

– Danielle Campo



Scott Clark

(Broadcasting Radio 88)

Reaching for the sky

Scott Clark was the voice of morning radio in North Bay for 14 years. As host of the popular EZ Rock 100.5 morning show, he was a main contributor to the station's 1996 "Radio Station of the Year" award from the Canadian Association of Broadcasters.

Scott left the station in 2004 to become Partner and President of Benjamin James Marketing Communications. While he manages a portfolio that includes more than 150 satisfied clients, he also finds time to build on a prolific volunteer resume that has earned him the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Medal in 2004 and the Kiwanis Club Citizen of the Year award in 2006.

In 2006, Scott took on yet one more challenge: he joined a consortium of investors to create North Bay's 104.9FM Blue Sky Radio.

"Community work was and is a joy. Who doesn't want to make a difference in life? It provided me with a tremendous amount of [radio] material and still engages me with the community on a regular basis." – Scott Clark