



Biographies of Fanshawe's 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Peter van der Westen, President, Vanderwesten and Rutherford Associates Inc. (Honorary Alumni)

As an experienced leader in business, infrastructure and community development, Peter van der Westen is a builder extraordinaire. With an innate ability to see potential in people and projects, Peter's strategy and integrity are hallmarks of his company, Vanderwesten & Rutherford (V&R), which provides mechanical and electrical consulting engineering services to a wide range of clientele. Moreover, Peter's commitment as an enthusiastic community volunteer is evident across many dovetailing former leadership roles, as board chair of the King's University College Board of Governors, King's University College Foundation, London Public Library and Museum London.

Believing Ontario's college system is pivotal to a flourishing economy, Peter is a longtime Fanshawe champion. As a strong industry voice for program planning, he is proud of his past service on the College Program Advisory Committee for Applied Arts, which included chairing several curriculum review sessions.

Peter also welcomes Fanshawe co-op students, hires its graduates, sponsors the Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner technology category, participates in Foundation and Board of Governors golf tournament fundraisers and shares his expertise with the innovative new Canadian Centre for Product Validation. At the same time, Peter is the worthy recipient of a Queen's Jubilee Medal acknowledging his many community contributions.

Peter Rocca, CEO, Partner and Founder, Start.ca (Business)

With expertise spanning a range of technologies, Peter Rocca is a renaissance man for the Information Age. As an entrepreneur and self-proclaimed nerd, Peter enthusiastically welcomed the world's introduction of the personal computer in his youth and remains excited by the digital revolution. History confirms unprecedented technological development launched with the Internet in the mid-1990s and Peter and fellow Fanshawe student Darryl Olthoff recognized the impact computers would make on the world. Sharing their know-how, these college friends created an internet enterprise savvy enough to challenge Rogers and Bell.

That enterprise is Start.ca and it certainly lives up to its name. With Peter's leadership, the company outgrew its office space and increased staff from 25 to 60 between 2012 and 2015. Growth continued with more people choosing streaming over cable, and fibre optics emerging

as the next big technology. Today, Start.ca owns three buildings, serves 65,000 satisfied subscribers and employs 160 loyal staff.

Through its development, Start.ca helped launch the Canadian Network Operators Consortium (CNOC), earned a business designation to offer VoIP digital phone services, invested several million dollars in fibre optics in downtown London, created the internet-based Start TV and received the 2017 Large Business of the Year Award from the London Chamber of Commerce.

Nick Paparella, Reporter, CTV News London (Community Service)

Generously expanding his prominent television news career to serve as a community advocate, Nick Paparella is a man for many charities. Trained in broadcast journalism, Nick has covered the best and worst of times throughout his 40 years of news reporting. His assignments have ranged from the 2008 inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African American president to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Overall, what resonates for Nick is to bring a big voice to important community initiatives like My Sister's Place.

According to Nick, community means being involved, because we all depend on one other. And, Nick "walks the talk" by annually serving as volunteer emcee for more than 50 charitable fundraisers. Nick is also a board member of the Salvation Army Community Council, Extend-a-Family and the Cardiac Campaign for LHSC.

Always shining a light on others, Nick humbly accepted the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his community service. Always inspiring others - including his three sons - with energy, effort and emotion, Nick is an avid runner with two Boston Marathons and two full Ironman competitions under his belt, and mentors dozens of Fanshawe broadcast interns at CTV - bringing encouragement and empowerment to all.

Elizabeth Lorusso, MRI Program Coordinator, Faculty, Fanshawe College; MRI Technologist, London Health Sciences Centre/St. Joseph's Health Care London (Health Sciences)

As an inspirational professor and innovative researcher within Fanshawe's School of Health Sciences, Elizabeth Lorusso is hailed internationally for her collaborative work on reducing radiation dose levels in x-ray exams. Embracing the ALARA principle - an acronym for keeping radiation exposure "as low as reasonably achievable" for needed results - Elizabeth's research shows that today's advanced digital imaging technology no longer requires the same quantity of radiation as film-based x-ray images.

Since publishing in the Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences in 2015, Elizabeth has become a popular presenter on this important topic. In 2016, she shared her findings at the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists Conference, the American Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences Conference and the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists World Congress held in Seoul, Korea.

Most recently, Elizabeth presented to the Vietnam Association of Radiological Technologists and is forging significant global health sciences connections. In recognition of her creative curiosity and strong work ethic, Elizabeth is a recipient of the 2017 Practitioner of the Year

Award by the Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, the 2016 London Health Sciences Centre Scholarly Award and the 2015 Chair's Award of Inspiration at Western's Imaging Discovery Days.

Marcy Mussari, Owner and Entrepreneur, Marcy Mussari Interior Decorating; Winner, The Search for Canada's Next Designer (Recent Graduate)

As a creative and award-winning entrepreneur, Marcy Mussari is making a big splash in the design world just two short years after graduation. Embracing opportunity is Marcy's strength, as demonstrated throughout her Interior Decorating program and in several strategic ways since. Appreciating her hometown of Niagara-on-the-Lake is a popular wedding destination, Marcy wisely directed local contacts to her online photography and Do it Yourself (DIY) YouTube videos. In return, she landed a design job with Niagara's Ooh La La Designs and a coveted spot among the Top 25 finalists in the Hallmark Channel's Home and Family Show DIY Contest filmed in Hollywood, California.

Marcy also shared her designs with CTV daytime host Marilyn Denis and netted four lifestyle segments on The Marilyn Denis Show. As a result, she earned a chance to compete as an up-and-coming design expert in Gusto TV's reality, high-stakes décor series called The Search for Canada's Next Designer - and took top honours!

As prizewinner, Marcy secured an IKEA Canada design contract and a trip to Sweden for IKEA's 2017 Democratic Design Days. Today, she continues to seize opportunities for her business called Marcy Mussari Interior Decorating and inspires others to never give up, be positive and always follow their dream.

Peter Cassidy, Principal, John Paul II Secondary School (Technology)

Believing in the concept of paying it forward, Peter Cassidy is changing the world one student at a time. As both an architectural technologist and an enthusiastic educator, Peter points to his hands-on college experience as a launch pad to his teaching career. Through his applied learning at Fanshawe, Peter honed a talent for creative design, and learned to ask questions and help solve problems through collaboration – skills he continues to use in his leadership role as principal of John Paul II Secondary School.

Appreciating support of teachers who saw more potential in him than he saw in himself, Peter strives to see the best in every student. While working as a designer, he realized his passion for technology was more akin to education than industry, so he headed to teachers' college. Peter then created a successful 18-year teaching career and advocated for the introduction of technology across the London District Catholic School Board curriculum – before training as a principal.

Peter acknowledges he is a "rare bird" to transition from technology to school administration. Yet, his positive college experience remains central to his work as an enthusiastic champion for college as a viable pathway for post-secondary education. This is heartening for Peter's students, as he continues to pay it forward in his lifelong role as an architect of human potential.

Steven Sabados, Host, *The Goods* on CBC; Designer, S&C Home Collection (Creative Arts and Design)

Recalling a creative process honed in his Fine Art program, which molds raw material into a chosen object, Steven Sabados thanks Fanshawe for molding him into the person he is today. Against the backdrop of international success as a television host, designer and writer, Steven remains focused on the theory of kinetics learned at college decades ago. It confirms everything is in flux, so an artist must capture moments. This revelation resonates with Steven and enables him to move forward in unexpected ways.

Prior to the sudden loss of Steven's life and business partner Chris Hyndman in 2015, Steven and Chris were winning television acclaim, contributing to the creative and charitable sectors and blazing a trail for others in the LGBTQ community. In 2007, the pair launched a home décor product line across North America, under the brand S+C. Working together, they enjoyed notable success with several HGTV shows before moving to CBC-TV in 2008 to host a new syndicated, daytime lifestyle show simply called *Steven and Chris*.

Today, Steven still captures moments and celebrates belonging to a co-host quartet featured on CBC-TV's *The Goods*. He continues his public journey while holding tight to his favourite Fanshawe creation, as a means of staying grounded.