

IN THIS
ISSUE



THE PLAY'S
THE THING



GREG GORALSKI –
PROFESSOR AND
ENTREPRENEUR



NATURAL
PLAYGROUND A
LIVING LABORATORY

HUMBERTODAY

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WE ARE HUMBER



FROM INDUSTRIAL DESIGN TO DRAGONS' DEN

When Lee Renshaw got sick of wrinkled clothes, he didn't just pull out an iron – he invented a new kind of luggage.

And he didn't just use his luggage himself – he developed a prototype, went on CBC's Dragons' Den, nabbed a deal worth \$100,000, appeared on the Today show, and now his made-in-Canada Rise and Hang bags are sold on The Shopping Channel, QVC, the Home Shopping Network and in stores across Canada and the US.

Renshaw has now also won a Premier's Award, which recognizes Ontario college graduates' outstanding contributions and career successes.

The idea for the Rise and Hang had its early beginnings when Renshaw was a Humber student. Because he lived in Kitchener, getting to his classes on time meant a lot of overnights in a lot of different places.

"I was staying at my girlfriend's place in Markham, I was crashing on couches, I was bouncing all over the place," laughs Renshaw. "It was a nightmare – my clothes were literally in a huge ball, all the time, and my friends commented on how wrinkly everything was. I wanted some way not to look like I was living out of a laundry basket."

Renshaw's design background – he completed a Design Foundation certificate and an Industrial Design degree at Humber – came in handy when inspiration struck.

"I had seen those collapsible shelves – the ones you hang in a closet," Renshaw says. "No one ever had thought about putting them into a suitcase, but I knew a system like that would help keep clothes folded and tidy."

A sewing machine, some late nights and a few staples later, and Renshaw had a working prototype.

Success followed. Rise and Hang sales for 2013 were approximately \$3 million.

"Appearing on Dragons' Den was an amazing opportunity to launch our product," says Renshaw. "We were really, really nervous, but I'd had a lot of presentation experience at Humber, so that helped. I also had outstanding teachers, who had pushed me to work hard and extend past what I thought were my limits. They've helped and guided me during and beyond my time at Humber."

Now, not only is Renshaw a successful entrepreneur, his clothes are wrinkle-free.

FIVE COUNTRIES FIVE LANGUAGES FIVE VISAS

Kendra Cassels chose Humber's postgraduate program in Hospitality and Tourism Operations Management (HTOM) because she knew it would take her places.

Where it took her was five countries on five continents using five languages and requiring five visas.

Cassels was one of three student interns selected to participate in the Association of Corporate Travel Executives' "Around the World in 80 Hours," a program designed to give students a glimpse into the world of global travel management.

Following her internship, Cassels started working for BCD Travel, an international corporate travel management company.

"While I do have a passion for travel, the highlight of my trip was definitely learning about people – their cultures, their stories and their experiences," says Cassels. "Visiting different places lets me know each and every day that I always have more to learn."

Staying in Dubai, Bangalore, Beijing, Moscow and São Paulo, Cassels got access to some of the world's most luxurious hotels, airlines and restaurants.

"Everywhere we went we were stunned by the level of service," she explains. "I don't think I opened my own door in the hotel in Bangalore, ever. I feel incredibly lucky to have had this opportunity."

According to HTOM program co-ordinator Kristy Adams, an internship is one of the most valuable components of Humber's program, allowing students to make connections and gain work experience in a highly competitive industry.

"Our postgraduate program is designed to provide our students with the skills for a career in tourism and hospitality management both in Canada and internationally," she explains. "An internship provides students with the vital hands-on experience that is highly valued by employers, and allows our graduates to get a head start on their careers."



A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Although she began her time at Humber studying nursing, Kenisha Morales realized that her passions lay elsewhere.

Fortunately, she didn't have to go far to find her true calling. Transferring into Humber's Criminal Justice degree program gave her a mission: to figure out how to help change the criminal justice system.

"Minorities are over-represented in the criminal justice system, and I want to help change that," Morales says. "In this program, we examine the nature of the systems around us by debating different points of view and challenging our own preconceived ideas. We're not just working within society – we're talking about how to change it. Our professors are outstanding at encouraging us to examine our own views and change the way we think."

Morales, who went to Burnhamthorpe Collegiate in Etobicoke

before coming to Humber, has worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, winning a five-year service award this year. She also volunteers with F.E.A.T for Children of Incarcerated Parents, a Toronto-based community group that supports children whose parents are in the criminal justice system.

Along with going to school, Morales works full time as a Personal Support Worker at Peel Senior Link, a senior's supported-living residence in Mississauga.

Morales' non-stop schedule didn't keep her from winning Humber's President's Medal for Academic Achievement. When she graduates, she plans to become a parole or probation officer, working directly with people involved in the justice system.

"Life is definitely busy," she says. "But the work is worth it. Helping to create social change and working to make a difference is incredibly rewarding."



THE PLAY'S THE THING

Dora award-winner Oyin Oladejo had never been on stage – had never seen a live theatre production at all, actually – when she saw the opera *La Traviata* by the Canadian Opera Company (COC) in 2007.

“I was working for the COC at the time, and we got inexpensive tickets to the operas, so I went,” explains Oladejo, who came to Canada from Lagos, Nigeria when she was 16. “It was incredible – I didn’t even know there was such a thing as live theatre, and it was such a powerful, moving experience. I went home and asked my roommate, an actor, how I could learn to do that.”

Oladejo enrolled in Humber’s Theatre Performance program,

but initially found the intensity of the training a challenge, dropping out in the middle of her second semester.

“The program requires you to work with your emotions, so I was grieving, I was emoting, I was getting angry – and it just became too much to handle,” she says. “I realized, though, that nothing I had ever done before had challenged me as much, or had given me such an adrenaline rush – so eventually I asked if I could come back.”

From there, Oladejo threw everything she had into Humber, where she worked both on performing established plays and creating new works – something the Humber theatre program is well known for.

“What Humber teaches you prepares you for the world at large, because you’re not just an actor – you’re a creator as well,” she says. “When you’re done working on a show or with a company, you don’t have to worry about what your next job is going to be, because you have the knowledge and skills to create something yourself.”

Oladejo certainly has skills. While at Humber, she won the Edna Khubyar Acting Award and, once she graduated, went on to win a Dora award for her role in Roseneath Theatre’s play, *In This World*. She is now a member of the prestigious Souleppper Academy in Toronto, which provides two years of intensive training for actors and other theatre professionals.

“Humber let me play – and gave me the power to own my craft, bringing something extra to the table that surprises directors,” she says. “I’ve had experience as an actor, a playwright, a designer and a director, all at once – which means my future is going to be far more interesting than I’d ever imagined.”

A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO A “VICTORY LAP”

Not sure what you want to do after high school? Need academic upgrading? Humber’s General Arts and Science program allows you to explore classes in psychology, literature, world history, economics, film, writing and liberal arts studies, while gaining postsecondary experience and earning credits towards a diploma or degree.

Why choose a General Arts and Science program?

TRANSFERABILITY: Humber has transfer agreements with universities across Canada including the University of Toronto, Bishop’s University, York University and Queen’s University. Many students begin their educational path in General Arts and Science, enhance their academic skills and then move into other postsecondary programs.

ACADEMIC AND LIFE SUCCESS: The General Arts and Science program creates a learning atmosphere that promotes student success. Student support structures provide help with both academic and personal concerns, and our friendly environment encourages students to make learning an enjoyable and productive journey.

FACULTY: Humber’s faculty is highly skilled, experienced and dedicated to helping you succeed. Each student has an academic advisor who is your guide to making good choices for your future.

WE ARE PROBLEM SOLVERS



CHANGING THE WORLD – ONE GIRL AT A TIME

When Sabrina Rubli and Ella Marinic were enrolled in the International Development postgrad program at Humber, they were given a group assignment: design a water and sanitation project for rural Kenya.

The project got them thinking about a subject that’s a little embarrassing for some, and downright taboo for others: menstruation.

“We started thinking – what do girls do during their period when there’s little access to running water or private latrines?” explains Rubli. “We discovered that a lack of facilities and affordable sanitary products led girls in Kenya to miss an average of 4.9 schooldays every month – just because they’re menstruating.”

The challenges of affordability and access to facilities led the team to a simple solution – the menstrual cup.

“We wanted to provide girls with something practical that was sustainable, eco-friendly and allowed them to engage in everyday activities without worrying about their period,” says Marinic. “The cups, which are manufactured in Nairobi, are reusable, last up to ten years and provide protection for 10 to 12 hours – so girls can go to school and not worry about having access to a private latrine.”

That school project has now blossomed into a non-profit called Femme International. Last May, the pair moved beyond Humber’s walls and into Mathare, a slum just three kilometres outside of Nairobi’s city centre. They worked with a small group of girls, educating them about women’s health issues and distributing Femme Kits, which contain a menstrual cup, a towel, a pot for sanitizing, a bar of soap, and condoms.

With the pilot project a success, dropping the absentee rate by 75 per cent, Marinic and Rubli will be expanding their program confident that they’ve got the support and the skills to succeed.

“Everyone –the girls, their parents, the schools, and our professors at Humber – have all been supportive,” says Marinic. “The practical skills we learned in class have been essential to our success. This project – from classroom to Kenya – has changed our lives, and will help us to change the lives of girls.”

CULINARY CORNER



We are Humber – and we are cooking. Home to the Canadian Centre of Culinary Arts and Science, Humber is also recognized through the World Association of Chefs’ Societies for the quality of its programming and facilities.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Culinary students train in the kitchens of the Humber Room, a fine-dining restaurant that’s recently undergone a \$5 million renovation.
- Humber also houses the Ontario Cook Apprenticeship Training Centre, the largest training centre for cook apprentices in the province.
- We are the only school in Canada that offers Certified Master Chef accreditation – the highest professional designation in North America.
- We’ve partnered with the YMCA and Microskills to offer a nine-month pre-apprenticeship program for youth from 18-24.
- Culinary students have distinguished themselves in regional and provincial competitions, including winning gold at Skills Ontario and triumphing at the Battle of Ontario held at the National Student Pastry competition.



ACCOUNTING STUDENT MEANS BUSINESS

Marcel V. M. Wade is enrolled in Humber’s Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting program, but he knew his way around a spreadsheet long before he went to school.

“I grew up at Jane and Sheppard, which is one of Toronto’s Priority Neighbourhoods,” explains Wade. “In 2009, a friend and I started a social organization called Northernlites Community Group, which provides free studio space for people in the community to record CDs or make videos. We charge people from outside the neighbourhood to use the facilities – so we need to do a lot of budgeting and forecasting to determine how many paying clients we need to keep the enterprise afloat.”

Wade says that Humber’s common two-year platform, in which all students take the same fundamental business courses, has been useful already, both with Northernlites and, most recently, working with a company that provides merchandising for live concerts.

“The first two years in the program gave me a solid grasp of business fundamentals like marketing and finance, which was both an asset for employers and for my own business,” he says. “It also allows you to make connections across a variety of disciplines, which gives you some valuable networking opportunities.”



GREG GORALSKI – PROFESSOR AND ENTREPRENEUR

Greg Goralski has been in the news a lot recently – and he says he owes his inspiration to his students.

The program co-ordinator for Humber’s Web Design and Interactive Media diploma program, Goralski attracted the attention of tech media giants Fast Company, Mashable and Wired with AppSeed, an app he developed that turns pen-and-paper sketches into interactive web prototypes.

“The idea for the app actually came from working with our students,” he says. “We’re constantly sketching out designs – the app can take a picture of a sketch and make it interactive. I shared my experiences, both from a technical point of view and also as an entrepreneur, with my students every step of the way – which means they’ll be more prepared if they decide to launch a similar campaign.”

ENTREPRENEUR ROUND-UP

Through programs like the New Venture Seed Fund and the LaunchPad Competition (formerly known as Friendly Fire), Humber provides students and recent graduates with funding, resources and support to help start and grow their own businesses. Here are some of our success stories:

New Venture Seed Fund and Friendly Fire winner Desiree Giralto opened her own store halfway through her third year in Fashion Management. She now sells her handmade jewellery at several major Toronto retailers. Her work has been featured in Flare Online, the Toronto Star and The Grid.

Friendly Fire winner Jesse Bruce started Time for War Fitness, holding bootcamp-style classes in local parks and at Humber. Now, he’s co-founded Alpha Obstacle Training, a gym in Toronto that specializes in training members for obstacle races.

New Venture fund recipients Jake Harding and Gustavo Macias started Skyline Farms, an aeroponic urban farming project. They have since launched a pilot project with the Toronto District School Board and Thistletown Collegiate Institute, growing vegetables and herbs on the roof of the Etobicoke high school.

Global Business Management grads Vincent Panepinto and Nicholas Wiktorczyk used their New Venture grant to start Spently, an online service that provides e-receipts to retailers. Spently now provides e-receipts to Shopify, Canada’s largest e-commerce platform.



SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM FINDING OPPORTUNITIES

If you looked across the park that’s steps from Humber’s Orangeville Campus, you’d be forgiven for thinking that a bunch of students were wandering aimlessly through the bushes.

What they’re actually doing is conducting a training simulation of a grid search, one of the techniques used to help locate a missing person. They’re actually certified search and rescue (SAR) volunteers who work together as part of the Humber Orangeville Community Search and Rescue (HOCSAR) team.

HOCSAR is made up of Humber students and members of the Orangeville community, who are then trained to assist professional emergency responders during search operations. The group is the only volunteer SAR team in southwestern Ontario.

“HOCSAR’s been in existence since 2008, and gives students in Police Foundations and other programs the opportunity to

become trained in search and rescue protocols, as well as make connections with the community and local emergency services,” explains Joe Andrews, director of Humber’s Orangeville campus.

HOCSAR volunteers train together monthly to be ready for calls relating to missing persons – anything from a lost hiker to a missing child at a fall fair to a wandering senior citizen with Alzheimer’s. The group is not called when any criminal activity is suspected.

“Our program – and, actually, the whole campus – emphasizes being a part of the community,” says Willis Coulter, a first-year Police Foundations student. “That’s the basis of policing – so it’s important for us to make connections out there, not just at school. Humber is great at encouraging us to go beyond the classroom and really get involved in the community.”

She turned to Humber profs and students to help make it possible.

“I had an idea, and support from school boards and charities – but I needed the technical support to help make it possible,” explains the 28-year-old television producer and entrepreneur. “I had heard of the Web Development program at Humber, knew it had a great reputation and approached them to see if they could help. They jumped right on board.”

Professor Bernie Monette, knowing that working on Mackenzie’s project would give his students an opportunity

WE ARE PARTNERS

MAKING INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Developing and maintaining relationships with industry partners is a key factor to the success of our graduates. Industry partners do more than simply advise – they become an integral part of your learning experience, informing curriculum, providing internships and keeping programs relevant. The connections you make at Humber can last throughout your career.

Some of our most recent industry and community connections are:

TJX CANADA: The parent company of stores such as Winners, HomeSense and Marshalls, TJX is a major influencer in the Canadian retail landscape. Depending on your program, you could have the opportunity to work for TJX full-time, on contract or as an intern.

ST. STEPHEN’S HOUSE: Working alongside trained mediators from St. Stephen’s House, students in the Alternative Dispute Resolution postgraduate program work in the South Etobicoke Humber Conflict Clinic to help clients resolve disputes without having to resort to legal action.

NBCUNIVERSAL: International media firm NBCUniversal helped create the NBCUniversal Production Suites, a collection of state-of-the-art film production software and equipment benefitting more than 200 students in the Film and Media Production degree program.

HUMBER STUDENTS GET BUSY ON GET YOUR HOURS

When Christiane Mackenzie’s younger brother had trouble finding volunteer opportunities, she had an idea that could help him and high school students across the province: a website that would highlight charities and provide a platform for students to keep track of their mandatory volunteer hours.

to work on a real-world project and gain valuable experience, suggested a partnership.

“We were able to get a grant from the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII), which allowed us to hire two students to help develop the platform,” he says. “It was a win-win situation both for Humber and for Christiane.”

The website, called Get Your Hours, is now in use by the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Mackenzie plans to expand the platform to other school boards in the province.



RAISING AWARENESS OF PTSD

Post-traumatic stress disorder – better known as PTSD – is a serious issue for emergency responders, who can suffer long-term psychological effects following a traumatic incident. Humber grad Vince Savoia knows this better than most – the former paramedic suffered from PTSD after responding to a homicide, and founded the Tema Center Memorial Trust to help raise awareness of the disease.

Each year, the Trust holds a student essay contest designed to help familiarize emergency services or military students with PTSD – and in the last 13 years, Humber students have won 10 provincial and three national scholarships.

“It’s nice to know that all these feelings have names, and that they’re common, and normal – and that there’s help available if they get unmanageable,” says paramedic student and 2012 national scholarship winner Lindy Lajambe. “It’s good to see the awareness spreading.”

WE ARE AIMING HIGHER



NATURAL PLAYGROUND A LIVING LABORATORY

Humber’s newest research facility looks, on the surface, like a children’s playground – there’s a slide, a sand area and plenty of things to climb on. But that’s just the beginning.

“This is so much more than a playground,” says Patricia Morgan, dean of Research at Humber. “We’re actually replacing an existing playground with a more comprehensive outdoor facility that will be beneficial to children and also help members of the Humber community research the impact of nature-based play and teaching strategies. It’s the first of its kind in Ontario.”

Humber’s new outdoor learning environment – which is under construction at the North Campus – will be built with

industry partners Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds, and will serve as an interdisciplinary research lab for faculty and students from a variety of programs.

Initial research at the new lab, conducted through the School of Health Sciences, will focus on comparing how children use a traditional playground with how they play in a natural space. Eventually, students from programs such as Interior Design, Landscape Technician and Early Childhood Education (ECE) will all contribute to its creation and ongoing operation.

According to Julie Valerio, who teaches in Humber’s ECE program, facilities like natural playgrounds are becoming more important in an increasingly technological world.

“Nature deprivation is becoming a serious problem among children,” she explains. “Research has shown that too many hours spent indoors with technology decreases problem solving skills, retention and risk taking. There’s more and more evidence that exposure to natural environments – like our new natural play space – has a measurable cognitive benefit for children.”

“A natural playground has this element of freedom and discovery at your fingertips,” explains ECE graduate Cynthia Cooper, who volunteered at the Bienenstock playground at this year’s Canada Blooms show. “The children seemed happier, more willing to explore and ask questions, and more cooperative. It’s inspiring to know that Humber is creating this kind of environment for the children that we work with every day.”

FOUR DEGREES OF SUCCESS

Humber offers 22 bachelor’s degrees in media, music, nursing (in collaboration with the University of New Brunswick), business, social services and design. Here are four examples of four great degree stories.

- Humber hosted the first ever mooted competition for paralegal students. A form of mock legal debate, mooted has recently caught on among paralegal students. “Mooting teaches valuable lessons in thinking on your feet, analyzing an issue and advocating in front of a judge,” says Fallon Burns, a paralegal degree student and organizer of the event.

“It’s an unforgettable experience for students, and we were able to make history.”

- Interior Design degree student Quianna Teixeira won first place in the Planning and Visual Education Partnership’s (PAVE) international student design competition, while classmate Rachel McGarry garnered an honorable mention. The two were the only Canadians out of more than 425 entries to win awards.
- Public Relations degree students Hilary Flint and Ashley Haraburda organized the college’s first-ever bloggers’

conference and networking event for Humber’s PR students, bringing together influential bloggers to discuss social media, product reviewing and branding.

- Creative Advertising degree graduates Shauna Roe and Rachel Kennedy, who made the news last year as “Canada’s Ballsiest Intems,” won a gold medal at *Marketing* magazine’s 2013 Media Innovation Awards. Their award-winning Twitter campaign to raise awareness for Tourette Syndrome was hailed as a simple yet innovative use of social media.



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