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FEATURES

Retooling the trades workforce 14
SAIT role models and mentors are inspiring a new generation of women to meet the demand for skilled trades people.
WRITTEN BY | CAROLYNN SEMENIUK

Five times the excellence 20
SAIT’s 2014 Alumni Awards recipients are distinguished professionals who share an outstanding degree of achievement.
WRITTEN BY | CAROLYNN SEMENIUK

From plot to plate 28
A new research theme in SAIT’s Applied Research and Innovation Services (ARIS) department connects culinary students with urban agriculture.
WRITTEN BY | TODD KIMBERLEY

SHAREd COMMUNITY

3 LINK NEWS & VIEWS
People, programs, partners and perks on campus

12 LINK CAMPUS
Storing and sorting summer photographs

33 LINK INSPIRATION
Alumni in the community

37 INNOVATION
Applied research and innovations

ON THE COVER
Kelsey Scheifele (AMAP ’11) has shaped her successful nine-year career as a machinist with drive and determination. She hopes other young women will discover the viability of a career in the trades.

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GARDEN FRESH
Parsley
10¢ Bunch

FALL 2014
A PUBLICATION FOR
SAIT POLYTECHNIC
ALUMNI

6 DECADES OF TROJANS
HISTORY

SAIT’S 2014 ALUMNI AWARDS RECIPIENTS

ALUMNI IN THIS ISSUE:  SMITA ACHARYYA (CTSR ’00), GINA BERGEN (DA ’90), BLAIR BOESE (PT ’75), JAMES BOETTCHER (AHET ’08), AL BROMLEY (JA ’77), IAN BUSBY (JA ’01), ANGELA CHEUNG (BA ’82), EMILY CLARK (AIM ’05), CHELSEA COPLEY (ACKP ’13), STEFAN DALBERG (MET ’11), CRAIG D’CRUZE (PCK ’02), ROBERT DESCHAMPS (PT ’81), CONNIE DESOUSA (PCK ’00), BRAD DROBOT (PWPO ’14), DARREN FLACK (BA ’84), KAREN FLACK (SA ’84), JENNY FLAMAN (JA ’04), COURTNEY GARLOUGH (RTBN ’10), JACQUIE HANSEN (ACPP ’11), JAMES HARBURN (AT ’69), ROD HEHR (IXT ’79), LEAH HENNEL (JA ’98), MIKE HOFSTRAND (BA ’01), LYNDA HOLDEN (AMT ’93), CARL JACKSON (PET ’72), JOHN JACKSON (PCK ’96), DEEPA JOGLEKAR (PGLA ’07), DAVID JOHNSON (PT ’76), GAURI KAUL (TVT ’10), JASON LAMMERS (CVT ’14), SARAH LEINAN (BA ’12), MIKE LOWE (JA ’02), LISA MADSEN (UNC ’00), SONYA MALOFF (ASMP ’10), WENDY MICHAUD (MLT ’74), ROB MILMAN (IXT ’92), ANDREW OLESEN (CVT ’14), ANDRES PERDOMO (AELP ’12), WENDY PETERS (BA ’11), DEAN RADKE (AMT ’77), KATHRYN RAE (LIT ’12), CRISTINA RAPOSO (BA ’98), MARK ROMANO (PET ’13), THANE SCHAFFER (PT ’96), KELSEY SCHEIFELE (AMAP ’11), LINDSEY SCHMIDT (BBA ’14), CHRISTINE SCOTT (BA ’96), RYAN SCOTT (BA ’01), BILL SPARROW (MECHANICAL DRAFTING ’54), LUCAS TARZWELL (BA ’12), THIERRY WALL (CT ’08), ALICIA WILLIAMS (TSR ’99), CHRIS WILLIAMS (BA ’96), SHELLEY WINCH (EBP ’02), ANDREW WINFIELD (PCK ’99), JANICE LONGAIR WOTSKE (CHT ’06)

60 YEARS OF LEARNING

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Women’s work

Kelsey Scheifele (AMAP ’11) has shaped her successful nine-year career as a machinist with drive and determination. She hopes other young women will discover the viability of a career in the trades.
Summer strategies

SAIT has truly been a hive of activity this past summer because, as you’ll read in this issue of LINK, SAIT has welcomed a colony of honeybees to campus as part of a new research area in our Applied Research and Innovation Services department (see page 28).

But there’s also been a buzz around campus thanks to the 3,241 children who enjoyed more than 75 different SAIT summer camps. Since revamping our summer camp program in 2010, more kids every year are spending their holidays experiencing the worlds of trades, technology and business, and learning skills that could inspire a future career.

We’ve also quadrupled the number of summer camps just for girls. In camps such as Savvy Science Girls and Home Builder’s Tech, girls enjoyed hands-on activities and gained confidence in non-traditional spaces. It’s another way that SAIT is equipping people to compete successfully in the changing world of work and, in this issue of LINK, we explore the need for – and the experiences of – women in the skilled trades.

Another busy area on campus has been the Cenovus Energy Centre. We’ll introduce you to the two alumni who led the commissioning of new, state-of-the-industry labs that are the bee’s knees, and sure to become the envy of power engineering programs across North America (see page 8).

It’s a powerful illustration of how SAIT is using our Trades and Technology Complex to help more students access our degree, diploma and certificate programs. As the 2014-15 academic year begins, we are welcoming a record number of students who have chosen a SAIT education, including nearly 600 additional apprentices.

SAIT is also reaching out beyond our campus, undertaking extensive community consultation that will help us create a new institutional strategic plan. A key element of planning for a bright future is to recognize and record all that you have achieved. LINK will continue to do just that by sharing stories of the school’s success and, as you’ll see in the profiles of SAIT’s 2014 Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipients on page 20, by celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates.

I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY READING THIS ISSUE.

BRIAN BOWMAN
DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT
STRENGTH IN KNOWLEDGE:
SAIT partnered with six other Alberta post-secondary institutions to develop a video that educates staff and students about how to respond in an active shooter situation. “It is extremely unlikely that any member of our communities will get caught in an active shooter situation,” says Philip Stack, Associate Vice President of Risk Management at the University of Alberta and chair of the Campus Alberta Risk and Assessment Committee. “But we need to recognize that unthinkable things like this can happen anywhere.” Launched this past May, the video is one part of SAIT’s comprehensive Emergency Response Plan.

NEW CANADIANS DISCOVERING SAIT:
Calgary’s newest Canadians met face to face with faculty and staff at Discovery Day last May to learn about post-secondary education at SAIT, including English language upgrading, funding options and learner success services. In 2012/13, SAIT Polytechnic programs included students from 76 countries with the highest concentration from China (22 per cent), Korea (16 per cent) and India (6 per cent).

TROJANS TAKE TOP HONOURS:
The SAIT Trojans men’s hockey team made their mark on the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) last April, claiming all three major awards handed out after the 2013-2014 season was complete. Ben O’Quinn took home the Top Scorer award, Clay Howe was named the league’s Top Scholastic Achiever and goaltender Brayden Hopfe finished the sweep by earning the ACAC Playoff Most Valuable Player honour.

SAIT GRADS IN HIGH DEMAND:
Initial results of a new graduate employment survey released this past June show SAIT grads are a hot commodity in industry, with 95 per cent of respondents currently employed or having worked for three or more months since completing their program. The SAIT survey polled 2013 graduates with more than 2,600 grads responding. Of the SAIT graduates in the labour force, 83 per cent of respondents are employed in training-related jobs. Seventy-nine per cent are employed in Calgary and a total of 94 per cent stayed in Alberta. The graduate employment rate for all eight academic schools is 90 per cent or higher.
LEGENDARY COACH RETIRES

RED, WHITE and TRUE

Ken Babey steps away from SAIT Trojans, but leaves a remarkable legacy
When Ken Babey first set foot on the SAIT Polytechnic campus in the fall of 1986, Top Gun was soaring at the box office, Steve Winwood topped Billboard’s Hot 100 chart, and the SAIT Trojans wore green and gold.

Those colours didn’t last long. And in their place, a Canadian collegiate men’s hockey dynasty was soon born.

“I had studied education to become an instructor-coach at the college level, and I thought SAIT was intriguing,” recalls Babey. “I wanted to make a career of it. I didn’t know how long that would last. But I knew this was the place I wanted to be.”

Nearly a full generation later, the SAIT Trojans men’s hockey program, under Babey, has steadily developed a Canada-wide reputation as a beacon of college excellence.

After one year as an assistant coach, Babey took the reins of the Trojan men’s hockey squad in the fall of 1987. He would add athletics director to his title in 1997.

In mid-June, Babey stepped away from both of his SAIT Trojans roles, and after 27 years at the helm of the men’s hockey squad, his legacy is nothing less than astonishing. Under Babey, the Trojans won the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) championship nine times and claimed the school’s second national crown in 1999-2000.

Babey won 534 regular-season and playoff games combined behind the SAIT bench, more than any other coach in Canadian post-secondary hockey history, and was named the ACAC’s coach of the year seven times.

“He’s created a men’s hockey program that rivals pretty much any university in the country,” notes Mike Hofstrand (BA ’01), a member of SAIT’s ’99-00 national championship squad.

“He exuded passion for his team and his program. He was in it for the long haul,” recalls Cory Flett, another member of that ’99-00 squad. “When you saw that sort of commitment in your coach, how focused and passionate he was, it made you want to do the same.”

Since 1997, more than 30 Trojans have moved on to play professional hockey. But Babey says he’s most proud of having steered his players toward real-world education, productive careers and community-centric values.

“Seeing so many of the guys graduate and do well in their communities. That’s my greatest thrill,” he says. “That’s championship material to me — being a champion in life, right?”

“SEEING SO MANY OF THE GUYS GRADUATE AND DO WELL IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THAT’S MY GREATEST THRILL.”

— KEN BABEY

FOR VIDEOS AND STORIES ABOUT KEN BABEY’S CAREER WITH THE TROJANS, VISIT SAITALUMNINILINK.CA
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SAIT Alumna and former SAITSA president Megan Cochrane

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THREE PILLARS UPHOLDING TROJAN EXCELLENCE

Looking back over his 17 years as SAIT Trojans athletics director, Ken Babey remembers a 1997 department retreat at Canada Olympic Park as the moment when three simple words, and three succinct concepts, were first identified as pillars to live by and aspire to for all Trojans teams.

To this day, a SAIT Trojans student-athlete shows courage, determination and spirit. To this day, there are three pillars of being a SAIT Trojans student-athlete: academic success, athletic excellence and community citizenship.

“The Trojans pillars, and what it means to be a Trojan – that really set the identity of our program. We’ve run with it ever since, and I hope it continues,” says Babey.

That last quality, community citizenship, is the focus of the Trojan Outreach Program, which sees Trojans individual athletes and teams participate in more than 30 clinics, fundraisers and charitable events each year. The program has won the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association’s (CCAA) Community Service Award a record three times: in 2004, 2007 and 2013.

“The Trojan Outreach Program – that’s the legacy that I’ll always be most proud of as SAIT’s athletics director,” says Babey.

SAIT Trojans women’s hockey players with young fans at the annual Skate with the Trojans event. This year’s Skate is on Oct. 18 (see the Calendar of Events on page 43 for information).
NEW POWER ENGINEERING LABS

Leading labs, then and now

IT’S ONE OF THE OLDEST PROGRAMS OFFERED AT SAIT, but students in the Power Engineering Technology program are now training in some of the newest labs on campus.

And two alumni from the program – Carl Jackson (PET ’72) and Mark Romano (PET ’13) – have been instrumental in preparing the state-of-the-industry labs which opened at the start of the 2014-15 academic year.

Located in the Cenovus Energy Centre, the labs can train students for all five classes of power engineering regulated and approved by the Alberta Boilers Safety Association.

The last time a new power engineering lab was opened on campus was in the early 1960s, and Jackson remembers training in that lab – located in the Thomas Riley Building – in the early 1970s. Back then, students used slide rules instead of calculators and equipment was controlled by pneumatics rather than software.

Over the years, the lab has been upgraded to keep current with computerization and other changes in industry – including the growing demand for power engineers in Canada’s energy industry and in many manufacturing sectors.

“The biggest single factor that makes a power engineering program is the laboratory, and historically we’ve had the best labs in Canada,” says Jackson, who is an instructor with the MacPhail School of Energy. “We’re keeping ahead of the curve by opening our new labs, and I’m not aware of a comparable lab in the world for the dedicated purpose of training power engineers.”

Lab Commissioning Technician, Mark Romano, agrees, and says the customized educational apparatus in the new labs will help students master power generation principles.

“Thanks to the support of Alberta Innovation and Advanced Education, and to an industry partnership with Cenovus Energy, the new labs also mean SAIT can welcome more students to its power engineering program than ever before.”

“I’M VERY PLEASED THAT THE CENOVUS ENERGY CENTRE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO GROWING A SKILLED AND VIBRANT WORKFORCE.”

– JOHN BRANNAN, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, CENOVUS ENERGY
Future apprentices get a foot in the door

This fall, SAIT adds sheet metal and steamfitter-pipefitter to its pre-employment programs.

THE BRASS TACKS:

Traditional apprenticeship programs require applicants to already be working with an employer in their chosen trade. But SAIT’s pre-employment programs — the only ones of their kind in Alberta — equip students with job-ready skills and safety training before they start working with an employer.

The new 15-week sheet metal pre-employment program trains students to design, fabricate, assemble, install and repair sheet metal products in a wide range of industries and settings. The 12-week steamfitter-pipefitter program trains students to lay out, assemble, fabricate, maintain and repair piping systems which carry water, steam, chemicals or fuel.

WHAT SAIT SAYS:

“Our approach to pre-employment programs is that industry is our client — we focus on what they need from their employees and that is what we teach our students,” says Scott MacPherson, Dean of the School of Construction.

“These programs give people a head start, particularly if they aren’t able to find an employer who will sign them on as an apprentice. Once they have completed their training with us, they have more of a competitive advantage when approaching employers.”

WHAT INDUSTRY SAYS:

Increasingly, employers such as Alggin Metal Industries are referring interested individuals with no prior training to SAIT’s pre-employment program, then asking them to return once they have finished. Alggin Human Resources Coordinator Faye Mauhay says the company has been a supporter of the program for the past two years, and currently employs five SAIT pre-employment trades students.

“We are assured of the preparation and quality of education and training that SAIT has provided for them,” Mauhay says.

WHAT STUDENTS SAY:

Amanuel Ghebre came to Canada from Eritrea wanting to work in the sheet metal industry, but he had a hard time finding a job.

“I didn’t know where to begin or how to start an apprenticeship,” said Ghebre. “When I learned about SAIT’s pre-employment program through a partnership with the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, I was excited because I knew it would mean a career.”

Ghebre has since been hired on at Alggin Metal Industries as a custom welder. He will return to SAIT in February to continue his studies as a sheet metal apprentice.

CARLY MCCONACHIE

In the 2014 LINK Readership Survey, you told us you’re interested in stories about programs at SAIT. So we’re adding a new Program Profile page in every issue to explore a new SAIT program.
IN MEMORIAM

A visionary and a gentleman

Allan Buttle pioneered SAIT’s athletics program

During the Second World War, Allan Buttle served in the Royal Canadian Navy. As an architect of SAIT Polytechnic student athletics, he ran a very tight ship.

Buttle, one of the most influential builders in SAIT Trojans history, passed away May 7 at the age of 88. A native of Winnipeg who moved to Calgary in 1951, Buttle spent two decades as SAIT Trojans’ original athletics director, creating the foundation for SAIT’s student athletics program. He would later become a prominent steward on the Alberta college athletics scene.

“He was very serious, very focused on the job. He had a studious approach, sound logic and the courage of his convictions,” recalls Ken Tidsbury, who succeeded Buttle as the Trojans’ athletics director upon Buttle’s departure in 1981.

Buttle established SAIT’s athletics department in the early 1960s, and was instrumental in building the school’s official athletics brand, including colors (green and gold) and names (Trojans and Helenas, with women’s teams at SAIT also adopting the Trojans moniker in 1988).

Buttle was also a guiding force in the construction of the Campus Centre building, the headquarters for Trojans athletics, which opened in 1981. He was the first builder inducted into the SAIT Trojans’ Wall of Distinction in 1989.

During his time on the SAIT campus, Buttle served simultaneously as athletics director and director of student services. And under his direction, in the fall of 1964, SAIT became a charter member of what would later become the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC).

"Al Buttle is the grandfather of what is now the Athletics and Recreation Department," notes Ken Babey, who served as athletics director from 1997 until his retirement this past June. “For me, Al Buttle was a legend that you listened to, and always had some wisdom to pass along.”

Following his departure from SAIT, Buttle was named the ACAC’s very first executive director, on a part-time basis, for five years. This past spring, Buttle and Tidsbury were among the first 50 inductees to the ACAC’s newly minted Hall of Fame, both in the builder’s category.

“I SAW AN AD IN THE CALGARY HERALD... I SAID, ‘OH WOW, A POSITION FOR A COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES, LIBRARIAN AND AN INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH.’ SEPTEMBER 1, 1958 WAS MY INTRODUCTION TO SAIT.”

— AL BUTTLE, TAKEN FROM A 2010 INTERVIEW IN THE SAIT’S ALIVE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
Famous for courage and endurance, the ancient Trojan warrior inspired this SAIT athletics badge. Al Buttle helped establish SAIT’s Trojans brand in the early 1960s.

FIVE TROJAN LEGENDS HEAR NEW ACAC HALL’S CALL

He accomplished plenty as a college basketball skipper, but Phil Allen’s legacy will always be linked with SAIT’s seventh heaven.

Allen, who transformed the SAIT Trojans into a national men’s college basketball powerhouse through the 1980s, was one of five Trojan legends among the first 50 inductees named to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference’s new Hall of Fame this past spring.

From 1978 to 1996, head coach Allen and the Men of Troy won 10 ACAC hoops titles – including an unprecedented seven straight, from 1981 through 1987. In two of those years, ’82 and ’86, the Trojans were crowned national collegiate champs.

Joining Allen in the Hall of Fame’s coaching category is Bob Moore, who guided SAIT’s men’s hockey team to a Canadian title in 1981. Centre Robert Deschamps, captain of that squad, also heard the ACAC hall’s call in the player category.

Allan Buttle and Ken Tidsbury – who played a key role in building SAIT athletics, Campus Centre and a program of optional physical education subjects for students – were named to the Hall of Fame’s builder category.

Fifty Hall of Fame nominees were inducted in honour of the ACAC’s first half-century of operation. As one of the ACAC’s original schools, SAIT was allotted five spots in the hall.

Mark Kosak became the ACAC’s full-time executive director in the late 1980s, following in Buttle’s footsteps.

“He was always supportive, always respectful, always a gentleman,” says Kosak. “I have a great deal of respect for all that Al accomplished with his gentle, humanistic approach.”

Buttle is survived by his wife Betty, sons Timothy and Kenneth, and granddaughters Laura and Michele.

TOPIC: INTERVIEW WITH AL BUTTLE

LISTEN TO AN INTERVIEW WITH AL BUTTLE FROM APRIL 2010 AT SAITALUMNINLINK.CA

Before the iconic red and white, SAIT’s Trojans teams sported green and gold as official team colours, worn here by the 1980-81 men’s basketball team. The colours were retired in 1988.
Famed photographer Ansel Adams once said, “Twelve significant photographs in any one year is a good crop,” but many of us harvest hundreds of summer vacation photos every fall. Jim Slobodian, an instructor in SAIT’s Photography Certificate of Achievement program, sums it up by saying, “With digital photography, it’s not necessarily the creation of images that people find frustrating — IT’S WHAT TO DO WITH ALL YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS ONCE YOU HAVE THEM.”

LINK asked Jim Slobodian to answer five key questions about storing and sorting your summer photographs.

1. WHAT’S THE MOST COMMON WAY OF STORING DIGITAL IMAGES?
Most people use either a memory card or the hard drive on their computer. Either option allows you to keep your photos and videos close at hand, but finding a particular image can be tricky.

2. DO YOU RECOMMEND STORING PICTURES AND VIDEO THIS WAY?
Generally, no. Regardless of what brand you use, computers crash, get stolen and die. If you haven’t backed up your photographic work, there’s the potential your photos could be lost and not recoverable. Memory cards are easily damaged, lost or erased. A better option is to use an external hard drive or photo storage software.
WHAT ABOUT USING A CLOUD-TYPE STORAGE?
Cloud storage is definitely a neat idea. Cloud options give you access to your images no matter where you are; most are easy to use; and, as long as you can get online, you will have your images. But — passwords can be hacked and images used without your consent. Read the terms and conditions very carefully to make sure you retain usage rights to your own photos — no storage medium is worth giving up your rights!

CAN I SORT AND NAME MY PHOTOS MYSELF?
Yes, but the key is consistency. A basic approach to organization is to establish overall folders on your computer with generic titles like “Family,” “Travel” or “Wildlife.” Within these folders, try to create specific subfolders — such as “Joe and Mary’s Wedding” or “France 2013” — so photos are easier to find.

IF I BUY PHOTO ORGANIZING SOFTWARE, WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?
Look for the software that best suits your needs. Are you planning to enhance and edit your images, or simply to organize them? Some programs are free; others can cost up to $150. Plan to download a trial copy before you spend your money.
“We have serious issues if we are not equipping 50 per cent of our workforce with the skills for where our jobs lie.”
— JANE WILSON, WOMEN’S ACCESS TO TRADES NETWORK, SPEAKING TO NORTHERN LIFE MAGAZINE

RETOOILING the TRADES WORKFORCE

Women’s participation key to solving Canada’s trades shortage
WRITTEN BY | CAROLYNN SEMENIUK

Kelsey Scheifele, a Journeyman machinist, is one of a small minority of women working in her trade. Experts say the shortage of female tradespeople like Scheifele is hampering Canada’s economy.
Unlike many of the smart, ambitious young women in her generation, Kelsey Scheifele (AMAP ’11) doesn’t aspire to a corner office in the executive suite. For Scheifele, success is measured by what she can craft in her work day.

“I just couldn’t imagine sitting in an office in front of a computer,” says Scheifele. “At the end of my day, I have something in my hand that I’ve built that started out as a piece of raw material. I get to see that take shape and see what I’ve done with my day.”

Scheifele, a Red Seal Journeyman machinist, knew at an early age that a career in the trades was what she wanted, and she pursued it with drive and diligence. She got herself a job cleaning up a machine shop at 15 and began working towards her apprenticeship in Grade 10, through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) for high school students.

By 22, she had completed her apprenticeship at SAIT Polytechnic, netted the 2012 Alberta’s Top Apprentice Award for machinists and received the Dean’s Award for achievement among all SAIT apprentices.

She’s been employed in her field ever since. “I really love my work and I also like money, so I didn’t want to go to school and have to start my life after. It was just really nice that I could start my career right out of high school.”
Scheifele’s labour market experience is enviable, but it’s a career path that statistics indicate most young women, for a variety of reasons, don’t seriously consider. It’s a reality that’s exacerbating a growing labour market crisis.

Experts across Canada are sounding alarm bells about the shortage of skilled trades people in this country. During a speech to a Canada-U.S. business audience in November 2012, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said producing more skilled workers is the biggest challenge Canada faces.

The federal government has stated that the construction sector alone will need to recruit 319,000 new workers over the next seven years.

In Canada, just three per cent of skilled trades positions—outside of culinary and hairdressing occupations—are held by women, according to a 2011 Skills Canada Report. Given the significant and growing shortage of skilled trades people, labour market experts say women’s participation is crucial for the economy, and we need to find ways to address this shortage.

“We have serious issues if we are not equipping 50 per cent of our workforce with the skills for where our jobs lie,” Jane Wilson, director of women services with the Community MicroSkills Development Centre and a founding member of The Women’s Access to Trades Network, told Northern Life magazine. Wilson added that skilled trades, such as carpentry, electrical and welding, pay well and can lead to rewarding careers. “The trades open so many doors in so many different directions for women...”

Sonya Maloff (ASMP ’10), a SAIT sheet metal instructor, agrees that skilled trades careers afford a number of advantages.

“A business student goes to university for four years and comes out with thousands of dollars in student loans. Apprentices do the same length of training, earn an income while we study and then walk out to sometimes make twice as much money as a person in an entry-level business job,” says Maloff.

Apprenticeships combine alternating periods of on-the-job and classroom training. Typically, an apprentice has 40 to 44 weeks of paid employment per year and goes to school for a six- to eight-week training session, during which she or he is eligible for Employment Insurance.

Maloff, who mentors female trades apprentices at SAIT and talks to girls’ groups about trades occupations, believes the benefits of skilled trades careers aren’t well understood in general, and that young women in particular need to be educated about the viability of these careers.

“There’s a huge knowledge gap,” she says. “The main thing is that the trades haven’t been presented to them by a female who says, ‘These are the sorts of things that I do in the day and you can do this, too.’ They need to see women who have built successful careers in skilled trades occupations.”

Offering this kind of information and support to women working in the trades is the raison d’etre of Women in Work Boots, an online resource aimed at increasing the profile of skilled trades careers and fostering a place for women within them. Founded in 2011 by former SAIT tilesetting instructor Jill Drader, the site offers information on navigating apprenticeships and finding professional opportunities. It also provides profiles of inspiring women working in the trades.

Drader, who served as a mentor for female apprentices in SAIT’s School of Construction, says the popularity of the Women in Work Boots website, Facebook page and online magazine are signs that women are seeking mentorship in these occupations.

“Women are really looking for grassroots inspiration. Connection,” says Drader. “That’s why Women in Work Boots has grown to thousands. (Our) magazine was downloaded thousands of times in 60 days.”

Across Canada, one of the shining stars fostering women in trades is the Women in Trades Training Initiative at the Industry Training Authority (ITA) in British Columbia.

Since its inception in 2009, the program has seen modest, overall growth in the percentage of female apprentices (from 8 to 10.5 per cent), but it’s with young women that the program has gained the most ground. Currently, 26 per cent of B.C. apprentices under 19 are women.

“We’ve made real progress with younger apprentices. It’s a great sign,” says Erin Johnston, director of Training Delivery at the ITA.
“At the end of my day, I have something in my hand that I’ve built that started out as a piece of raw material.”

— KELSEY SCHEIFELE (AMAP ’11)
“Women are really looking for grassroots inspiration. Women in Work Boots magazine was downloaded thousands of times in 60 days.”

— JILL DRADER, FOUNDER, WOMEN IN WORK BOOTS

Johnston believes much of this ground was gained by introducing girls to women who work in the trades through in-school sessions, youth mentorships, conventional media and social media. “We’ve heard from young women that if they don’t see role models out there, they can’t envision themselves in those fields.”

Studies show girls veer away from science, technology, engineering and math curricula as early as Grade One, so Johnston also hopes to introduce hands-on learning programs starting in kindergarten.

“The future lies with the younger generation. We just need to make sure there are great role models out there and mentors that they can learn from to really crack the nut of the trades,” says Johnston.

For the time being, however, that nut is still very much in one piece. Women are vastly outnumbered by men in most trades occupations, and experiences with old-boys-club mentalities and isolation at work are common complaints among female trades workers. In short, it’s not an experience for the faint of heart.

In her nine years in her trade, Scheifele has never worked with another female machinist. She sees that as a trade-off for having an occupation she enjoys, and she hopes other young women will also see the advantages of a career in the trades.

“It can be tough being the only female at times, but you’ve got to kind of fall in love with your work and the rest of it will fall by the wayside,” says Scheifele. “I couldn’t think of anything else I’d rather be doing.”

WATCH AN INTERVIEW WITH KELSEY SCHEIFELE AT SAITALUMNILINK.CA
Even among SAIT Polytechnic’s endlessly accomplished alumni, five graduates stand out for a wildly divergent array of individual milestones. One is responsible for life-saving public awareness campaigns; another has garnered a coveted ranking on an internationally renowned culinary list. One is helping kids who are dealing with bullying; one has been instrumental in advancing black box technology; one has fused Chinese cuisine with a Canadian obsession and created the poutine dumpling.

Now all five have one outstanding achievement in common: they have been recognized as the 2014 recipients of SAIT’s Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Young Alumni Awards.

SAIT typically recognizes one Distinguished Alumna/us and one Outstanding Young Alumna/us each year. Recipients are selected based on professional achievement and their demonstrated leadership and engagement within the community at large.

This year, the committee of judges on the Alumni Awards panel faced an embarrassment of excellence in the nominations. When they pared down to the final five nominees – two for Distinguished Alumni and three for Outstanding Young Alumni – there was simply no way to cull the short list. The committee decided there was nothing to do but to honour each of these distinct, exceptional SAIT graduates.
EXCELLENCE DEFINED

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
Established in 1988, the Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a SAIT alumnus/a who demonstrates proven leadership skills, exceptional achievements in business or industry, outstanding contributions to the community and a history of support for SAIT Polytechnic.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI
Established in 2009, the Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes an alumnus/a who has graduated from SAIT in the last 10 years and is 35 years or younger, has proven leadership skills, exhibits exceptional achievements in their field of endeavour and demonstrates outstanding contributions to the community.
Harke is a systems engineer who had been leading FLYHT Aerospace’s development of a system that would sift through reams of black box flight data information to distill and stream via satellite link the essential information used by the aircraft operator to properly manage their aircraft. The technology, called AFIRS 228, was seen as an efficient asset management tool for the airline industry.

On June 1, 2009, Air France Flight 447 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean killing all 228 passengers and crew aboard the Airbus. It took recovery teams two years and an estimated $50 million to retrieve the plane’s black box and determine what went wrong.

Flight 447 got them thinking. “Our first response was sorrow. But out of that, we sat down and said, ‘What would have happened if our (AFIRS 228) system had been on the aircraft?’ The answer was that the AFIRS 228 could have relayed essential information before the crash. Within seconds, rescue officials would have known exactly where to look for survivors and where to start the recovery.

Today, the AFIRS 228 technology developed by Harke and his team is the only commercially available system capable of streaming black box data in real-time via a satellite data link. The system is now a factory-fit option at Airbus, a major international aircraft manufacturer.
When Paul Rogalski opened the letter, the chef and co-owner of Rouge Restaurant and Bistro Rouge in Calgary thought someone was playing a joke.

“We knew very well what the San Pellegrino list and awards were — they are as big a deal in our industry as it gets,” says Rogalski. But in spite of this, Rogalski’s first thought was that the letter advising him of the restaurant’s ranking among the World’s Top 100 Restaurants for 2010 on the prestigious San Pellegrino list was a hoax. They hadn’t even applied.

Evidently, they hadn’t needed to. Word of Calgary’s celebrated Rouge Restaurant, known for impeccable selections, fresh ingredients and dishes infused with items grown in the restaurant’s summer garden, had spread to the international culinary competition.

That Rouge wasn’t flying under the radar should have come as no surprise to Rogalski. He has been drawing attention in culinary circles since receiving his first international cooking medal as a SAIT student during the Food Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge in Singapore and becoming the head chef of Calgary’s revered La Chaumiere Restaurant by the age of 26.

Rogalski was selected one of Alberta Venture’s 50 Most Influential People in 2011, one of Business in Calgary magazine’s Twenty Business Leaders of Tomorrow and Independent Restaurateur of the Year 2011 by FoodServiceWorld. In 2010, Rouge received a Restaurant of the Year nod from Avenue Magazine.

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**SAIT Polytechnic 2014 Distinguished Alumnus**

**Paul Rogalski**

Chief Culinary Officer and Co-Owner of Rouge Restaurant and Bistro Rouge

**HIS PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL MOMENT TO DATE:**

Ranking as one of the World’s Top 100 Restaurants for 2010 on the prestigious San Pellegrino list has been the pinnacle of Rogalski’s career to date. “The San Pellegrino recognition didn’t just feel like our award, it felt like Calgary’s award. It was an important nod to our city. We are a product of all the people who have worked with us and of the support from the community. Calgary has one of the best culinary communities that I know.”

**HOW HIS SAIT EDUCATION IMPACTED HIS CAREER:**

SAIT was an environment where I had a chance to learn and practice skills and to learn about the industry overall. All those things were very, very important. The relationships that I’ve built with people at SAIT have been so critical. The ongoing support that I’ve been offered by SAIT to have new young hires to bring into our system from SAIT, it’s all part of a huge educational picture.

**HIS ADVICE FOR BEGINNING CULINARY STUDENTS:**

My number one piece of advice would be to have fun and seek out new skills. Make full use of your time at school. If you’re there, make the most of it.
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Catherine Oshanek’s resume is so varied and extensive, it reads like it could belong to several people. The breadth of achievement and experience netted by the 31-year-old photographer and activist is nothing short of humbling.

Starting in 2006, she worked on an interdisciplinary team doing research and development on a process to convert movies from a 2D to a 3D format. She worked on movies for directors James Cameron, George Lucas and Jerry Bruckheimer.

Two years later, Oshanek took the love of photo editing developed during her stint in the movie industry and applied it to fashion/fitness/commercial photography, building a successful business called White Cedar Photography. Today, Oshanek shoots internationally, photographing fitness and fashion celebrities and breaking down beauty stereotypes by shooting for VOL•UP•2, a Paris-based magazine for plus-sized fashion.

Oshanek has also used her photography skills as the basis of a bullying awareness campaign called “I’ve Been Bullied.” The campaign, founded by Oshanek in 2011, uses portraits of celebrities and others holding up signs stating how they’ve been bullied. It’s the visual heart of the campaign, which coordinates teen mentoring and motivational speaking and connects Kids Help Phone counsellors with kids seeking advice via email.

That keen social conscience also prompted Oshanek to drop everything to lend a hand for 30 straight days during flood relief efforts in Southern Alberta in June 2013. Oshanek gutted 13 homes, cleaned out dog kennels, prepared food for Calgary’s Drop-In Centre and operated “YYC Flood Relief,” an online clearing house for volunteer coordination during the flood. For these efforts, Oshanek was recognized as a Hero of the Flood by the Alberta Government.

HER PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL MOMENT TO DATE:
For me, one of the proudest moments has been the opportunity to be SAIT’s valedictorian at graduation. School has always been a struggle for me because of my learning disability. I barely got into SAIT — I failed Grade One because of my learning disability, so this achievement was really meaningful.

HOW HER SAIT EDUCATION IMPACTED HER CAREER:
Because I do have a learning disability, SAIT was an amazing school for me because it’s so much more hands-on than other post-secondaries. If I hadn’t gone to SAIT, my career would not be where it is today. Everything has evolved from my experience there.

HER ADVICE FOR BEGINNING JOURNALISM STUDENTS:
Get ready to work your butt off. Don’t look to get rich as a journalist, but if you’re looking to fall in love with your career, journalism is a great choice.
In 2008, as Rosalyn Ediger stood tired and puffy-eyed in the bustling Beijing airport waiting for news of her lost luggage and imagining her new life as a training chef in the Canadian embassy, she could have been forgiven for wanting to get right back on a flight to Canada. But she didn’t. She plunged into life in Beijing, learned Mandarin and spent more than four years at the Canadian embassy there, cooking for ambassadors and visitors such as cabinet ministers, dignitaries and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

That tenacity paid off for Ediger, who has received a number of gold medals as a chef and an assistant team manager in international culinary competitions. In 2011, Ediger was chosen to conduct training sessions and to help establish the Canadian embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

Today, Ediger is a Chef de Cuisine at the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel in Beijing. Recently, she was even featured on a Chinese cooking show that followed seven chefs who were sent from their own city to another in China to learn about the cuisine from that region. (See Chefs on Film in the Spring 2014 issue of LINK).

“After you have a few small successes, you learn that hard work pays off. You learn that dedication and sacrifices have their benefits. Staying strong through the hard times makes the good times so much more remarkable,” says Ediger.

Her proudest professional moment to date:
My proudest moment was in the summer of 2012 at a farewell party. I was working at the Canadian embassy in Beijing and the Ambassador was retiring and going back to Canada. I had arranged to leave on the same day as him to start my new job at the Four Seasons Hotel. I felt as though I was part of something big and that I had left a positive impression on others. All of my accomplishments and the relationships that I made there had culminated in a very fulfilling moment.

How her SAIT education impacted her career:
SAIT encourages students to get involved with events, dinners and competitions and to be well informed. SAIT instructors encourage students to try new things and not to be too concerned about doing something wrong… The diversity in its instructors’ backgrounds, styles and attitudes taught me that being different is good and that there is a place out there in the cooking world for anyone who wants to be there.

Her advice for beginning culinary students:
Take risks, push yourself and let yourself be surprised sometimes. It helps to listen to others’ advice but you need to trust your instincts more… When those risks turn out to be a good thing, you believe in yourself more and others take a second look at you.
LIKE MANY KIDS, ADAM LORIA WAS FASCINATED by emergency response vehicles. But unlike most kids, Loria’s interest was selective.

“Ever since I was a little kid — my parents can attest to this — I was fascinated with ambulances, and solely ambulances. I would see a police car or fire truck go by and think that was pretty cool, but they didn’t really command my attention. But if it was an ambulance, I’d ask my parents to chase it, which obviously, they wouldn’t do.”

It didn’t take Loria long to catch up to the ambulances, however. He registered in SAIT’s Emergency Medical Responder program before he even graduated from St. Francis High School in Calgary. Within four years, he was a certified paramedic, and soon after, he was helping people in crisis and saving lives as a member of Alberta Health Services’ EMS team.

In 2009, Loria was promoted to a new role on the front lines of emergency health care, taking a position as a Public Education Officer for Alberta EMS. As the face of EMS, Loria is charged with media relations, community relations, public affairs and public injury prevention.

During the Southern Alberta floods in 2013, Loria worked around the clock to ensure the public had the information they needed to stay safe during the crisis.
SAIT Polytechnic launches a Culinary and Urban Agriculture research area to reflect restaurant foodscape trends.

from P L O T to P L A T E
SAIT Polytechnic launches a Culinary and Urban Agriculture research area to reflect restaurant foodscape trends

WRITTEN BY | TODD KIMBERLEY
Urban agriculture, says Darren MacLean, is clearly a return-to-roots movement. And there’s plenty of harvest potential.

“O
ur civilization is built on agriculture. We’re a species of farmers,” says MacLean, owner and head chef at downtownfood, a sustainability-focused Calgary bistro. “Let’s face it. Fifty years ago, ‘urban agriculture’ wouldn’t have even been a term — because everyone had gardens in their backyards, and there were bounties within neighborhoods.

“But when we talk about urban agriculture today, we’re really talking about our disconnect regarding food and where it comes from,” he adds. “I’m looking forward to taking the food system back into our own hands.”

In the face of industrial farming and widespread monoculture practices, the urban agriculture movement has sprouted across North America, with a proliferation of backyard gardens, community projects, small commercial plots, and rooftop enterprises echoing a trend that’s already entrenched in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Sustainable agriculture has also had a profound effect on the cuisine scene, with diners more attentive than ever to the source of their food. And that’s why, this past spring, SAIT Polytechnic’s Applied Research and Innovation Services (ARIS) department launched a Culinary and Urban Agriculture research area with projects already underway in partnership with SAIT’s School of Hospitality and Tourism, downtownfood, and the Calgary and District Beekeepers Association (CDBA).

Getting culinary students ‘connected to food’

ARIS unites the needs of industry with the knowledge and skills of SAIT faculty and students to bring innovations closer to market. It puts ideas and concepts through their paces with a practical application of science, and readies them for commercial viability.

In the case of its new Culinary and Urban Agriculture research theme, ARIS is testing the journey from plot to plate by partnering with small- to medium-sized businesses in the culinary sector, such as MacLean’s downtownfood establishment and the CDBA, while capitalizing on the urban agriculture trend.

“There is other research going on with urban agriculture, but we really want to tie it back to the culinary component,” says Aja Horsley, SAIT’s lead researcher in Culinary and Urban Agriculture. “We’re hoping to help create more awareness and sustainability of urban agriculture — while, at the same time, engaging our culinary students with the importance of where their food comes from.”

The newly christened Culinary and Urban Agriculture research group will also engage students in industry-based applied research projects. Plans include SAIT rooftop beekeeping for culinary honey, in partnership with the School of Hospitality and Tourism and the...
Urban agriculture, says Darren MacLean, is clearly a return-to-roots movement. And there’s plenty of harvest potential.

CDBA; a rooftop greenhouse for commercial culinary operations, in partnership with downtownfood; beeswax extractor technology, in partnership with Bertram Honey Ltd.; SPIN (small-plot intensive) farming; and compost extract fertilizer technology.

Some of these projects have already launched, while others are in the review or conceptual stages.

Andrew Hewson, a culinary instructor with SAIT’s School of Hospitality and Tourism, is working with Horsley to ensure these projects meet the needs of the school’s culinary program.

Hewson and colleague Simon Dunn are stewards of SAIT’s on-campus Jackson Henuset Memorial Culinary Garden, known as Jackson’s Garden, which has grown 185 varieties of herbs, plants, berries, and edible flowers for culinary students since 2010. He believes the time is right for ARIS’s new venture.

“People are making decisions on where to dine based on a restaurant’s sustainability philosophy or record,” says Hewson. “Young chefs and new restaurants are really getting on board.”

John Ware Building abuzz with new tenants

In early June, about 120,000 new residents arrived on SAIT’s campus – with no luggage and a ridiculously industrious work ethic. They all belong to one of four honeybee colonies set up by Calgary and District Beekeepers Association president Bert Blouin and vice-president Jim Rogers, and they now live and work on the roof of the four-storey John Ware Building.

This rooftop beekeeping project, first out of the gate for Culinary and Urban Agriculture researchers, aims to find out whether an urban rooftop apiary can rival rural beekeeping for honey production.

“We’re interested in seeing how the bees do in a rooftop environment, which is safe and secure,” says Liz Goldie, secretary of the CDBA. “There’s potential for honey production in a limited area, and an entirely sustainable environment in what is normally just ‘lost’ or ‘dead’ space.”

SAIT staff and students, and beekeeping association representatives, will be keeping a close eye on the colonies. The ultimate verdict, of course, will be the quality and quantity of honey – which will be entered in the CDBA’s annual competition later this year.
Up on the roof: A ‘rooftop ecosystem’

Meanwhile, the Culinary and Urban Agriculture research group’s other project – an urban rooftop greenhouse – starts construction this fall.

After receiving a $25,000 grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and a $15,000 grant from Alberta Innovates: Technology Futures through its Innovation Vouchers Program, ARIS has partnered with downtownfood to develop an approximately 550-square-foot greenhouse.

Just last year, MacLean began what he calls the UrbanAgProject, along with Greengate Garden Centres and other sustainably minded businesses, by building what he calls “Calgary’s first collaborative rooftop ecosystem” on the carport rooftop adjacent to his restaurant on Stephen Avenue.

“Every ingredient is cradled. There’s an intrinsic connection,” he says. “Once you appreciate what happens when you’re trying to produce food – the challenges, the delicate ecosystem – all of a sudden you value it again.”

Potential to flourish

SAIT’s newly launched urban agriculture experiment is hardly a utopian venture.

As with other ARIS initiatives, Culinary and Urban Agriculture researchers will be evaluating innovative ideas with a critical eye – testing for economic viability to allow small businesses to truly succeed in developing new technologies.

Horsley does, however, believe that applied research in Culinary and Urban Agriculture has found fertile soil – and has the potential to flourish.

“I do believe it’s a substantial movement,” she says, “and, in many ways, we’re just at the beginning.”
Checking in to a new career

Twenty-four-year-old Chelsea Big Crow plans to work her way up in the hospitality industry. Today, Big Crow caters to the needs of guests at the busy front desk of a brand new hotel at the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino. But she wants to steer her career towards management, and her SAIT education will help with this goal.

“I’ve learned to discipline myself and my time,” Big Crow says, and then adds with a laugh: “I’m starting to grow up.”

Alongside 15 other students, Big Crow has been working towards a Tsuu T’ina Certificate of Achievement in Hospitality Management. Developed as a partnership between the Tsuu T’ina Nation and SAIT, the program was created, says SAIT’s Earned Revenue Coordinator Lauren Bishop, because the band wanted an educated aboriginal presence in the Grey Eagle.

Bishop credits the Tsuu T’ina Nation’s Human Resources Project Consultant, Delphine Pipestem, with leading the initiative. “Delphine was passionate about students getting training they could use” to further their careers beyond this one location, says Bishop.

To meet the scheduled spring opening date for the Grey Eagle’s 178-room, four-and-a-half star hotel, students began studying in April 2013 and focused for nine to 12 days on one subject at a time. The tailored program included 10 courses from SAIT’s Hospitality Management program, and Big Crow says the accelerated class structure was intense.

Once the in-class instruction finished, each student was required to complete 480 internship hours. Contract instructor Mike Graham spent the summer meeting regularly with students and facilitating class discussions on Facebook. His biggest hope is that the students will take the experience as a personal achievement. “I want it to bolster their confidence in themselves,” Graham says.

Big Crow has certainly seen the group’s confidence grow alongside her own. When they began putting their classroom theory into practice at the fledgling hotel, the students did everything from unpacking boxes to housekeeping. “It was all new to me,” Big Crow says. “I’ve learned a lot since then.”

In addition to acquiring hospitality skills and learning to tailor her customer service to each guest interaction, Big Crow says she’s also learned about balancing work with her family life. “It was hard, at first. I was really tired a lot.”

But her two young boys, Jojo, age 9, and Jur-Z, age 3, motivate her to succeed. “They just encourage me to build a career and provide stability and a solid foundation.”

HEATHER SETKA
Against the warmth of Heritage Hall’s historic red brick walls, two vibrant new banners have been installed to symbolize the energy of four generations of SAIT students, alumni, faculty and staff.

So it’s fitting that the banners are based on original artwork created by the Marketing and Communications Coordinator for SAIT Athletics and Recreation, Billie Rae Busby.

Busby holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (Studio Art) from the University of Saskatchewan, and her abstract landscapes have been widely exhibited across Canada. Her artwork has also inspired two hand-tufted carpets planned for display in London, England’s Canada House.
The group knew they wanted energy, movement and vibrancy to be central to the piece. They also decided the palette should draw on colours used in new buildings on campus, including the LED light installation in the Aldred Centre.

“It was a new experience for me to work with a group of colleagues to brainstorm for a painting, and it couldn’t have gone better,” says Busby. “I was clear about what we wanted to say and I felt confident that we would all be proud of the results.”

Once in her studio, Busby brought her signature hard-edge style to the concept, uniting abstract and landscape techniques to create an acrylic painting called *Horizons*.

“It’s about Alberta’s landscape and its energy, and how SAIT fits into that,” says Busby.

Measuring just over a metre high, the painting was photographed and the image was divided in half before being printed on two, four-by-nine metre banners.

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**SAIT Roots Grow Deep**

The original painting will eventually be on permanent display on campus as a celebration of nearly 100 years of SAIT memories – including those of Busby’s own father, Bill Sparrow, a SAIT alumnus from the Drafting and Surveying program in 1954.

Busby says her father still thinks of SAIT fondly and reminisces about the classes and sock hops held in Heritage Hall.

“It’s one thing to contribute in this way to the place that I work, but my family’s connections to SAIT make this honour even more meaningful to me,” Busby says, adding that her husband, Ian Busby, is also an alumnus (JA ’01).

“I can’t wait to bring my father to see my work hanging on Heritage Hall,” Busby says.

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*—— SUSAN MAINELLA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT*
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**INNOVATION**

**LIVING [ROOM] AND LEARNING**

**CHALLENGE:** When your life is changed because of an injury or health condition, even the most routine daily tasks can become a challenge, and even the most comfortable house is filled with barriers. **HOW CAN SAIT HELP REHABILITATION THERAPY ASSISTANTS AND OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS LEARN TECHNIQUES THAT ENABLE PEOPLE TO ADAPT AND LIVE SUCCESSFULLY WITH A NEW DISABILITY?**

**SOLUTION:** CREATE A CLASSROOM THAT IS A FULLY FUNCTIONAL APARTMENT WITH A LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN AND BATHROOM — A TYPICAL DWELLING WITHOUT ANY ACCESSIBLE FEATURES DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. This new lab in SAIT’s Senator Burns Building will let students run simulations and study the problems faced by people with disabilities as they carry out everyday tasks at home.

It gives students a better understanding of the obstacles people face and the techniques they need to know to help their patients, according to Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant instructors Karen McIntosh and Nancy Pullan.

“It’s one thing to help a patient learn to walk with a cane down a straight hall in a hospital,” says McIntosh. “It’s very different when people get home and they have to get around in their kitchen.”

“But if you’re cooking and you use a walker,” adds Pullan. “How do you get your food from the fridge to a counter, then into a pot on the stove?”

The lab has large one-way mirrors and plenty of observation space for students so they can watch and learn, and it’s equipped with the latest video equipment.

“Students can look back at the video and tell us what they did wrong, rather than us telling them,” says Pullan. “This type of reflective learning is excellent for the skills we’re teaching.”

The lab will also be used by Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic students. They will run simulations of real-life emergency situations, such as moving someone who has fallen in a bathtub. And, McIntosh says, the apartment provides opportunities to run interdisciplinary exercises where students from a number of programs respond to a scenario such as a falling accident. The students will work with the patient from the emergency response, through rehabilitation therapy, to integration back into the home.

The lab is part of a newly renovated area in the Senator Burns Building that will accommodate 42 Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant students — an increase of 12 — in the 2014/15 academic year. The renovation also includes a physiotherapy clinic and an occupational therapy room with a fully functional kitchen.

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**ERIC ROSENBAUM PHOTO**

Nancy Pullan (left) and Karen McIntosh are flipping a space in the Senator Burns Building to create a lab where students can practice interactions with patients in a home setting.
SUSTAINABLE, SHIPPABLE, SHELTER
INNOVATION

CHALLENGE: AFTER BUYING A PROPERTY IN TURKEY THAT HAD A PRESERVATION ORDER PREVENTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCRETE FOUNDATION, SEATTLE-BASED ENTREPRENEUR JAMES GREEN DREW ON HIS SKILLS AS A TOOLMAKER AND AIRCRAFT STRUCTURAL ENGINEER TO DESIGN A LIGHTWEIGHT, SUSTAINABLE HOME.

His solution sounds like the largest IKEA assembly imaginable: a shipping container arrives full of steel structural components. You open it up, pull out the parts and the plans, and follow directions to assemble the steel tubular framework, bolting together the already-welded assemblies. Your new home even incorporates its shipping container as the foundation for the multi-storey structure.

Green admits it’s “non-conventional” housing, but he wants that to change.

“Today’s construction industry is facing unprecedented pressures because of a growing lack of available resources, climate change, rising material costs and increasing instances of natural disasters,” Green says. “These trends have helped trigger widespread adoption of sustainable design and construction.”

Green has patented the structure but, before launching a business called Building Containers to offer environmentally friendly, aesthetically pleasing and affordable container housing, he needed an independent assessment to validate testing already done on his prototype structural frame design.

SOLUTION: GREEN ENLISTED SAIT’S APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SERVICES (ARIS) DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH A GROUP OF CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY (CVT) STUDENTS. THIS PAST SPRING, THE CVT STUDENTS TACKLED THE DESIGN ANALYSIS AS THEIR CAPSTONE PROJECT.

“At first, it seemed like so much work,” says Andrew Olesen, a CVT grad who worked on the project. “But when it all comes together, it’s really worth it.”

Jason Lammers, a fast-track CVT student who graduated this past April, says they first analyzed Green’s basic design using calculations, looking at whether or not it met building-code standards. Determining the highest-stressed areas, the students then created a 3D model to confirm their numbers.

Following their analysis, the students offered Green a few suggestions but ultimately, Lammers says, “the design was quite adequate.”

In addition to using his classroom learning in a real-world scenario, Lammers says the project helped develop his time-management skills. Olesen, who is now pursuing an engineering degree at Thunder Bay’s Lakehead University, agrees. “It made us value communication a lot,” he says.

Lammers says the chance to work with ARIS motivated him to take on the challenge. “The great thing about ARIS is that you’re working with things not on the market,” he says. “It’s an innovative project.”

Both Green and ARIS Research Associate in Green Building Technologies, David Silburn, hope to assemble one of the Building Container homes on campus for further testing, and potentially include more SAIT programs. Green says SAIT’s diversity creates an excellent partnership for his innovative housing. “You have a project here for multiple disciplines,” Green says.

HEATHER SETKA
PUTTING THE BOOT TO FOOT PAIN

CHALLENGE: It’s not uncommon for patients wearing a walking cast – also known as a post-operative boot – to quit wearing it too soon. Even renowned orthopedic surgeons such as Dr. Kenneth Hunt know walking casts are hot, uncomfortable and just plain ugly. And, more importantly, the heavy casts are too high off the ground to provide effective healing. They affect a patient’s gait, which – after weeks of use – can lead to knee, hip or lower back problems.

HOW CAN THE WALKING CAST BE REDESIGNED SO IT’S COMFORTABLE AND PROMOTES THE HEALING OF DELICATE ANKLE AND FOOT INJURIES WITHOUT CAUSING OTHER PHYSICAL ISSUES — AND HOW DO YOU TEST AND MANUFACTURE IT SO IT’S PRACTICAL AND COST-EFFECTIVE ENOUGH TO BRING TO MARKET?

SOLUTION: WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH INDUSTRY PARTNER CORE ELEMENT VENTURES, SAIT’S APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SERVICES (ARIS) DEPARTMENT HAS DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TWO PROTOTYPES – NOW BEING TESTED – THAT ARE LIGHTER AND LOWER TO THE GROUND.

Core Element Ventures president, Tony Meibock, is a long-time developer of technical foot and ankle-focused sports products such as inline skates, speed skates and ski boots. He knew his expertise could transfer to the durable medical equipment arena, so he contacted Dr. Hunt, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center. Together they began to design a vastly improved post-operative boot. They then turned to ARIS researchers to further advance the design and to generate a pre-manufactured prototype.

“A boot like this is very complicated. We’re dealing with a lot of geometry that could potentially impact patients’ healing,” says Stefan Dalberg, a principal investigator with ARIS’s Sport and Wellness Engineering Technologies research group. “We’ve been focusing on both the hard part – the skeletal section that provides support – and the fabric portion of the boot so it really immobilizes the foot but is still comfortable and breathable.”

Dalberg used SAIT’s 3D printer to create a mold from which two prototypes have been generated. According to Dalberg, students are wearing the prototypes to test comfort and whether or not the boot impacts their gait. This information will be added to non-subjective stress analysis, impact testing and other rigorous evaluation to ensure the boot functions optimally and is adequately durable.

Once testing is complete, Dalberg and a handful of Mechanical Engineering Technology students will push the project through phase two to determine best approaches to manufacturing. He hopes Meibock will be able to have a finished product available to patients and physicians in the next 18 months.

“Other institutions can provide testing and protocol, but we needed to see a physical part,” says Meibock. “With SAIT’s capability with engineering, 3D printing and composite development, they were the perfect fit for what we’re trying to accomplish.”

CHRISTIE SIMMONS

WATCH SAIT’S 3D PRINTER IN ACTION AT SAIATALUMNILINK.CA
CHALLENGE: When a classmate told members of SAIT’s Enactus student club about an older relative who lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to fraud, the students set out to investigate the issue of financial abuse.

In 2013, over 13,000 Canadians lost more than $57 million to “mass marketing” scams. Senior fraud, in particular, is a growing issue within Canada.

HOW COULD SAIT ENACTUS HELP PROTECT PEOPLE IN THIS VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHIC FROM FRAUD?

SOLUTION: PARTNER WITH THE ALBERTA COUNCIL ON AGING (ACA) TO CREATE A SERIES OF SEMINARS THAT TEACH SENIORS HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND PREVENT FRAUD.

Enactus is an international organization made up of student, academic and business leaders dedicated to making a difference within the community where they operate. SAIT’s Enactus chapter focuses on financial education.

“Working with the ACA, we found that there is a high likelihood of fraud in the senior demographic,” says Alexandra Lowe, a SAIT Business Administration student and the project manager for the senior fraud prevention seminars. “Every year, seniors lose the most amount of money to scams. We wanted to do our part to help protect people from financial abuse.”

Members of the SAIT student group took their seminars to Calgary nursing homes, where they talked about four types of fraud that most commonly affect seniors: telemarketing, identity theft, internet scams and power of attorney fraud.

Joan Walker attended one of the Enactus presentations at the seniors’ home where she lives. She says the seminar was extremely valuable and well received.

“It reminded me to be watchful about these kinds of things. It made me aware of all of the different types of scams,” says Walker. “I’m always very cautious because you just never know what could happen.”

Over the summer, the Enactus senior fraud prevention group has updated and expanded their seminars by adding information on consumer fraud, investment fraud and the grandparent scam (where someone pretending to be a grandchild in trouble phones to ask for money).

They’ve also added information on what to do if you are a victim of fraud, and they have created an in-depth handbook for seniors.

Next the Enactus group plans to expand their target audience by offering seminars to seniors and baby boomers in Calgary and in Edmonton.

“We had seminar attendees who were victims of fraud,” says Lowe. “Those who had been targeted said they wished they had heard the seminar information earlier on in their lives.”

CARLY MCCONACHIE
ACCOUNTANTS SUCCESSFULLY STRETCHED INTO MARKETERS

CHALLENGE: Anyone who has lived through a natural disaster like the 2013 Alberta floods knows the usefulness of a toilet that functions off the grid, so Alberta entrepreneur Mike Worthington was confident his company’s Portable Water Closet was a great product.

The Portable Water Closet works in harsh climates and conditions, making it ideal for everything from oil sands settings and construction sites to refugee camps and natural disasters.

BUT WORTHINGTON ALSO KNEW HIS FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS, WORTHINGTON CONSTRUCTION, NEEDED A STELLAR BUSINESS PLAN TO BRING ITS INNOVATIVE PRODUCT TO MARKET.

SOLUTION: WHEN WORTHINGTON HEARD THROUGH SAIT’S APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SERVICES (ARIS) DEPARTMENT THAT THE POLYTECHNIC’S BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (ACCOUNTING) PROGRAM WAS LOOKING TO MATCH ITS FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS WITH ENTREPRENEURS FOR THEIR CAPSTONE PROJECT, HE JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY.

The faculty-supervised project was designed to stretch the BBA (Accounting) students beyond their discipline by coming up with a comprehensive business plan that included a marketing strategy.

The students were keen, especially because the product was so environmentally friendly. They were also slightly intimidated: as accounting students they were much more comfortable working on financial assessments than making recommendations on operational strategy, human resource planning, and marketing.

“We’ve done projects before that had an accounting basis, but this was a whole different level,” says student Emily Clark, who led the project team of fellow students Lucas Tarzwell, Wendy Peters, Lindsey Schmidt and Sarah Leinan.

The students identified suppliers that would meet the project’s budget, created a list of prospects, and advised Worthington to aim for businesses rather than consumers as an initial target market – input Worthington says helped clarify his own thinking about the product. “They asked a lot of questions on things we had not spent a lot of time analyzing, so it gave us motivation to get focused,” he explains.

Ultimately, it was the student team’s marketing plan that became a point of pride when it helped the client launch a pilot project with the City of Edmonton. “We’re accountants not marketers, so that was the area we were least comfortable with and we put a lot of time into it,” says Clark.

She says the opportunity to work on a real-world project was invaluable, not only for the consulting experience but for the chance to make a difference. “It felt like we were really contributing to the business.”

SUZANNE BOWNESS
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-19</td>
<td><strong>FITNESS WEEK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free fitness, yoga, dance and martial arts classes plus prizes just for participating. <a href="mailto:sait.recreation@sait.ca">sait.recreation@sait.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>ALUMNI COOKING CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Culinary Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By invitation only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAIT welcomes our newest alumni to the family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>SAIT vs PORTAGE COLLEGE – TROJANS MEN’S HOCKEY HOME OPENER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Centre arena</td>
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## October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>SAIT ALUMNI HOCKEY LEAGUE – SEASON OPENER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 am, 11:45 am, 1:15 pm, 2:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Centre arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More information about playing in this great rec league, email <a href="mailto:alumni.hockey@sait.ca">alumni.hockey@sait.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>FALL CONVOCATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By invitation only</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAIT welcomes our newest alumni to the family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>SAIT vs LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE – TROJANS BASKETBALL HOME OPENER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women at 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men at 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Centre gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>SKATE WITH THE TROJANS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pm: Face painting and entertainment for kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pm: SAIT men’s hockey vs. Briercrest College Campus Centre arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheer on the Trojans, then skate with the men’s and women’s hockey teams after the game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Register for this free event: <a href="http://sait.imodules.com/trojans2014">sait.imodules.com/trojans2014</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>ALUMNI COOKING CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Culinary Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Another chance to learn from SAIT’s top chefs at this alumni-only evening in the kitchen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration opens Sept. 30 at 10 am. Details and to register: <a href="http://sait.imodules.com/tasteoct14">sait.imodules.com/tasteoct14</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>SAIT vs LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE – TROJANS VOLLEYBALL HOME OPENER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women at 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men at 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Centre gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>BOY &amp; BEAR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with special guests Reuben And The Dark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ticket information: <a href="http://saitsa.com">saitsa.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>CANADIAN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING NATIONALS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s 5 km: noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men’s 8 km: 1 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confederation Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The SAIT Trojans host post-secondary student-athletes from across the nation. <a href="http://sait.ca/trojans">sait.ca/trojans</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>SKATING WITH SANTA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Event starts: 2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ice time: 4:15 – 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Centre arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bring your family for a skating date with old Saint Nick! Enjoy snacks and have your picture taken with Santa. Registration opens Nov. 18 at 10 am. <a href="http://sait.imodules.com/santa2014">sait.imodules.com/santa2014</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>ALUMNI AWARDS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nominations will open in January for the 2015 Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Young Alumni awards. For information on past recipients visit <a href="http://sait.ca">sait.ca</a> and search for alumni awards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION NIGHT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 pm – 6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irene Lewis Atrium, Stan Grad Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Find out about evening, weekend and online courses to help develop professional skills and further advance your career.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<sait.ca> for more info  
[SAIT Alumni: Virtual Reunion](https://twitter.com/SAITAlumni)  
[@SAITAlumni](https://twitter.com/SAITAlumni)  
[SAIT Alumni](https://facebook.com)  
link 43
FLASHBACK:

In 1956, when this photograph was taken, the Canadian government introduced the Female Employees Equal Pay Act, declaring that women are entitled to be paid the same as men for similar work.

This photograph shows women and men working alongside one another in a carpentry and woodworking evening class, held in one of the “B” Building workshops at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art, or PITA, as SAIT was known at the time.

PITA offered 27 evening classes in 1956, described in that year’s academic calendar as being “for the benefit of tradesmen and others in Calgary and district.” Evening classes offered 72 hours of instruction from early October until April. They were open to all, and students were not required to be existing PITA students.

Today, carpentry and woodworking courses are still available through continuing education at SAIT, and the training options have expanded to include flexible online blending learning carpentry courses and a woodworking certificate of achievement.

- EACH ISSUE of the LINK will feature a photograph from the SAIT archives. Browse through the Heritage Photo section at saitalumnilink.ca for a view into our past.
ACHIEVEMENTS

SAIT Polytechnic and its students, staff and alumni are making strides in the community and around the world. Here are some recent highlights:

**STUDENTS**

Designs on the future
SAIT Architectural
Technologies student
Jason Hashman won a
$1,500 scholarship last
May at the 2014 Student
House Design Scholarship
Competition, sponsored
by the Canadian Home
Builders’ Association –
Calgary region.

**ALUMNI/SAIT COMMUNITY**

Hall of Fame inductee
David Johnson (PT ’76)
will be inducted into the
Calgary Business Hall
of Fame this October.
Johnson received SAIT’s
Distinguished Alumni
Award in 1999, and the
west wing of SAIT’s Trades
and Technology Complex
– the Johnson-Cobbe
Energy Centre – is
named in recognition of
a donation he made to
the Promising Futures
Campaign. He currently
serves as a Director at
Progress Energy Canada
Ltd.

Oilweek rising star
Thane Schaffer (PT ’96),
General Manager, Canada
with Multi-Chem, A
Halliburton Service, was
named as a Rising Star
by Oilweek magazine in
its May 2014 issue.

**Top apprentice**
The Alberta Apprentice
and Industry Training
Board recognized Chelsea
Copley (ACKP ’13) with
the Top Apprentice Award
last February. Currently
working as a cook at the
Fairmont Jasper Park
Lodge, Copley received
the award for achieving
top marks in her final year.

**Top restaurants**
Vacay.ca has named
CHARCUT and the
River Cafe to its Top 50
Restaurants in Canada
list for 2014. CHARCUT
– co-owned by Connie
DeSousa (PCK ’00) and
John Jackson (PCK ’96)
– came in at number 14
and the River Cafe – led
by Executive Chef Andrew
Winfield (PCK ’99) –
came in at number 43.

**Top photo**
Calgary Herald
photojournalist Leah
Hennel (JA ’98) won
a prestigious National
Newspaper Award in the
feature photo category for
an image taken during the
2013 Alberta floods.

**SAIT/SAIT EMPLOYEES**

Exporting excellence
In May, SAIT Polytechnic
received a 2014 Alberta
Export Award in the
Services category for its
energy-based educational
training that supports the
oil and gas industry in
many different countries,
including Angola. The
awards are produced in
partnership with Canadian
Manufacturers & Exporters
and JuneWarren-Nickle’s
Energy Group.

Green award for
green awareness
SAIT’s Applied Research
and Innovation Services
department’s Green
Building Technologies
team and its partner,
Avalon Master Builder,
won a 2014 Emerald Award
in the Public Education
and Outreach category for
the Discovery 5 Net Zero
Home, which is creating
community awareness for
green building initiatives.
Four members of Avalon’s
management team
attended SAIT: owners
Christine Scott (BA ’96)
and Ryan Scott (BA ’01),
General Manager Chris
Williams (BA ’96) and
partner Terra Davidson.

Vice President of
Corporate Development
and Applied Research
named
Dr. Alex Zahavich is
SAIT’s new Vice President,
Corporate Development
and Applied Research.
Zahavich has been with
SAIT since 2001, most
recently as director of
Applied Research and
Innovation Services
(ARIS). He was
instrumental in SAIT
being named Canada’s
Top Research College in
2013, and is responsible
for developing and
executing opportunities
locally and globally for
SAIT’s applied research,
as well as the training
needs of corporate clients
and other institutional
partners.
1960s
01 James Harburn (AT ’69) writes that he is looking to connect with his fellow classmates from 1969.

1970s
02 Wendy Michaud (MLT ’74) writes: “Still working hard at the Children’s Hospital.”
03 Blair Boese (PT ’75) writes: “Still living the dream after 39 years.”
04 Al Bromley (JA ’77) would love to hear from his former classmates in Journalism Administration. He asks, “What has become of you?”
05 Dean Radke (AMT ’77) writes: “After 10 years fixing airplanes, I returned to SAIT to teach. I still love the smell of burning jet fuel.”
06 Rod Hehr (IXT ’79) is working at The Glencoe Club doing IT-related duties. He recently closed his business and says he has kept in touch with many classmates.

1980s
07 Angela Cheung (BA ‘82) writes: “Since my graduation, I have been working in the insurance [industry] as an underwriter. Every now and then, I register myself for some Continuing Education courses at SAIT. I also enjoy using the gym.”
08 Darren Flack (BA ’84) writes: “Taking an awesome [alumni] cooking class at SAIT second campus. Amazing chefs and amazing fellow alumni cooks. Came with eight fingers and two thumbs, although I usually have more thumbs than fingers – leaving with all intact! What an achievement for a rookie!”
09 Karen Flack (SA ’84) writes: “Still have great memories of my SAIT experience and still keep in touch with my lifelong SAIT friends. Recently went on a 50th birthday cruise with three fellow SAIT graduates. This Thai [alumni] cooking class has been an awesome evening of learning, networking, eating and drinking. Thoroughly enjoyed!”

1990s
10 Gina Bergen (DA ’90) writes: “I am now currently teaching Dental Assisting after many years of working in the dental office and I am loving it!”
11 Rob Milman (IXT ’92) “I worked in the electronics industry for one year. Then the dot-com boom hit and I switched to the IT industry. I still miss all my classmates from IXT ’92.”
12 Lynda Holden (AMT ’93) writes: “Worked in industry until 2006; now I’m back at SAIT as an instructor working side by side with instructors who taught me!”
13 Cristina Raposo (BA ’98) writes: “I went to work in finance at a bank and, after a couple of years, I decided to go back to school to get a degree. So happy I was able to get a two-year credit due to my SAIT BA diploma and finished my degree in two years at the SAIT campus through University of Lethbridge. Now I love what I do – working as a Business Analyst for Enmax!”
14 Alicia Williams (TSR ’99) is currently editor-in-chief of Foodie Magazine in Hong Kong and writes: “Just received the latest LINK magazine – looks amazing!”

2000s
15 Smita Acharyya (CTSR ’00 and SAIT’s first Outstanding Young Alumni award recipient) produced a film called Around the Bend that was included in the National Screen Institute’s year-round Online Short Film Festival in April.
16 Lisa Madsen (UNC ‘00) is working as a Quality Assurance Analyst for Husky Energy.

17 Craig D’Cruze (PCK ‘02) went up against three other chefs and placed second in the Chopped Canada episode that aired May 8 on the Food Network Canada.

18 Mike Lowe (JA ‘02) is the founder of Kidoodle. TV, a subscription video on-demand service for children 12 and under.

19 Shelley Winch (EBP ‘02) writes: “Still working for Canadian Pacific Railway.”

20 Jenny Flaman (JA ‘04) is co-founder of Dote Magazine, a new Calgary arts and lifestyle magazine with a focus on local artists and entrepreneurs.

21 Janice Longair Wotske (CHT ‘06) writes: “Working at Mount Royal University preparing Chem labs.”

22 Deepa Joglekar (PGLA ‘07) writes: “Due to the one year in PGLA, I managed to get a great base of geology and am charging ahead in my career with Baker.”

23 James Boettcher (AHET ‘08), owner of Fiasco Gelato, has opened a new production plant to supply his two gelato trucks as well as select grocery chains, specialty food shops and local restaurants.

24 Thierry Wall (CT ‘08): Thierry recently joined Bennett Jones LLP and says he is enjoying it tremendously.

25 Courtney Garlough (RTBN ‘10) writes: “Spent the last year as Student and New Alumni Coordinator at SAIT, organizing and implementing programs for those demographics. My most successful program is the Student Award Assistance labs, where I help students apply for the $3.9 million available to them thanks to our generous donors.”

26 Gauri Kaul (TVT ‘10) writes: “Since my grad, I worked for AMEX and made wonderful friends. I’ve since gone back to university to complete a double degree in Economics and South Asian studies, and I will graduate next year. This summer I had a wonderful opportunity to go to Spain and learn their food culture while earning university credits. So far, life has been full of travelling, making new friends and eating good food.”

27 Andres Perdomo (AELP ‘12) writes: “Since I finished at SAIT, I have been working as a journeyman electrician as well as dedicating lots of time to bike training.”

28 Kathryn Rae (LIT ‘12) writes: “After graduation, I continued working at the Hillhurst School library, just down the hill from SAIT. This past year I even hosted a practicum student from the LIT program. Great to hear about the changes in the program and to help another student on their way!”

29 Brad Drobot (PWPO ‘14) is the newest member of the Fayetteville FireAntz of the Southern Professional Hockey League.
SOMETIMES GETTING RESPECT MEANS KICKING ASS AT WHAT YOU DO.

I’ll never forget training with my first journeyman carpenter. I think I was probably the first female apprentice who ever worked for him and he definitely gave me a run for my money. Looking back now, that grumpy old guy also really inspired me. Finally gaining his approval meant I could join in on the daily chat about the projects for the day. When at last I got to be part of that conversation, I knew I had made it.

Don’t get me wrong. The road wasn’t always easy. Making it in a male-dominated career means often being underestimated, needing skin that’s a bit thicker than normal, taking funny looks, weird comments and sometimes a bad attitude in stride, and being able to roll with the punches.

But there are definitely benefits. Fresh out of high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do, so I took whatever job I could get – bar jobs and office jobs – typical “female” jobs that kept me indoors and resulted in a lousy paycheque. Taking a job on a roofing crew 11 years ago was the best career decision I ever made. Not only did I like the work itself, there were other fringe benefits: I got to work outside, earn good money, make up my own hours and benefit from a built-in workout – basically I get paid to pump iron.

After spending two-and-a-half years up on the roof I wanted to learn more, so I started doing renovations. There was so much to figure out – framing, drywalling, painting, finishing, hardwood, tile – and so many possibilities, including a carpentry apprenticeship.

For me, getting my ticket opened up a lot of doors. I had the chance to teach other women about the trades and get them excited about the possibilities these careers can offer. Seeing a single mom who’s struggling get a life-changing job in construction has to be the best feeling in the world.

But the trades aren’t for everyone – and they certainly aren’t a dumping ground for people who can’t make it elsewhere. It takes a lot of skill to succeed and you need to be smart. Tradespeople often don’t get the credit they deserve – there’s an art and skill to every single job out there.

Bottom line if you want to make it as a woman in the trades? Work hard and show people your skills. As soon as my fellow crew members saw that I could kick ass and work just as hard as they did, things were fine. And make sure you learn all you can – new products, materials and tricks for doing things smarter and faster. After all, knowledge is power, whether you’re a girl or a guy. And your ticket is something no one can ever take away from you.

JACQUIE HANSEN (ACCP ’11) IS A RED SEAL JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER WHO HAS NO PATIENCE FOR SHODDY WORK. SHE JUST EARNED HER HOME INSPECTION CERTIFICATION AND IS STARTING A NEW BUSINESS CALLED INSPECTED BY HER. SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO HELPING HER FUTURE CLIENTS BUY HOUSES THAT ARE BUILT WELL. AND SHE THINKS POTENTIALLY SAVING THEM THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN THE PROCESS IS PRETTY COOL.
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