

Summer 2014



# GH Spiral

A newsletter for University of Guelph-Humber alumni



## Celebrate With Guelph-Humber



John Walsh

The University of Guelph-Humber has much to be proud of – and vice-provost John Walsh wants to share that pride with alumni in the inaugural issue of the *GH Spiral*, a newsletter that celebrates the achievements of the school and its graduates.

When alumni see the newsletter for the first time, “I hope they smile,” he says. “I hope they’re pleased to see it. I hope they feel proud of their own accomplishments and pleased with the progress that we’re making.”

A relatively young post-secondary institution, Guelph-Humber graduated its first class in 2006. Since then, each graduating class has grown, now averaging about 800 students annually. Guelph-Humber has almost 5,000 alumni, 90 per cent of whom found employment within six months of graduation.

“I think that’s a stunning achievement,” says Walsh. “It’s not only the success of the graduates; the faculty and the staff have all played a role, so I think we all can feel proud.”

by the numbers

187,780:

The number of placement hours completed by students in the 2013-14 academic year.

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**HUMBER**

One of the ways that Guelph-Humber prepares its students for the real world is by giving them the opportunity to get hands-on experience outside the classroom. Almost every program offers a community placement. “They come back changed and different through their involvement in the community,” he says.

Psychology students, for example, spend up to 10 days in First Nations communities learning about healing practices. The justice studies program co-ordinates community-building events with local police. Guelph-Humber’s own strong sense of community is a big draw for prospective students, says Walsh. “It’s why people come here.”

Combining a diploma and degree program gives students a practical and theoretical education, he adds. Guelph-Humber alumni are in high demand because they graduate with applicable skills acquired through internships and placements. “Our alumni are gateways into organizations where Guelph-Humber proves itself to have graduates of value.”

Walsh encourages grads to stay in touch with their alma mater and take advantage of the many benefits that come with being alumni, such as networking and mentoring opportunities. Guelph-Humber also offers career counselling through Career Services, which alumni can access for life.

## Grad Makes a Lasting Impression

Andrew Kaszowski, BA '06



Andrew Kaszowski didn't wait until he graduated to start freelancing. Having specialized in public relations at Guelph-Humber, he credits his success as a freelancer to the diverse skill set he acquired from the media studies program, which has enabled him to work in a wide range of communications roles.

Freelancing has become "a thread that has woven its way through my entire career," says Kaszowski, who graduated from the first class of the media studies program in 2006. Combining the strategic and technical elements of public relations, he brands his freelance work with the tagline "creating a lasting impression."

Having worked in several PR roles, he says PR specialists and other communications professionals need to speak the same language so they can get their message across to the audience. "We are responsible for all of the messaging, the appearance and the impression of an organization, and part of that is the visual side of it."

The technical skills Kaszowski learned at Guelph-Humber taught him how to work with graphic and web designers on the visual aspects of PR campaigns. He took courses with other media studies students specializing in journalism and photography, an experience that gave him a better understanding of their needs in the real world. "I have found that to be a really competitive advantage in the field," he says. "It taught us to work together with the different specializations in the media industry. We can work as a team putting together a good message."

As a student at Guelph-Humber, he did an internship at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. That experience led to more opportunities in the health-care field, such as co-ordinating the website redevelopment for St. Joseph's Health Care London – the same hospital in which he was born. More recently, he organized a two-week series of grand opening events for St. Joseph's Hospice, also in London, that was attended by more than 1,000 people.

Kaszowski took his communication skills around the world in 2008, when he spent four months on a cruise ship, writing and editing its newsletters and menus. "I basically won the lottery," he says of the job. Of the 32 countries he visited, he says Italy was his favourite.

Closer to home, networking has played an important role in his job search. He says anyone looking for a job shouldn't be afraid of networking because it's not who you know but how well you can do the job that will get you hired. "Networking is really about building a reputation," he says, and it's never too early to start. Today's classmate could be tomorrow's employer.

Staying in touch with Guelph-Humber classmates and recent graduates is a key part of his network. "I think it's important to have that bridge between current students and alumni because we are a strong network that cares deeply about the University," says Kaszowski. "We care about its reputation and we care about helping out current students because we've been there before."



## Magazine Emerges On Top

“Media is art,” says Jerry Chomyn, media studies program head. “It’s all in the eye of the beholder and the ear of the beholder.”

The judges – or beholders – who reviewed *EMERGE* magazine clearly liked what they saw when they awarded the student-produced magazine 15 awards in February – more than double its previous record of seven awards won by the 2012 class. The magazine also received a Gold Crown Award in March for overall excellence. The awards were presented by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, which is affiliated with the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

Chomyn decided to enter the magazine in the competition to prove to his students that they’re capable of producing a high-quality publication that can compete with other Canadian and American journalism schools.

*EMERGE* magazine is a fourth-year project in which media studies students work together on all aspects of production, from writing and editing to photography and graphic design. The 75-page magazine takes about 12 weeks to produce.

“The thing I’m proudest of is that all aspects of the work are done by students,” says Chomyn. “One hundred per cent from start to finish is students’ work.”

About 45 students in the journalism stream work on the magazine in the final semester of their media practices class. Image arts students design the graphics, digital communications students produce audio and video for the magazine’s website, and public relations students co-ordinate a one-day media conference to promote the magazine. The conference is held on the Guelph-Humber campus in late April.

Chomyn says students graduate from media studies with the skills they need to compete in the real world. “It’s such an intense experience,” he says of the program. “They’ve shown they can compete with the best colleges in Canada and the U.S.” The awards include first place for website design for a web magazine ([www.emergemagazine.ca/](http://www.emergemagazine.ca/)).

Ireland is among the travel destinations available to Guelph-Humber students.

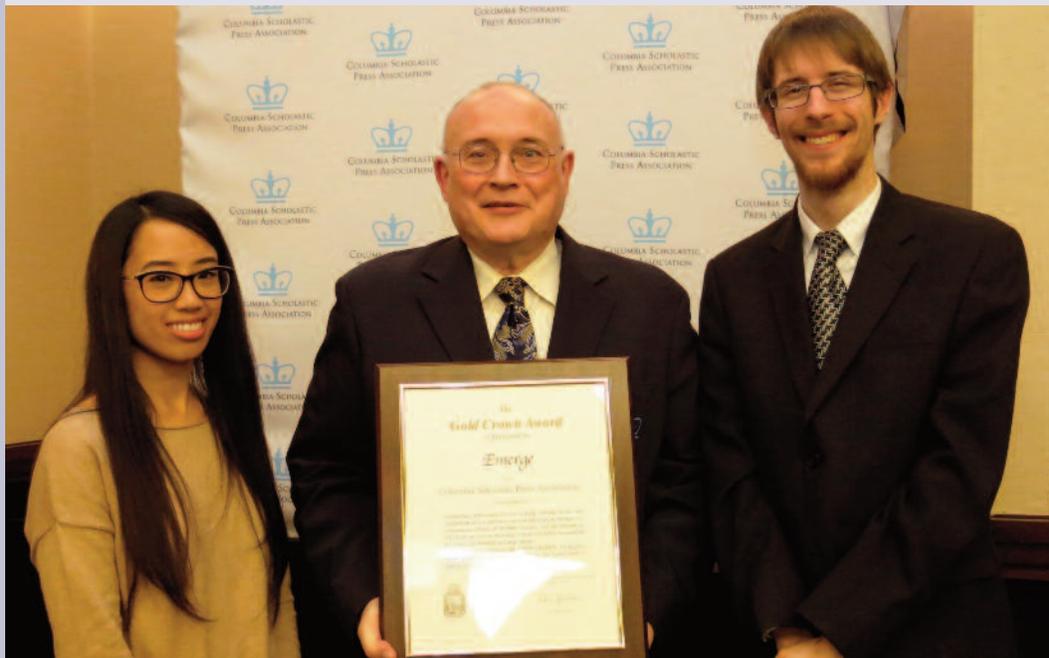
## Students Gain Global Perspective

For students enrolled in Guelph-Humber’s study abroad program, the world is their textbook. Each department offers its own theme-based course that combines classroom learning with a study tour in another country. This type of international experience exposes students to other cultures and helps them compete in an increasingly globalized world.

“From an economic point of view, a lot of our students, no matter what field they go into, are probably going to be engaged in some way internationally,” says George Bragues, assistant vice-provost and program head (business). “One of the core competencies that any human being needs to have is the ability to communicate cross-culturally.” Bragues has participated in several tours himself, including visits to Australia, England, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Guelph-Humber launched its study abroad program in 2010 and now offers six courses that include an in-class introduction to each country and a study tour that lasts 10 to 12 days. When students return, they are assigned to write a research paper about a topic related to their visit.

Starting in May, the business program will offer a study tour to France themed around *la bonne vie* (the good life), focusing on industries that drive the French economy, such as wine, cuisine and tourism. Guelph-Humber also offers a six-week study experience in Bremen, Germany, as part of the media studies program. The Irish province of Ulster became a partner in the semester abroad program last fall.



From left, Guelph-Humber student Jasmine Kabling; Edmund Sullivan, executive director of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association; and Guelph-Humber student Grant Tabler. Photo by Rebecca Castillo.

# You're Invited to Alumni Reunion

Spend the evening catching up with classmates and reminiscing about your time at Guelph-Humber.

This event is open to all alumni. Special guests include the class of 2009, celebrating five years since graduation.

**June 5 at 7 p.m.**

Gladstone Hotel  
1214 Queen St. W., Toronto

**Register at**

<https://ghreunion2014.eventbrite.ca>



## Let Us **Help You Plan** Your **Next Steps**

- Mock interviews
- Resume assistance
- Graduate school applications
- Access to GHWorks at [ghworks.guelphhumber.ca](http://ghworks.guelphhumber.ca)

As a member of the Guelph-Humber alumni family, you always have free access to the latest career advice. From furthering your education to landing your next job, Career Services is here to help. See a Career Services co-ordinator to find out how we can help to grow your dreams.

### **Career Services**

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