

Bursary Winners 2010 / Gagnants de bourses 2010

When the students were informed of their award, we asked them to say a few words...

Quand nous avons informé les étudiants de leur prix, nous leur avons demandé de nous écrire quelques mots...

Tim Renaud, Algonquin College

I've accomplished a lot in my life, overcome a lot of challenges, and after looking back, nothing compares to the biggest accomplishment in my professional life, and that would be registering for college in 2003. That day changed my professional life forever. I had just got a job at Staples Business Depot when I started school, and when my boss saw my passion for the IT industry and the hard work I was doing in school, he gave me an opportunity to work as a technician. On my own time, with no budget, and a closet with a work bench sitting on a stack of bricks used as legs, I turned the "closet" into a fully functioning tech center, providing service for our customers and becoming the central warranty repair depot for 9 stores within the district. I developed a full training program for the company, a work order system, and increased tech sales from an average of \$40/month to \$1500 a week, all within 1 1/2 years.



In May of 2005, I graduated from the Computer Systems Technician program, and landed a full-time contract with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness of Canada as an IT Consultant. There I was able to continue the work I did and provide support for the entire building. After two years, I landed a job as a System Administrator, managing a small data center housing 200 servers and supporting 500 users. After three weeks I knew this is what I wanted to do. Ten months ago, a position became available to me, but unfortunately the government required a three- year diploma to qualify for the position. It was in September of 2009, I registered for the Computer System Technology - Networking program at Algonquin. I knew this program would give me what I needed and more. This program gave me the direct skills and education I needed to advance my career. A few people learned of what I was doing at school and gave me the opportunity to take on projects involving the data center and other aspects of the job I would not normally be exposed to as a contractor. Because of what I learned in school, and the success of the projects I undertook, I landed a job with the Government of Canada. My long term goal is to become a network engineer. In order to do that, I will take what I have learned in school and obtain as many as 6 certifications within the next year. This is all because I attended Algonquin College.

Meagan Leflar, Carleton University

I am a third-year student of the School of Information Technology at Carleton University and Algonquin College with a CGPA of 11.4/12.00. Last summer, I applied for an Undergraduate Research Award with my second year professor, Dr. Christopher Joslin, and was pleased to be accepted. Over the course of four months, I researched and developed advanced lighting techniques for the purpose of furthering the realism and effectiveness of surgical simulation models for endoscopic surgery. With these simulations, future doctors would better be able to master this difficult surgical procedure in a safe but realistic environment before performing it on a live patient. At the end of the summer co-op term with Professor Joslin, I produced a paper entitled "Use of High Dynamic Range Images for Improved Medical Simulations", which was published for Miralab's 3D Physiological Human Workshop in Zermatt, Switzerland, which I was invited to attend to present my research.



When I am not working, I enjoy dancing, kickboxing, horseback riding and pursuing my art. Art has always been an essential part of my identity, and is in fact part of the reason I selected the major that I did. Information Technology, specifically the strain of Interactive Multimedia Design, takes art off of a traditional canvas and into the next generation. In many ways, it's an ever-evolving union between the artistic and the technical, and I look forward to furthering my research and contributing to the expansion of this dynamic field.

Francis Brunelle, CÉGEP de l'Outaouais

Comme la plupart des jeunes qui aiment jouer à des jeux vidéo, mon rêve était de créer le mien. Ayant cette idée en tête, je me suis intéressé à l'informatique. De plus, durant mon secondaire, à l'école secondaire du Versant, j'ai fait tous les choix de cours possibles ayant comme sujet l'ordinateur. C'est après avoir remarqué que mes talents d'artiste étaient douteux et que j'avais une facilité avec la logique et les compréhensions abstraites que j'ai décidé de plonger dans la programmation.

C'est en 2008 que j'ai commencé mes études en programmation au CÉGEP de l'Outaouais. Après les deux premières sessions, je savais que la programmation c'était mon domaine; j'adorais programmer. Bien que je sois doué, c'est en collaborant avec mes collègues que nous avons pu trouver les meilleures solutions à certains problèmes de logique.

Après mes études collégiales, mon parcours n'est pas encore défini. Mais, une chose est certaine, un jour, je ferai mon propre jeu vidéo.



Kevin Brascoupé, Heritage College

Kevin Brascoupé is an Aboriginal student in his third and final year of Computer Science at Heritage College in Gatineau, Quebec. Kevin was born and raised on the Algonquin reservation of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, where technology was never very popular. Kevin is lucky to have a father who understands what Information Technology can bring to the community. Due to his family's influence, Kevin became very interested in the field of IT and knew from a young age that he wanted to enrol in Computer Science after high school.



During high school, Kevin learned basic HTML on his own and put his new found skill to use for two summers maintaining his community's website. While working with his community to improve their website, he learned many things about the real world. This experience was where he first saw how important Computer Science is in today's world and the large number of opportunities that are available in the IT industry.

After completing his education, Kevin plans to seek fulltime employment in the Ottawa region but still provide what services he can to his home community on the side. He believes that everyone should benefit from today's fast growing technologies, especially in places where technology isn't well supported.

Kurtis Boulianne, La Cité Collégiale

Depuis mon premier séjour à La cité collégiale, j'ai eu l'occasion d'acquérir un montant considérable d'expérience, grâce aux deux stages que j'ai complété. Comme premier stage, j'ai travaillé comme technicien en soutien technique pour le ministère des Ressources humaines et Développement des compétences. Ma fonction principale était de résoudre divers problèmes techniques reliés aux stations de travail des clients. Mon deuxième stage s'est déroulé à l'Agence du Revenu du Canada, où je suis présentement embauché comme programmeur junior. Cet emploi m'a donné l'occasion de travailler dans une équipe de développement et d'acquérir de l'expérience qui me servira tout au long de ma carrière. J'ai pu approfondir mes connaissances avec le langage Java et acquérir des connaissances de base sur les technologies JSP et Struts utilisées en développement Web.



Comme buts et ambitions de carrière, j'aimerais poursuivre mes études en génie logiciel ou en génie informatique au niveau universitaire. Le prix me servira donc grandement pour payer mes études. Dans un avenir rapproché, j'aimerais bien devenir analyste programmeur; question d'appliquer les connaissances acquises au collège en plus d'améliorer mes habiletés.

J'ai grandi dans une petite communauté dans le nord le l'Ontario nommée Kapuskasing où j'ai passé mes études primaires et secondaires, en français. J'ai déménagé à Ottawa durant

l'été de 2007 pour poursuivre mes études à La cité collégiale dans le programme de la Technologie du génie informatique. C'est à ce moment que j'ai vraiment découvert ma passion pour la programmation. Je suis présentement à la dernière étape de mon programme d'étude et compte obtenir mon diplôme en avril. Durant mon temps libre, j'aime bien passer une journée à la pêche, écouter les nouveautés en musique ou encore mieux, écouter la partie de hockey avec mes proches.

J'aimerais prendre le temps de remercier l'Association des professionnels de l'information du secteur publique pour m'avoir pris en considération pour ce prix. Ceci est un grand honneur pour moi et récompense tous les efforts que j'ai mis dans mes études.

Patrick Santos, University of Ottawa

I am a fourth year Computer Engineering Co-op student at the University of Ottawa. I was drawn to this program due to my avid interest in robotics, which started from high school. Before registering as a computer engineering student, I worked as a summer student for the university's School of Information and Technology and Engineering, assembling and repairing robots for student research projects.

I have maintained a CGPA of 9.4/10 and have received merit scholarships for my last three years of study. I was also placed on the Dean's Honour List during those years. I also received the J.V. Marsh and S.G.S. Shiva scholarship in 2008. I am currently performing my engineering capstone project with three other students. We are developing a wireless sensor network for plant monitoring.

I have completed three co-op work terms, one at TransCore Link Logistics and two at Research in Motion Limited. During these three work terms, I performed software test automation, Java applications development, and embedded systems testing. These work terms also gave me the opportunity to work under formal and structured work environments and with different groups of professionals. I also volunteered with the University of Ottawa's robotics team during the first three years of my studies, where I helped design microcontroller-based subsystems and electronic circuits for an autonomous underwater vehicle. This vehicle competed in the AUVSI and ONR's Annual Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Competition in San Diego, California.

After completing my post-secondary studies, I plan to pursue a master's thesis in the field of embedded systems.

