

Bursary Winners 2011 / Gagnants de bourses 2011

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...

Nicolai Marx, Algonquin College

I am a 23 year old student from Germany. I first visited Canada during a summer exchange program in 2004. This experience led to a growing interest in seeking the opportunity of continuing my education in the Ottawa area.

I enrolled in the Computer Systems Technician program at Algonquin College beginning the Fall of 2008 as an international student. I have always demonstrated a strong interest in technology and my decision to pursue education in IT Security and Networking was an easy choice. My commitment and hard work is reflected in my success. I have maintained a 90% or above average, and have been included on the Dean's list for each of the semesters. I completed my most recent term with an A+ average. I also received the Computer System Technology Award in October 2010 that is presented to a student who has graduated the Computer Systems Technician program and enrolled in Computer Systems Technology with the highest grade point average. Summer employment as an IT Technician with The County of Hastings allowed me to apply my knowledge as well as confirm and motivate my academic direction.



I am currently a third year Computer Systems Technology - Security student eagerly anticipating graduation and anxious to put my learning and skills to work. Algonquin College has provided me with an excellent learning environment and I appreciate the additional recognition that I have received in the form of awards. I have enjoyed studying in Canada at Algonquin College and look forward to gaining additional work experience in my chosen field as well as becoming a landed immigrant and working towards obtaining my Canadian Citizenship.

Paulina Masson, Carleton University

My name is Paulina Masson, I'm a software developer, an entrepreneur and a social media consultant. I enjoy computer programming, especially when it involves challenges and new things to learn. Programming requires a certain personality type and passion for problem solving - I believe I fit the profile quite well. There is a personal quality of mine, which I am especially proud of: the ability to stay focused on a task for a long period of time. I could be stuck on some problem for a very long time, but wouldn't give up, even if it takes 12 or more hours of non-stop work. And then, when I finally attain the result, there comes the great feeling of self-satisfaction - I have done it! Such moments are amazing. If you're a passionate programmer, you know exactly what I'm talking about. And that is why I love it.



I grew up in Klaipeda, a major seaport city on the coast of Lithuania, Northern Europe. After high school graduation, I worked as a Logistics Specialist at Siemens Yazaki Lithuania and also at Baltic Logistic Systems. At Siemens, the job I was doing, involved a lot of manual calculations and comparisons of data. I decided to come up with a solution for it - learned Visual Basic in my spare time, and improved MS Access database with custom macros, to perform the work for me. Now the amount of work I used to do in a day, I was able to complete in an hour! My manager was very impressed with the initiative - the company awarded me with a monetary prize, and I was soon promoted. Then I knew. Programming is what I really want to do.

A very exciting time in my life was when I decided to go work on the cruise ships - I've travelled to many exotic locations, such as the Caribbean, Bermuda and Belize; met many interesting people from all around the world (including my husband); and of course, had a lot of fun! One of the jobs I was doing onboard, was crew internet cafe administrator. I managed user accounts, groups, printers, file systems and security, installed software and performed backups. A step closer to a career in high tech, I thought.

Some time has passed. It was time to settle down, so I came to Ottawa, where my husband was from. I retook all grade 12 courses, to comply my knowledge with Ontario standards. I am proud to mention, that with Canadian high school graduation, I was awarded the Governor General's Academic Medal for high academic achievement. It led to full entrance scholarship from Carleton University.

In summer 2007, I was working as a research assistant for "Pass-thoughts: Authenticating with our Minds" project at Carleton, which I found tremendously interesting and a great experience for my first year at CU. During 2007-2008 I was the Vice President External for Carleton Computer Science Society and Carleton U representative for Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference.

In 2008, I worked at IBM, as a software developer. The two great teams that I had a chance to work with were: Rational Requirements Composer team (managed by Vishy Ramaswamy) and Graphical Modeling Framework team (managed by Anthony Hunter). I gained a great deal of experience. It was invaluable to see many of the concepts that I

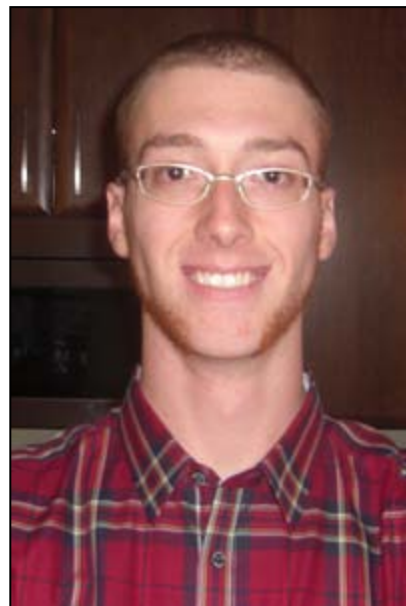
learned at school being used in the real world. I've developed a better understanding of various design patterns, learned to write more efficient algorithms and experienced how exactly the agile programming principles work.

In 2009, I was working at Electronic Arts in Vancouver, FIFA 10 team, managed by Peter Kishimoto. My responsibilities included developing front end features using Actionscript and C++, working on the game bootflow, delivering FIFA10 demo. I had a chance to work with Xbox 360 and PS3 console systems - great experience.

In 2010, I was working at IBM, Extreme Blue Project, developing a novel solution for IBM Cognos context. Extreme Blue is known as one of the most challenging and competitive software development programs in North America. With three other team members, we defined a business model for a new idea within IBM, prototyped it and pitched it to many IBM's executives, including the CEO Sam Palmisano in New York! What an amazing experience. In September, 2010, I started my own company, *Contest Mob Inc.*

Guillaume St-Georges, CÉGEP de l'Outaouais

Comme tout bon adolescent en crise d'identité, ce ne fût que dernièrement que mon plan de vie c'est concrétisé. C'est à l'âge de 20 ans que j'ai changé de domaine d'étude. J'ai enfin trouvé une place pour moi, une place où je peux m'épanouir. Prêt à affronter les études d'un pas d'attaque, enfin mûri par la vie. C'est l'informatique qui me motive à pousser mes limites. Qui me donne le goût d'aller à mes cours, d'écouter mes professeurs et de toujours en vouloir plus. J'espère fortement mener une carrière fructueuse dans ce domaine car je crois définitivement posséder les capacités nécessaires pour le faire. J'ai toujours été quelqu'un de très compétitif et je n'ai nullement l'intention de me laisser piler sur les pieds. Je crois avoir tout le potentiel possible pour vivre une bonne vie. Que ça soit dans la région ou à l'extérieur, au privé ou au public, je suis toujours prêt à surmonter n'importe quel défi que me sera imposé. Je ne suis pas certain d'où la vie va me mener dans un futur prochain mais je ne m'en fait pas. Je ne suis pas du style a planifié d'avance. Je sais par contre que dans n'importe quelle situation où je vais me trouver, je vais m'en sortir. Il ne reste qu'à voir ce que la vie me réserve.

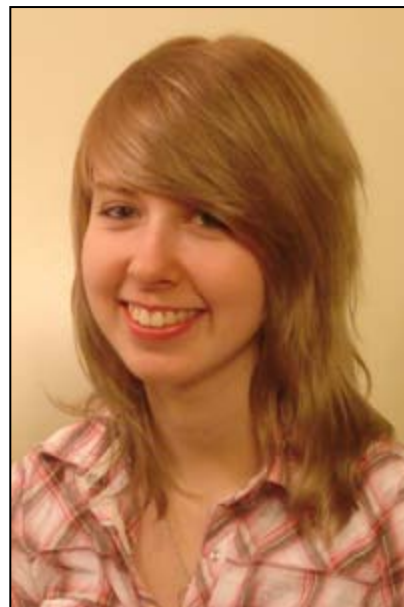


Marta Chmielowska, Heritage College

I'm a third year Computer Science student at Heritage College, in Gatineau, Quebec.

My profound passion for Computer Science came early on in my life. My father, whom I was always really close to, was in the field of Information Technology, so naturally I spent a lot of time observing his work and shadowing him. Thanks to my father, I developed my first web pages when I was 11. This is when I knew that Computer Science is where I wanted to take my life.

In late elementary school and early high school, I was able to assist with the development of various web sites, such as the Allevy-et-Cawood municipal web site for my home town, or with savedanford.com, a web site for a coalition against a landfill.



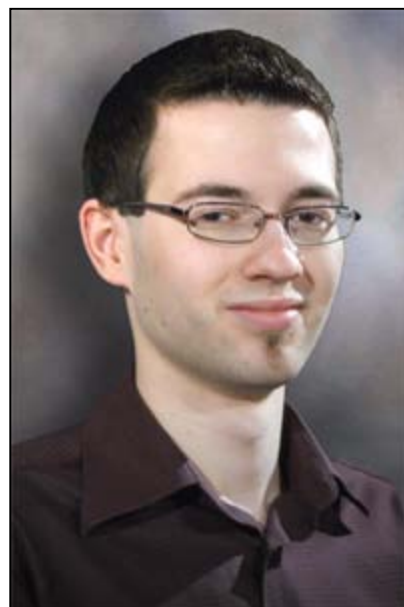
During my studies in Computer Science at Heritage College, I have been on the honour roll and I have participated in many recruitment activities where I have had the opportunity to share my passion and encourage others to enter this exciting field. I have also been involved with the development of an eCo-op System which will be used by the college for the co-op placement process. After graduating from Heritage College, I plan to continue my studies in Software Engineering at McGill University. I hope to use technology to make a difference and to help better the world we know.

Maxime Boyer, La Cité Collégiale

Je termine présentement ma dernière année du programme de Technologie de la sécurité de l'information à La Cité collégiale. J'ai apprécié mon expérience durant les trois dernières années, entre autres l'emphase qui est mise sur les laboratoires. Je suis présentement certifié CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) et souhaite me certifier CCNP Routing, Switching et Troubleshoot.

J'ai une expérience de quatre mois au Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor du Canada, où je travaillais au centre d'assistance informatique. Cet emploi m'a permis de mettre en pratique les notions théoriques de mon programme et de comprendre le fonctionnement d'un service informatique.

Je possède également deux entreprises. La première, Hosting Vision, en partenariat avec un ancien collègue de La Cité collégiale, offre des services d'hébergement et de création de sites web. La seconde, Max et Média Concept, est mon entreprise personnelle qui offre des services de ventes et de réparation de matériel informatique, ainsi que la création de contenu multimédia.



De plus, depuis plusieurs années, je fais du bénévolat à la Télévision communautaire de la Basse-Lièvre, un organisme sans but lucratif dont la mission est de produire et diffuser de l'information politique, culturelle, sociale et sportive à l'image de sa communauté. Durant ces années, j'ai eu l'opportunité de développer mes connaissances techniques en télévision, tout en faisant différentes tâches lors d'émissions (caméra, sonorisation, VTR, infographie, etc.). Depuis novembre 2009, je siège au conseil d'administration de l'organisme comme secrétaire. Cette expérience est très enrichissante, et me donne l'opportunité de développer mes aptitudes de gestion et de communications, tout en appuyant une cause qui me tient à cœur.

Mon but, une fois diplômé en avril, est de me trouver un travail dans le domaine des réseaux, de la sécurité ou de la virtualisation de serveurs. Mon objectif de carrière est de développer une expertise dans le domaine du « Green IT », qui consiste à réduire l'empreinte écologique des systèmes informatiques.