

# CLASSTING summer 2009 Connections

the magazine for Loyalist College Alumni and Friends



Loyalist Graduate  
JIM HARRINGTON  
Recipient of the  
2008 Technology  
Premier's Award  
page 2



## A message from your Alumni Association

This is an exciting time to be involved with the Loyalist Alumni Association as the College embarks on its fifth decade of educating students. Being elected as President last November is both a great honour and a tremendous opportunity. I've been actively involved with the Loyalist College Alumni Association for the last ten years in a variety of roles and have had the pleasure to work with and meet many terrific members of the extended Loyalist family. I look forward to meeting many more over the course of my term in office.

This year, the College has released its new strategic plan for the next five years (see details on pages 18-19). The executive of the Alumni Association has decided to follow suit and develop our own new strategic plan that is in keeping with the College's plan. It will be designed to increase alumni awareness of the services available to them and to provide opportunities for alumni to stay actively engaged with the College, such as by increasing the number of Alumni Chapters.

As part of this new process, and arising from a desire to be more inclusive, we are looking to make changes to our Constitution at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the fall of 2009. Details are available on our website at [www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/alumni-executive](http://www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/alumni-executive).

We welcome your comments and input both with regards to the strategic plan and the proposed changes to the constitution. Please join us for the AGM to become involved in the discussions that will affect the future direction of the Alumni Association. If you are interested in attending, simply reserve your seat by contacting the Alumni Services office by e-mail at [alumni@loyalistic.on.ca](mailto:alumni@loyalistic.on.ca) or by phone at 1-800-99ALUMNI (local: 613-969-1913, ext. 2307).

The strength of the Loyalist Alumni Association is based on the active participation of alumni. I invite you to take part in the process of ensuring that the Association provides the best services to Loyalist graduates.

**Brian Miller**, President, Loyalist College Alumni Association



### Loyalist cares about the environment.

That's why this publication is printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council — an independent organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests.



# President's Message

As we prepare for the 2009 Convocation ceremonies, I am reminded of the many strengths of our Loyalist College team and the contributions made to support our community of learners and the many other communities which Loyalist serves. This commitment begins when students register in a College program, and it continues through their months or years of studies, to their involvement as graduates. This year, more than 1,600 individuals will graduate, increasing the number of Loyalist College grads to over 28,000. These individuals contribute to the strength of our communities, province, and country. A few of their stories are highlighted in this issue of Lasting Connections.

Jim Harrington, a 1969 Electronic Engineering Technician graduate, is featured on the magazine cover, with his boat, the "Sloop Jim D" – Canada's first fuel cell-assisted sailboat. Jim was awarded the Ontario Premier's Award for Technology graduates at a gala presentation in Toronto in February. You can read more about his story and career in the article which follows on pages 2 and 3.

Another Loyalist graduate, Vern Haggerty, was recognized earlier this year when he received the Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Award from Skills Canada-Ontario, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting trades and technologies as viable career options for youth. Since graduating from Loyalist in 1978 with a diploma from the Resource Technician-Environmental program, Vern has had a diversified career spanning more than 30 years with Defence Construction Canada (DCC) during which he has held increasingly senior positions. Presently, as the Manager of 8 Wing Trenton's Capital Construction Program, Vern is overseeing a six-year construction program at CFB Trenton, valued at \$600 million.

The career paths of Jim and Vern are just two examples of the countless contributions Loyalist grads make to our society.

We are proud of your work and invite you to keep in touch with the College to share developments in your life and career. As a Loyalist graduate, I am pleased to share a few of the College's many highlights with you, and to invite you to visit [loyalistcollege.com](http://loyalistcollege.com) on a regular basis.

Early this year, the College's Strategic Plan for 2009-2014 was approved and launched by the Board of Governors. With input from close to 500 individuals, the Strategic Planning process was rigorous and thorough. This exciting plan will guide the College's activities and investments over the coming years. Key points are outlined later in this issue.

Capital plans are underway for campus renewal and redevelopment, and we are delighted with a May 25 announcement by the federal and provincial governments which provides \$16.6 million for a Sustainable Skills, Technology and Life Sciences Centre. This funding is provided through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.



*Hon. John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities visited Loyalist College in April along with local MPP Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (centre), and met with (Left to Right) Margaret Werkhoven, Chair of the Board of Governors, Kay Manderville, Vice-Chair of the Board, and College President Maureen Piercy.*

## How is your College doing?

In April, the provincial Key Performance Indicators were released, with results for each college. In each indicator, Loyalist was above (or at) the provincial average – a very positive comment on the effectiveness of our faculty and staff in delivering the mission of the College. The indicators measure grad placement, grad satisfaction, employer satisfaction, student satisfaction, and graduation rate.

And just last month, results of a provincial Continuing Education survey put Loyalist at the top of all medium-sized colleges in the delivery of C.E. This result is absolutely marvellous, particularly given the fact that it is becoming a tradition for Loyalist to top this survey!

We have many reasons to celebrate and to look forward to developments in the coming year. I thank you for your ongoing support and interest in your alma mater, and encourage you to keep in touch!

Maureen Piercy, President, Loyalist College



LASTING CONNECTIONS is distributed twice a year and is available free of charge to all alumni, staff, faculty and other members of the Loyalist Family. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting the Alumni Office at 1-800-99ALUMNI. The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Alumni Office or of Loyalist College. The editors of LASTING CONNECTIONS reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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Brian Miller

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# James Harrington

Electronic Engineering Technician 1969

Recipient of the 2008 Technology Premier's Award



*In February, James (Jim) Harrington was one of six individuals to be presented the Premier's Award by The Hon. John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in Ontario. These awards are presented annually to college graduates who have excelled in their careers and made a significant contribution to society.*

Throughout his career Jim has followed his passion for research and exploration as an electronics and mechanical product designer. Since 1970 he has been developing research and exploration equipment for astrophysics, geophysics and oceanographic applications. Jim lives in Victoria, B.C., and operates a company called AGO Environmental Electronics. Today he is recognized worldwide for the design and fabrication of Canada's first successful fuel cell-assisted sailboat, "The Sloop Jim D", pictured on the cover of this issue. Jim shared some of his thoughts about his career — the challenges and the rewards.

Geophysics, astrophysics, oceanographic applications — obviously you are not someone who limits his thinking to "that's not my field" or "I can't." Has this approach served to make your career more interesting and, as a result, more rewarding?

All of these fields may seem to have major differences, but they all have common technologies running through them — electronics, physics and mechanics. Each has its own special characteristics. There is always something new to learn. There are constant challenges applying new technologies to old and new applications and never a dull day as your job changes by the hour.

What is your most amazing career highlight — that icing on the cake that when you think about it you say, "wow, I did that."?

This is difficult to answer. There were many times when that "wow, I did that" occurred. Things like finding gold just outside of Marmora — then learning that when the claims were optioned an ancestor had been on the same ground some 100 years earlier and found similar results. Now that was spooky. Then there was landing in a 737 jet on the ice near the north magnetic pole — and installing the first thermal system 800 metres into the ocean floor to study the effects of drilling for oil in permafrost. That was quite the thrill, especially when you know that you are on the menu of the local polar bear population. Or, to have your work actually leave the confines of our earth, reach out to the planets and do it reliably for four times longer than it was originally planned. Now that brings a smile to my face. I suppose it is the thing that you are doing, at that particular moment in time. You realize that it is a historical event but don't think that anyone else is going to recognize or see it. Then surprisingly, something that seemed like a simple event is given recognition on a scale you never imagined — the invention of Canada's first fuel cell-assisted sailboat.



Has the support you received from your family contributed to your success?

From the time I was a child, until today, I have had strong family support. My grandfather always found time to review and make suggestions for his junior inventor's ideas. My mother and father encouraged me to reach for the stars and believed that with education all things were possible. My wife has been my biggest supporter. Without her I would not be where I am today and there would be no AGO Environmental. We work together as a team. She is my rock of Gibraltar.

What words of advice would you give to our new graduates as they enter the workforce?

For those entering the workforce during these turbulent times remember things will get better. If you have to accept what seems to be an unrelated vocation for a time, do it. All experiences are valuable in growing your knowledge base. To do something that you did not really want to do and to do it well can only help you later when things improve.

You have received recognition for many accomplishments. Was there something special about being presented the Premier's Award?

Without question there had to be — for the first time in 28 years I voluntarily returned to Ontario in the winter. I left behind my palm trees and mild weather and ventured into the cold, ice and blowing snow of Ontario. The cold weather was quickly nullified by the warmth and kindness of everyone we met. It was like being a long-lost son that had returned to a giant family reunion. The respect that has been given to me all across the country due to this event has been inspirational. Further, it has raised our company profile to a completely different level. I was greatly honoured just to have been nominated for this prestigious

award — and then to have been selected as the recipient was a complete but very pleasant shock. It is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.

To date your career has had you delving below the earth's surface, skimming across our country's lakes and oceans, and exploring outer space. What's next?

More of the same. My retirement plan is to die in my chair, working, doing what I like best. As a result of my experience with fuel cells I have become very aware of the grave problems our environment is facing — and that hydrogen is the new future of mankind. At the same time, it has become apparent that there is little or no understanding or source of proper training for people wishing to learn and understand the coming of age of hydrogen. Therefore, I have started a non-profit company with the objective of getting fuel cell and hydrogen technology into educational institutions. Making a difference and orchestrating change are now starting to rise in prominence for me in a drive to bring about the new age of hydrogen and a better environment for my grandchildren.

As told to Marilyn Warren

*Photo from the 2008 Ontario Premier's Awards ceremony (photo by Ivanka Franjkovic) Left to right: Loyalist graduate Erin Davis, who served as the M.C. for the event; Loyalist President, Maureen Piercy; Jim Harrington; Loyalist Board of Governors member, Susan Scarborough.*



Photo by Sarah Hawkins

## Getting connected: Loyalist Alumni Association hosts 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner for Loyalist students

BY CHRISTINE RICHARD

*In January, the Loyalist College Alumni Association hosted its second annual Spaghetti Dinner – an event that built on the success of the previous year.*

The purpose of the event was to increase student awareness of the Alumni Association and the services it offers to Loyalist graduates – and to give students a chance to informally meet and network with local alumni. In addition to members of the Association, there were several alumni in attendance who sat with students and chatted over dinner. Loyalist President Maureen Piercy, also an alumna of the College, gave welcoming remarks – and Alumni Association President, Brian Miller, served as Master of Ceremonies.

The evening's speaker was Ernie Parsons, local Justice of the Peace and former Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of Prince Edward-Hastings. Mr. Parsons is also a former Loyalist faculty member. He spoke eloquently about the three keys that he believes are necessary to achieve true success in life: not judging people by their appearance or circumstance, getting involved in the community, and telling the important people in your life how much they mean to you.



*Left to Right: Ernie and Linda Parsons, Alumni President Brian Miller and College President Maureen Piercy. Photo by Jeff Labine.*

According to Alumni Development Officer, Ivanka Franjkovic, it is important for graduating students and alumni to be aware of the services offered to them. “Take advantage of your relationship with Loyalist and the various services that are available to you through the Alumni Association,” she advises.

“Ever since I graduated from Loyalist, I’ve had the feeling that the Alumni Association genuinely cares about Loyalist grads,” says Frederick Mozampiana, a graduate of Loyalist’s Culinary program.

The goal of the Alumni Association is to continue to develop programs that will serve alumni needs. The Association wants to provide graduates with opportunities to stay actively engaged with Loyalist and invites alumni who have suggestions or questions to contact the Alumni Services office by e-mail at [alumni@loyalistic.on.ca](mailto:alumni@loyalistic.on.ca) or by phone at 1-800-99ALUMNI (local: 613-969-1913, ext. 2307).

## The Career Centre

**The Career Centre at Loyalist College has a variety of tools and resources to help you make a career change any time of the year.**

From résumé clinics, job postings and certification programs – as well as a host of other services – the Career Centre is here to help alumni and current students.

If you are interested in taking advantage of any of the services available, you can contact the Career Centre via e-mail at [careers@loyalistic.on.ca](mailto:careers@loyalistic.on.ca), by phone at 613-969-1913, ext. 2449, online at [loyalistcollege.com](http://loyalistcollege.com) (click on Employment) or visit the Centre in room 2H3.

## Making the transition:

First annual conference helps make transitioning to work or transitioning within your career a little bit easier

BY SARA HAMIL

In an ever-changing work world, every little bit of information that helps prepare students entering the workforce – or alumni changing careers – greatly increases their chance of success. That’s why the Career Centre at Loyalist recently presented its first Transition to Work conference aimed at students and alumni.

“There are many challenges facing students as they make the switch from college to work – and alumni as they make changes within their career,” explains Lyndsay Kerik, Employment and Career Advisor at the Career Centre. “We want to make this transition easier by arming students and alumni with a wealth of information that can help them to be successful.”

Held in February, the conference featured a panel of five professionals who spoke on a wide range of topics, from handling interview questions to the current job market. Following the panel, participants were encouraged to mingle, network and ask questions.

Among the evening’s speakers were Kerry Ramsay, Professor and Coordinator of the Post-Graduate Public Relations program at Loyalist; Michelle Roberts, a Summer Jobs Service Co-ordinator with Job Connect; Nancy Ker, a labour market information analyst; Shaune Lightfoot, HR Director, Hastings County; and Vern Belos, a Professor in the School of Business and Management Studies at Loyalist.

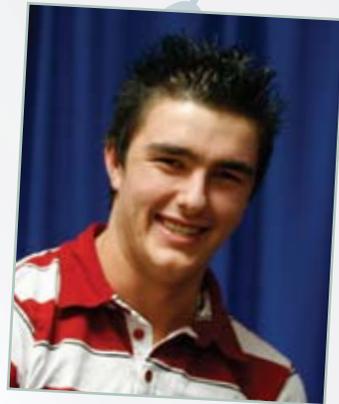
Those who attended took away a wealth of useful information and resources. Jeannie Maidens, a work-study student who helped to organize the conference, sat in on the presentations. Even though she had assisted in organizing the event, she still found herself profoundly impacted by what she learned. “Moving from student life to professional life is like changing cities or countries. The conference highlighted the importance of adaptation,” she says. “Entering into or changing within the world of work can be quite daunting, but it is important for us to realize that we are not alone. Never underestimate the power of networking and never give up in your job search endeavours.”

Presenter Michelle Roberts points out that both students and alumni had a lot to gain from attending the conference. “A conference like this provides a great chance to network,” she observes. “It only makes sense to stay in touch with the faculty and keep up-to-date with the services the College has to offer.”

Second-year Manufacturing student Nicolas Lazier, recipient of the Claude Westlake Bursary and the Justin Blair Memorial Bursary, says the financial assistance he received has had a significant influence on the success of his school year.

*"The positive impact the bursary has had on my life is amazing. To achieve my dreams I need a great education. The financial assistance I received helped me push myself to do well in school. It also made me feel less stress from the financial challenges every student faces at some point in time. It feels good knowing that my good marks are the reason I received the bursary."*

Nicolas is just one of the hundreds of students who benefited from the generosity of Loyalist donors this past year.



## Lightening the load: Three Loyalist students speak out about how they have benefited from financial bursaries

BY SARAH TUMMON

**Pop quiz:** how many students received financial assistance from the Loyalist College Foundation this past year? If you answered more than 200, you would be correct. In fact, the Foundation presented bursaries to 275 students for a total of more than \$166,000.

For most students, any form of financial assistance can ease the stress of the post-secondary experience.

Kiersten Hutchinson, a first-year Accounting student has also experienced the relief that can come with a financial bursary. The recipient of the QuintEssential Credit Union Bursary and the County of Hastings Award, Kiersten says,

*"The money I received from the bursary had a tremendous impact on both my personal and academic life. It was a comfort to know that I would not have to worry about finding the funds to pay for my tuition or living expenses. It served to relieve a lot of unnecessary stress in my life. Furthermore, with the financial assistance that the funds offered, I have been able to cut back on my hours at work - which in turn has left me more time to study for my classes and to go out with my friends. This balance between work, play and study has been the key to keeping me focused this past year."*

*"When you also work at a job to pay for your education, it seems like you have no time to do anything else,"*

says Richard Bryson, a first-year Business student who recently received the Bev and Ian Reilly Bursary.

*"The impact of the bursary was that it allowed me to free up time. I was able to cut back a few hours at work and spend more time focusing on school and my family. Any financial help that students receive is beneficial. It's even had a positive impact on my grades."*

Not only do the awards given to students from the Foundation provide more financial security, they also allow students to channel more of their passion and energy toward making their school year a great success.

# Paying it forward: Alumni donor Brian Askett shares his motivations for giving back to Loyalist

BY JEANNIE MAIDENS

Ask a group of donors to explain why they choose to contribute to Loyalist College, and the answers will be as unique as each of the individuals. Philanthropists tend to give for different reasons, from the feel good factor to the corporate tax break. But in nearly every case, there is an intrinsic connection between the cause and the giver that makes each and every gift worthwhile.

Brian Askett graduated from Loyalist College in 1973 on the Dean's list with a three-year diploma in Accounting. Following graduation, his career spanned more than 33 years in various departments and functions of the federal government – holding progressively senior operational positions, focusing on systems, finance, and administration.

Over the course of his career, Brian has played numerous key roles in implementing administrative and financial changes that were profound and innovative within two large de-centralized federal departments – the Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) and Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). In both departments he played a key role in projects that converted slow and laborious financial systems to integrated online systems.

As Acting Director – Domestic and Foreign Operations and International Banking Division, Brian managed the financial staff responsible for the financial operations of DFAIT. He and his staff were responsible for \$3 billion in expenditures and over \$300 million in revenues annually using over 90 currencies and about 300 bank accounts. They also provided guidance, oversight, and assistance to management at Headquarters and 172 Missions abroad.

Brian has the rare distinction of being a four-time recipient of the Treasury Board Merit Award, the highest award presented by the federal government to public service employees. He is the founder and owner of Askett Consulting Services, providing consultation services at the management and operational levels for the Canadian federal government.

A strong believer in education, Brian has seen first-hand what education can mean to a person's lifestyle and choices. "Education means, generally, a better lifestyle and a healthier, longer life," he believes. "Also, parents who have a higher education tend to have children who go on to post-secondary education, thereby ensuring their children's lifestyle and lives will be better."

As a graduate of Loyalist, Brian remembers what it was like to feel the financial pressures of being a student. "I am thankful for what I have today," Brian shares, "so why not pass it along to others!"

Part of Brian's philosophy of giving stems from a belief in the cycle of providing support. "I believe in paying it forward," he explains. "My grandmother gave my mom and dad a downpayment on a house, which they bought and rented out until they could afford to live in it. Otherwise, they probably would have rented their whole lives. My wife and I have done the same for our son and the cycle continues. You see, it's better to see your money being put to good use while you are alive, rather than after you are gone."

Brian hopes his own donations to Loyalist will encourage current and future alumni to pay it forward in what will ultimately become an ongoing cycle. "Why limit someone's opportunities in the early stages of their life?" he asks, adding that, "it is better to encourage growth than to stifle it."

"My parents believe in education and put some money aside that I took advantage of, but not everyone is so fortunate," he acknowledges. "Sometimes we have to look out for others. It always makes you feel good that your small contribution can change a person's life in a positive manner."



Photo courtesy of Brian Askett

## The Lingo

The Loyalist College Foundation was established in 1995 to provide leadership in meeting the goals for long-term development and fundraising to benefit the students and programs at Loyalist College. The Foundation has raised an endowment of \$5 million, which generates funds each year that enable the College to provide financial assistance to students. Ongoing donations from alumni and other supporters help the endowment to continue to grow in order to help students in years to come.

A **scholarship** recognizes academic excellence or achievement. In certain situations financial need may be one of the deciding factors as a secondary criterion to choose between candidates of approximately equal achievement.

A **bursary** is distributed based on financial need. A financial disclosure form must be completed when applying for a bursary. Certain bursaries may also request that applicants meet certain geographical or demographic requirements.

An **award** is a more general term which includes plaques or recognition certificates, while in other cases awards may be professional memberships coupled with cash prizes.

**For more information about scholarships, bursaries and awards, visit**

[www.loyalistcollege.com](http://www.loyalistcollege.com)  
To make a donation online go to [www.givetoloyalist.ca](http://www.givetoloyalist.ca).

# [www.givetoloyalist.ca](http://www.givetoloyalist.ca)

# CAMPUS NEWS

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Photo by Jim Buck



## Women's Volleyball Team One of Top Four in Province

The Women's Volleyball team was one of four teams that competed in the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Championship. Although they did not return with a medal — they challenged their opponents at every turn, reinforcing their reputation as exceptional athletes.

“This team showed a phenomenal ability to dig in and pull together as the competition level heightened,” said Athletic Director Greg Gavin. This strength, combined with their exceptional volleyball skills, made them worthy adversaries at the provincial championships. When a college the size of Loyalist places in the top four against huge urban colleges that is a major victory in itself.”

*(Left to Right) Back Row: Coach Tony Clarke, Leanne Reedyk, Alison Devlin, Kayla Kuipers, Amy Hoskin, Mandi Buma, Vanessa Johnston, Kati Parks, Coach Dominique Dawes, Coach Mike Hubicki*

*Front Row: Joanne Laton, Rhianna Robins, Alex Carnegie, Kaitlin Gagnon, Brittany Gray, Rebecca Ramsay*

## Girls Helping Girls Award

Colio Estate Wines presented Loyalist with a cheque for \$7,150 for student financial assistance. The donation is the result of a successful and unique program which they established in discussion with Colleges Ontario President, Linda Franklin. The winery agreed to provide 25 cents for every bottle of “Girls’ Night Out” VQA wines sold at the LCBO between July 1 and December 31, 2008, and to donate these funds to support female students at four select community colleges across the province. The program is called “Girls Helping Girls.” Recipients of the funding will be second-year female students who have demonstrated proficiency and commitment to their programs. The donation will be matched through the Ontario Trust for Student Support to create an endowment fund of \$14,300 for the Colio Estate Bursary.



*Jim Clark, President of Colio Estate Wines, presented a cheque to (Left to Right) Margaret Werkhoven, Chair, Board of Governors; June Surgey, Chair, Loyalist College Foundation; and, College President Maureen Piercy.*

## Practical Nursing Program Receives Highest Rating by the CNO

The two-year Practical Nursing diploma program has received a full Category I, five-year approval from the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) Council. This is the highest attainable rating, reflecting the standards developed to prepare students graduating from Practical Nursing programs to meet the entry-to-practice competencies which address the health care needs of Ontario. The rating applies to the full-time program at the Belleville campus and the part-time program offered through the College's Bancroft campus.

“Graduates of the Loyalist Practical Nursing program have a history of successfully passing the national examination and scoring at or above provincial and national averages in all assessed areas,” said Karen Brooks Cathcart, Dean of Health and Human Studies. “To receive this approval from the CNO is additional affirmation that Loyalist is preparing students to graduate with the knowledge, skills and interpersonal capabilities necessary to enter the health care field as professional, competent practical nurses. The achievement of this approval is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the Loyalist faculty and staff who support Practical Nurse education.”



# CAMPUS NEWS

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## College's United Way Campaign

The Loyalist United Way Campaign for 2008-2009 surpassed its goal of \$12,000. Community Campaign co-chairs Betty and George Beer and Campaign Director Connie Reid visited the campus to celebrate the total campaign receipts of \$12,206, representing donations from individuals and groups within the College, and proceeds from special events.

## Karen Sharp-Perry gives advice on dealing with change

In April, Loyalist alumna Karen Sharp-Perry, Business 1983, spoke to Business students about dealing with change. Raised in Belleville, Karen has worked for Procter and Gamble for 19 years in a variety of roles. Currently based in Cincinnati, she is the Global Deployment Leader for Transportations Systems with the company. Karen's advice to students was to know what type of work they want, identify what they are good at, use their contacts, get the necessary education, and ask for help. Second-year Business student Marina Apperley said, "I really enjoyed the talk. It was very inspirational to hear from someone who has achieved such success."

*Photo by Ivanka Franjkovic*



# POSTCARDS

Over the 2008 - 2009 academic year many Loyalist students and faculty had opportunities to enhance their education through international travel. Whether they travelled as part of a group or individually, all found the experience to be rewarding and educational. Here are some highlights of Loyalist students and faculty experiencing the world.

## Loyalist students in Mexico

*Loyalist DSW Professor, Gary Warren, has led educational trips annually to Mexico for Loyalist students, faculty and alumni so they can experience the social and economic conditions in that country. This is his account of the most recent trip.*

For the last 15 years, students in the Developmental Services Worker (DSW), Social Services Worker (SSW), Justice Studies, Environmental Technician/Technology, and Media Studies programs have participated in an annual two-week intensive learning experience in Central and Southern Mexico.

Unlike any tourist trip you could ever imagine, students visit and talk with people who have direct experience in:

- The struggle to protect human rights
- Environmental and economic exploitation
- Urban and rural poverty
- Literacy and health promotion

The instructors in this program are historians, educators, labourers, political, religious, and grassroots leaders as well as those exiled from Central America who live in Mexico – those who live in adverse conditions and those with inspiring stories to tell. Students have direct encounters with these people in their homes and places of work.

On a typical 15-day trip, participants get one free day, the other 14 days are fully structured with:

- A short presentation to focus the day, for example on urban poverty
- A direct experience, such as visiting families who live in shacks in an urban squatter's settlement
- A chance to reflect and share perceptions and questions within a group
- Talking with an expert who comes to the group to answer questions.

Participants live in a Benedictine monastery, on the side of a mountain, near the large city of Cuernavaca. Travel within the region is as Mexicans travel – public transportation wherever possible. Safety is the most important issue, and the groups have found that as long as you stay away from tourist areas, take reasonable precautions, drink clean water and food, you can live in a Third World environment without fear.

Some students have gone several times, and every couple of years I have taken experienced students to Chiapas, in Southern Mexico. Poverty and harsh conditions are much worse here, and the focus of the trip is to learn about international development strategies. This trip is an opportunity to learn about the Mayan people and experience living in the Lacondon Rainforest.

Students have submitted some of their reflections to a blog at [www.ideals.nu](http://www.ideals.nu) so you can read what this unique learning experience is all about. Alumni are invited to participate in the learning experience as well. Contact me at [gwarren@loyalisc.on.ca](mailto:gwarren@loyalisc.on.ca) about next year's trip.



*Members of the 2009 group who climbed to the top of the Temple of the Sun in Teotihuacan (Left to Right): Michelle Newlands, Print Journalism; Caitlin Davis, DSW; Lynne Lafreniers, DSW; Mat Killby, Photo journalism; Melanie Twedde, DSW; Aisha Summers, DSW; Christina Peters, DSW; Caila Widdfield, DSW; Gary Warren, DSW Professor; Andy Sparling, Broadcast Journalism Professor.*

*Photo courtesy of Gary Warren*

## Culinary and Esthetician students in Paris

A combined group of Culinary and Esthetician students spent Reading Week in February experiencing the wonders of Paris. Led by Culinary Professor John Schneeberger and Esthetician Professor Bridget Ferguson, the group toured the famous sites of the City of Lights together – and then separately to experience venues of interest to each program.

The focus for the Culinary students was on food and culture. “We ate our way through Paris,” says Professor John Schneeberger. “We went to many food shops, cheese, wine, meat, specialty product businesses and spoke with the employees and the owners. We tasted everything.”

A 2004 graduate of the Hotel and Restaurant Management program, Jenna Cescolini, participated in the trip and states that it brought her back to the basics of cooking. “I love the fact that I went to Paris to appreciate the food in the most natural ways,” she says.

According to John, “The most successful part of the Paris Culinary trip was the fact that our students learned that there’s a great big world out there that they are totally ready for. It showed them that the education they received at Loyalist truly prepared them to work and excel anywhere in the world. They are excellent and I am so very proud of them. They realize that they are ready to take on the world – and the world is bigger and more amazing than they expected.”



Culinary students in front of the L'Arche de Triomphe in Paris are (Left to Right) Cale Bailey, Andrea Maybee, Alyx Prewer, John Labaron, Robyn Hoffman, Steven Pulver, Kate Duncan, Korin Howes, Jeremy Allan, Kristyn Dey, Elliot Heenan.  
Photo courtesy of John Schneeberger

Standing in front of the Las Vegas Convention Center are (Left to Right) Mike Putman, Alex Combe, Professor Dave Stewart, Scott Steffler, Alex Parker, Chris Wannamaker, Adam Matthyse, Valerie Puffer, JP Yararkavitch, Mitch VanderWay, Sarah Parsons, Chris Haley, Liam DeCouto, Chris McEvoy, Jessica Tandy, Matt Chafe, Amber Irwin, Professor Gerry Byrd, and Professor Brian Scharf.

## Automotive students at trade show in Las Vegas

A group of 16 Automotive students, accompanied by three faculty members and Dean Tom Malloy, attended the 2008 Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) trade show in Las Vegas. SEMA is the premier automotive group that provides networking and marketing support for the automotive after-market industry. While the students and faculty took in the displays and networked with industry representatives, Dean Malloy explored opportunities to acquire equipment for the Loyalist Automotive program so that students are able to continue learning using the latest technologies.



Photo courtesy of Brian Scharf



Carrie Bulgajewski, holding a baby sloth at the Paradise Gardens animal refuge in Boquete, Panama where she volunteered during her trip.

Photo courtesy of Carrie Bulgajewski

## Rainbows All Day Long in Panama

Second-year Business student, Carrie Bulgajewski, spent a month in Panama this spring, learning Spanish and experiencing the wonders of the Central American country. Carrie applied for and received an International Study Abroad Scholarship sponsored by the Ontario Government that was available through the Loyalist Awards office. Carrie decided to use the award to learn Spanish, something she says she's always wanted to do, but never had time for previously.

She chose to go to Panama and after a grueling 31 hours of travelling arrived at her destination – a tiny Spanish school in Boquete, where she would be based for most of her stay. Due to its altitude, the town is located in a cloud forest, which means that there is almost always cloud vapour in the air. As a result, it never gets too hot or too cold and, according to Carrie, the most beautiful thing about the area is that the vapour climate "gives way to rainbows all day long."

Carrie not only learned to speak Spanish, but also volunteered at a local animal refuge, toured a coffee growing and producing company, hiked the Continental Divide, and visited Bocas del Toro on the Caribbean side of the country.

Says Carrie of her trip, "It really was a life-altering experience – I think everyone should have a chance like this!"

## Outreach to Africa – Uganda

BY NICOLE STACEY

A volunteer with Outreach to Africa, post-graduate Public Relations student Bryna Jones spent three weeks this past winter helping to build a recreational facility for an orphanage in Uganda.

"There is nothing in Canada to compare with the poverty in Africa," says Bryna. She points out that the country's lack of infrastructure does nothing but contribute to its widespread disease, overpopulation and pollution.

"Even being a student, carrying a lot of debt, I am richer than almost everyone I have seen in Africa," she observes. "It only costs about \$200 to send a child to a decent boarding school here, and

way less for public school – but there are so many kids on the street. No one has the money to pay for education, and that's what it all comes down to – access to education. I know from now on I will focus on sponsoring children's education. It is the best gift you can give anyone, and it will truly change Africa forever."

Bryna first became involved with Outreach to Africa through her post-graduate Public Relations work placement, Streams of Hope. Streams of Hope is a non-profit organization based in Belleville that works to educate the community about the world's poor and oppressed.

## Do you know these people?

Here are two photos from the Loyalist archives. Can you identify any of the people in these photos? Send any information you may have to [alumni@loyalistc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@loyalistc.on.ca).

### We're bringing back the Alumni Grapevine.

If you have news to share or want to reach out to other alumni, send an e-mail to [alumni@loyalistc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@loyalistc.on.ca). We will publish your news in future issues.





## Keeping in touch: An interview with Brian Miller, Alumni Association President

BY MICHELLE POMEROY

*As the new president of the Loyalist College Alumni Association, Brian Miller is a big believer in keeping in touch.*

Looking back on his days at Loyalist when the entire student body consisted of only 300 people, Brian says it was relatively easy to get to know everyone. Today, he still touches base with many of his classmates and meets with them for lunch every few months just to keep up-to-date with everyone.

A native of Northbrook, Ontario, Brian graduated from Loyalist in 1972 with a diploma in Accounting. He then embarked on a career in finance and worked in various financial institutions prior to being employed by Revenue Canada where he worked for 30 years before retiring in 2007.

An active member of his local community, Brian has been involved with many organizations, from the Canadian Diabetes Association to the Hastings County Historical Society. He has also been an active member of the Loyalist College Alumni Association for ten years, serving first as an officer, then treasurer and vice-president before being elected president last fall.

"The job of alumni president is all about keeping alumni connected to each other and to the College," Brian points out.

With more than 27,000 Loyalist graduates, the Alumni Association this year wants to develop a strategic plan for reaching out to alumni that is in keeping with the College's strategic plan. Alumni are invited to make suggestions about what they would like to see from the Alumni Association.

"All ideas are welcome when it comes to improving and enhancing alumni services," says Brian, whose goal is to inform alumni about the many benefits of being a Loyalist graduate. At present, these benefits include employment support services, an alumni discount card program which offers discounts from diverse businesses and services on campus and in the area, premium rates on home and auto insurance from TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, and a Loyalist MBNA MasterCard.

Overall, Brian emphasizes the main focus of the Alumni Association is to help graduates connect to fellow alumni and to the College, and to inform alumni of the benefits available to them.

"Remember that your connection to Loyalist is a great resource you can turn to for career support, networking, volunteer opportunities, and furthering your education. We want you to take advantage of that life-long connection," Brian concludes. To find out how you can stay connected with Loyalist, check out the College website at [www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni](http://www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni).

*Photo: The Loyalist College Alumni Association elected a new executive at its Annual General Meeting held November 26, 2008. The 2009 executive includes (Left to Right): Peter Rooke, Officer; Rosemary Rooke, Vice-President; Mary Brodie, Past-President; Christopher Brown, Officer; Linda Serres, Officer; Brian Miller, President. Executive Committee members not in photo: David Bunnnett, Officer; Bonnie King, Officer.*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Loyalist College Alumni Association will hold its next Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the fall of 2009 at which time some changes to the Association's constitution will be addressed. Details about the AGM and the proposed changes to the constitution will be available on the Loyalist website at: [www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/overview](http://www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/overview). A copy of the constitution is available at [www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/alumni-executive](http://www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/alumni-executive). Any Loyalist graduate wishing to speak to the proposed changes should contact the Alumni Services office by e-mail at [alumni@loyalistic.on.ca](mailto:alumni@loyalistic.on.ca) or by phone at 1-800-99ALUMNI (local: 613-969-1913, ext. 2307).

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS

The Loyalist College Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Awards program. Nominations should be submitted by July 31, 2009 in writing to:

ALUMNI SERVICES  
LOYALIST COLLEGE  
P.O. Box 4200  
Wallbridge-Loyalist Road  
Belleville, ON  
K8N 5B9

Submissions can also be made online at [www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/outstanding-alumni/nominate-a-graduate](http://www.loyalistcollege.com/alumni/outstanding-alumni/nominate-a-graduate)



*From Left to Right: Gene Stodolak, C.E.T. OACETT Past-President; Trishia Smith, OACETT Manager, Business Development; Vern Haggerty; Minister John Milloy; Maureen Piercy, President, Loyalist College; Sharon Leonard, OACETT Director, Professional Affairs & Service. Photo courtesy of Trishia Smith, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT)*

## Vern Haggerty Recognized

Loyalist graduate, Vern Haggerty, received the Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Award from Skills Canada-Ontario, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting trades and technologies as viable career options for youth. Vern received the award at a ceremony held in Kitchener on March 3rd.

Since graduating from Loyalist in 1978 with a diploma from the Resource Technician – Environmental program, Vern has had a diversified career spanning more than 30 years with Defence Construction Canada (DCC) during which he has held increasingly senior positions. Presently, as the Manager of 8 Wing Trenton's Capital Construction Program, Vern is overseeing a six-year construction program at CFB Trenton, valued at \$600 million.

Defence Construction Canada has one client - the Department of National Defence. Vern has been involved with a number of innovative approaches which have benefitted the client and improved working practices and relationships with all stakeholders. He developed and trialed DCC's Quick Response Tender process, which reduces the time it takes from the initial call for tender to the actual starting of a project from a minimum of one month to two weeks. He developed and market tested DCC's first Facilities Management Contract and, in so doing, reduced the Crown's cost by 40 per cent per annum and increased the level of service.

He served for five years as the team leader for the Commissioning Resource Group and participated in the writing of commissioning specifications. DCC was one of the first to implement this approach and it is now the norm for all DCC projects. Vern is anticipating that the commissioning approach will now be incorporated into the curriculum for mechanical trades training programs.

Vern has been a champion of the partnering process whereby all stakeholders on a project meet to determine their combined mission for the project. On large construction projects with many different stakeholders including contractors, architects, the client, and DCC staff, this approach has helped to promote communication, reduce costs and facilitate a more effective working relationship among all partners.

Vern manages a business unit utilizing a matrix management style. This approach places equal value on all members of his team. He is proud of the fact that he has developed a working environment in the office where people enjoy coming to work. He has accomplished this by hiring people who are not only skilled but also have a positive attitude and by encouraging employees to help each other. One of the ways that Vern measures his success is by the contractor's timeliness of completion.

"I was humbled by both the nomination and the award," said Vern Haggerty. "I know that I would not have been hired at Defence Construction Canada if I had not had my college diploma. Having a diploma or skills certificate is even more relevant today than it was then. It's listed as a requirement in our job descriptions. When I was at the awards ceremony it was nice to see Skills Canada - Ontario promoting employment for youth. We practise the matrix management style here, actively engaging in succession planning and therefore ensure that our employees are a combination of experienced trades people and those new to the field. We need to give more employment opportunities to youth. I will always be thankful to the person who gave me that chance."



## Remembering Mary: a beloved Loyalist librarian leaves a lasting legacy to Loyalist College

BY ANITHA KUMARI

Mary McConnell, born Mary Sheridan, was a woman of courage, determination and generosity. Born in Oshawa in 1920, her thirst for knowledge led Mary to earn three university degrees, including a Bachelor of Library Sciences in 1964. At the age of 45, she married George Arthur McConnell, and moved to Belleville where she began her career as a librarian at Loyalist College (1967-1978).

During her years in Belleville, Mary was actively involved with the University Women's Club, the local Historical Society and the Glanmore National Historic Site. Known as one of the "archive angels," Mary belonged to a dedicated team of women who met once a week at the Hastings Archive Centre in Cannifton to help with the cataloguing, storage and preservation of historical artifacts and documents – some dating back to the mid-1800s – collected and donated to the County of Hastings.

Mary retired from Loyalist College in 1978, and passed away on March 20, 2007 at home at the age of 87 years. In her will Mary bequeathed \$50,000 toward a student endowment at Loyalist, in addition to a generous donation of \$30,000 to the College for the library. Mary also bequeathed gifts to several other local charities, including Glanmore House, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Three Oaks Foundation.

In recognition of these outstanding gifts to the College, the Loyalist Board of Governors recently honoured Mary McConnell's memory by approving the re-naming of a meeting room in The Parrott Centre, "The Mary McConnell Room".

Long-time friend and colleague, Janet Twiddy, remembers Mary as a "most gracious and generous individual. She was intelligent, eloquent, determined, and knew what she wanted and wasn't afraid to go after it. Mary established integrated audiovisual services in the library, built up the archives, and introduced countless innovations."

College President Maureen Piercy adds that, "Mary was a remarkable individual who contributed significantly to the development of our College. Her generous gift has been used to install a new security system in The Parrott Centre, and the endowment fund which has been established will provide countless students with financial assistance throughout the future."

*Photo courtesy of Loyalist College Archives*

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## Loyalist Annual Fund

Through the generosity of many alumni, the Loyalist Annual Appeal raised \$12,400 this past year to provide financial assistance to Loyalist students. This will be matched by the provincial government's Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program, resulting in \$24,800 that will be added to the Alumni Association Endowment to assist students in years to come.

Many Loyalist students rely on the financial awards that are available at the College to help them pay for their education. Ongoing support from alumni will allow us to continue to help students. Your annual support for the Loyalist Annual Fund will ensure that students today will become contributing members of society tomorrow. You can make a donation online at our secure website, [www.givetoloyalist.ca](http://www.givetoloyalist.ca). Donations of \$10 or more receive a charitable tax receipt. All gifts are gratefully received and help to make a difference to students. Invest in tomorrow, support a Loyalist student today.

# LOYALIST COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014

## Message from the Board Chair and College President

Loyalist's Strategic Plan 2009 - 2014 was approved by the College Board of Governors in January. We believe that this new plan clearly articulates the key strategic focus areas for the next several years to help keep Loyalist a leader among Ontario's public colleges. Achieving the goals outlined in our plan will guide our actions, growth, and innovation in ways which will support Loyalist's continuing leadership.

Thank you to each of the nearly 500 participants from inside and outside the Loyalist community who reflected on our College and how we can best ensure a successful future for our students, staff and communities.

Strategic Directions 2009-2014 will guide our activities and investments for years to come, and will have an impact on everyone at Loyalist.



Margaret Werkhoven  
Chair, Board of Governors



Maureen Piercy  
College President



FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE KEY ELEMENTS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN. TO SEE THE PLAN IN FULL, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT [www.loyalistic.on.ca/pdf/strategicplan.pdf](http://www.loyalistic.on.ca/pdf/strategicplan.pdf)

### Loyalist: Proud of our past, prepared for the future

Since it was founded in 1967, Loyalist has been an integral part of the communities it serves. A strong partner in the economic growth and vitality of the greater Quinte area, the College today includes more than 590,000 square feet of space at its Belleville and Bancroft campuses. Its annual budget of \$53 million supports programs and services for close to 3,000 full-time and 12,000 part-time students each year; working with hundreds of skilled full- and part-time staff.

Loyalist's impact on the region is profound. A recent study found that the economic impact of the College generates 6,000 jobs in the region, and more than 1,000 new graduates are added to the workforce each year. Many graduates choose to live and work in our region.

Looking back on our first 40 years, the themes of community, partnerships and quality have been consistent. Loyalist has deliberately chosen to be a community college, with our roots deep in our communities and region.



## MISSION

Loyalist College offers a comprehensive range of career-oriented education and training opportunities to support and enhance the economic and social development of individuals and our communities.

## VISION

Loyalist will be Ontario's premier community college for applied learning, innovation, and entrepreneurship, demonstrating excellence, sustainability and responsiveness.

## VALUES

The following values guide us daily to create a caring culture focused on the success of our learners, staff and community. To support, sustain and fulfill our mission, we act with:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Commitment to excellence
- Innovation
- Responsibility / Accountability
- Sustainable stewardship of economic, human and environmental resources
- Responsiveness and flexibility

## Strategic Enablers

During the strategic planning consultation process, a number of features and strengths were identified which make Loyalist distinctive. We have identified these as Strategic Enablers for our future work. They are:

- **Our outstanding staff:** Their skills, knowledge, creativity and commitment.
- Our deeply-felt **commitment to each student reaching his or her potential.** Every motivated and eligible student deserves access to success in post-secondary education.
- Our **comprehensive base of high-quality programs** serving our communities with a broad range of programming.
- Our **location and size:** We can offer the best of both worlds as a small college offering high-quality opportunities in a personalized, caring environment.
- Our **partners in our communities and beyond:** Our communities support and appreciate us as they recognize the value Loyalist and our students, staff and graduates contribute to community life and prosperity.

## Strategic Directions

To guide Loyalist through the next five years of our development, we have chosen three Strategic Directions. The following directions will frame our actions and directions as an organization, as well as individual program and department operational plans each year:

**Academic Excellence**

**Service and Systems Excellence**

**Sustainability and Capacity-Building**

# Second Career for Tammy Tenbult



**Tammy Tenbult, from Madoc, is working toward a Certificate in Human Resource Management, with financial assistance through **Second Career**.**

"I was employed in the call centre industry and for over four years I worked in the human resources area. I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work my way up through the company from a front-line agent to manager of recruiting. The call centre industry is a fast-paced environment and if you are motivated you can excel quickly. In February 2008, I fell victim to restructuring. I spent a number of months looking for employment and during my search I realized that if I wanted to remain in the human resources field I would need to attain the Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) designation. Employers want that piece of paper as The Human Resources Professionals Association (CHRPA) has mandated that a CHRP designation must be obtained by December 2010 — otherwise the prerequisite will be a university degree. Naturally this spurred me on."

Tammy takes her classes through E-Lab, a learning lab environment available through the School of Continuing Education at Loyalist — with all of the software and hardware necessary to complete a wide range of certificate programs. Here she can complete her online certificate program using the College computers, and without the distractions of home.

"E-Lab gives me the opportunity to learn at my own pace. Focus, organization and multi-tasking skills are key to this learning style. I have found E-Lab to be the perfect mix of in-class and home study time. I spend about 25 to 30 hours each week at the College. In comparison to a full-time correspondence schedule, I feel that it suits my needs better in that I have the support of the E-Lab staff on a daily basis — not to mention the camaraderie of my fellow course mates.

"I know that a CHRP designation is necessary to get a job in the human resources field, but I also believe that once I am working in the field that my advancement opportunities will be greater because my knowledge and skills will be stronger, and this will enhance my previous practical experience. E-Lab and **Second Career** are helping me obtain a goal that I might not have pursued without their assistance. The College E-Lab is amazing — everyone is so supportive and reassuring — and the end result will open so many doors for me."

**For more information regarding Second Career contact Sandy Novroski 613-969-1913 ext. 2373.**

**Second Career** is a new Ontario government program to help people who have been laid off from as far back as January 1, 2005, and are currently unemployed or in limited interim jobs, or are working less than 20 hours a week. The program helps unemployed workers who commit to a long-term training plan make the transition to new careers in growing areas of the economy. The program helps the applicant with the costs of tuition, books, living expenses and other costs associated with the training to build skills for a new career.

# Calling All Varsity Alumni

Varsity Alumni Volleyball & Basketball Day  
**Saturday, September 26, 2009**  
Loyalist College Gymnasium

**Women's volleyball game:** 12:00 noon  
**Men's volleyball game:** 1:00 pm  
**Women's basketball game:** 2:15 pm  
**Men's basketball game:** 3:15 pm

To register, please contact **Jim Buck**,  
Assistant Director of Athletics.  
Phone: 613-969-1913, ext. 2245  
Email: [jbuck@loyalistc.on.ca](mailto:jbuck@loyalistc.on.ca)

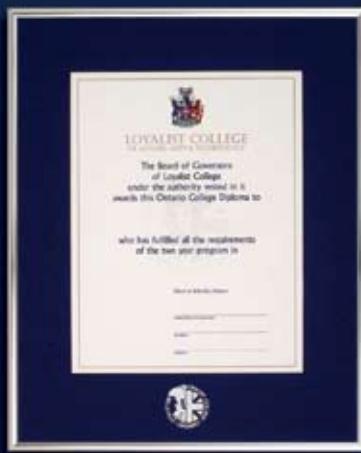


*Photo submitted by club*

**The Pioneers Club.** A small group of 1972 Loyalist graduates stay in touch by meeting regularly for lunch at different venues. The group met at The Oasis Bar and Grill in Cobourg in April (Left to Right): Marilyn Wright; Doug Bellwood; Dianne Johns; Tony Dekeyser; Amber Davis, Oasis Bar and Grill Manager; Brian Miller, Alumni Association President; Bonnie King; and Vicki Bateman, former Alumni Association President. Marilyn Wright was the switchboard operator and receptionist at Loyalist for many years. According to Vicki Bateman, "She knew every student and was a like a mother to us all."

**Today is a great day to be a member of  
the Loyalist College Alumni Association!**  
to apply visit [www.loyalistcollege.com](http://www.loyalistcollege.com)

Notice: In accordance with Section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act, RSO 1990, Regulation 770. The information is used for administrative and statistical purposes, for the notification and offering of benefits, programs and services for Alumni, and fundraising undertaken by Loyalist College or the Loyalist College Foundation. If for any reason you do not wish to be contacted by mail or phone, please contact the Alumni Office by e-mail at [alumni@loyalistc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@loyalistc.on.ca) or call 1-800-99ALUMNI.



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for members of the Loyalist College Alumni Association



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the Loyalist College Alumni Association



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Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

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ONNECTIONS**



**PARENTS:** If you are receiving mail from us for your son or daughter, please contact the Alumni Office to update their mailing address.

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