

# Confederation ALUMNI

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2015  
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## Confederation ALUMNI

Join us and stay connected to fellow Alumni, upcoming events, services, and much more!

Write something...

### Recent Activity

 **Laurie Kivi**  
May 1 11:06am


“Getting connected to the Confederation College Alumni is all about networking; whether you’re looking for a job or a friendship. I’m always checking Facebook to see what’s coming up.”  
Are you connected?  
*- Continued on page 2*



Like • Comment • Share

Seen by 203

 59 people like this.

 **Kerry Kotlarchuk** You Bet I'm Connected! 😊 😊  
Just now • Like



Show your college pride by purchasing some alumni swag today.

### EMPLOYER SATISFACTION

88%

Survey of employers who have hired 2013/14 graduates.

# I'm connected! Are You?

Continued from page 1

**As our Alumni services grow, there are more and more ways to get connected with your alma mater and fellow alumni, as well as more benefits to access. We found a few Alumni who have connected with us and are keeping their Confederation pride alive.**



Kerry Kotlarchuk wearing his 1985 Aviation Manufacturing Engineering Technology class jacket.

**Kerry Kotlarchuk** graduated from the Aviation Manufacturing Engineering Technology program in 1985. Since then he has worked in his field, earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of British Columbia, travelled to and lived in some exciting places in Europe and Asia, started a family and discovered a love of teaching. Now living in Toronto, Kerry teaches business to high school students, many of whom are international students, at Fieldstone King's College School.

Kerry has been an active alumnus, especially in the last year. He has stayed connected to his fellow classmates through an annual memorial BBQ to remember a classmate lost too soon, and has given back to Confederation through donations of support for student bursaries and awards. He subscribes to our newsletter, is a member of both our Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn groups, and in the fall of 2014, joined in for the first Alumni event hosted in Toronto. Kerry also volunteered to participate in the Ontario College Information Fair in Toronto to share his College experience with potential students.

"My college experience holds a very strong place in my heart," said Kerry. "It felt like family and it still does. If you're not involved, get involved. It will rekindle all of the wonderful moments and memories from this very important part of your life. If you are involved, get others involved so you can watch them smile from reliving their college days."

**Mary McGarry** couldn't agree more. A graduate of the class of 1976 in the Registered Nursing program, Mary has attended and

helped to organize several class reunions. Now based in London, Ontario, she is gearing up for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her class (May of 2016) and has been working diligently to reconnect with each and every classmate. She's found Alumni across Canada and the United States, and one member as far away as Norway.

"We were a tight group with a lot of really close friendships and great laughs," she said. "We have a lot of fun sharing all of the stories we remember and enjoy the camaraderie. Getting reconnected is a really nice way to remember the old days and share our individual journeys with each other. We speak the same language and have similar life experiences; it's nice to know a few more people who are going through the same things like grandchildren and retirement."

Mary has had a rewarding and successful career as a nurse, finding a passion for work in mental health, and is looking forward to retiring in September. In addition to her reunion efforts, she is connected to Confederation Alumni through our newsletter and Facebook and LinkedIn groups.

Hopefully these stories have inspired you to get connected or to get even more involved if you already have. There are a variety of ways to participate from simply joining our group on Facebook or LinkedIn to attending and volunteering at Alumni events.

**96%** OF CONFEDERATION ALUMNI TRUST THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION THEY RECEIVED

Ipsos Reid Public Perception Survey 2013.

# Where Are They Now?

“Where Are They Now” is a regular feature of our alumni newsletter that highlights the success of our Alumni members. If you would like to recommend an alumnus for this feature please contact us at [alumni@confederationnc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@confederationnc.on.ca)

## Alumnus Trent Opaloch



Film Production 1996

### Awards & Certificates

2014 President’s Award Winner

2014 Premier’s Award Nominee

2010 Premier’s Award Nominee

When cinematographer Trent Opaloch shoots Hollywood blockbusters like District 9, Elysium, and most recently, Captain America: The Winter Soldier, it’s almost always in digital these days. But film is most definitely his roots. He started as an assistant to his step-father, renowned nature cinematographer Doug Steele. After graduation, he made the astute move to Vancouver, first working at Shoreline Studios shooting actor auditions and then Clairmont Camera, an equipment rental agency. This allowed him access to professional-grade equipment to build his own reel on weekends. Trent started shooting music videos, then shorts and commercials. He first worked with director Neill Blomkamp on a music video before teaming up on Tempbot. But it was the award-winning District 9 that was their breakout film. Here, Trent solidified his trademark gritty style, anchoring sci-fi/fantasy themes with hyper-realistic cinematography that helps make the story seem so real.

When Trent started looking at film schools, he considered all the usual suspects: NYU, UCLA, and USC. But the tuitions were so astronomical that Confederation College, the “school in my backyard” as Trent called it, became the natural choice. In retrospect, it was the best choice he could have made, he said. “My two years there, those were the basic building blocks of my craft. It gave me the confidence to do my own projects.”

Trent is a big believer in giving back to his industry. He had the opportunity to pick the brains of some well-regarded directors including Neill Blomkamp, Peter Jackson, and Chris Carter (creator of The X-Files) and appreciated the help they gave him along the way. Today, he pays it forward by speaking at events when asked and by entertaining questions from up-and-coming directors of photography from all over the world, usually connecting through social media like Facebook.

## A Tasty Way to Support Students!

**You have the opportunity to help support awards at Confederation College simply by visiting Boston Pizza, Arthur Street location in Thunder Bay, Ontario for lunch (11am to 3pm) anytime between April 1st and June 30th. Simply write “Confederation College” on your receipt and hand it in to the server.**

At the end of the Earnback period Boston Pizza will issue the College a rebate cheque for 10% of all receipts/spending. The rebate excludes alcohol, taxes and gratuities. Funds raised through Boston Pizza’s Earnback Program will be designated to student awards.



Anyone can participate in the program, so please share this information and encourage your family and friends to support students at Confederation College while dining out.

## Upcoming Events



### Thunder Bay Convocation

Friday, June 5, 2015

Visit: [www.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/convocation](http://www.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/convocation)

### Regional Convocations

June 1 - 24, 2015

Visit: [www.confederationc.on.ca/convocation/dates](http://www.confederationc.on.ca/convocation/dates)

## Welcome to our New Alumni!

In June we will be celebrating convocation for the 2015 graduating class and the alumni couldn't be more excited to celebrate this great accomplishment.

**Are you a graduate?** Show your college pride by purchasing some alumni swag at [www.confederationc.on.ca/wearables](http://www.confederationc.on.ca/wearables). Additional products will also be for sale at convocation.

**Already an Alumni?** Volunteers are needed to assist with the convocation celebration taking place on Friday, June 5th. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us at [alumni@confederationc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@confederationc.on.ca).

## Masthead featured photo - left to right:

**Piotr Skowronski** - Film, 2005 - Director of Photography/Editing Supervisor | **Jessica Graham** - Film, 2009 & Animation Production, 2010 - Camera Assistant/ Camera Operator/Editor | **Adrian Lysenko** - Film, 2005 - Writer/ Editor of Walleye Magazine | **George Renner** - Film, 2007 - Visual Effects – Founder of RennerVFX | **Milosz Skowronski** – Producer/Operations Manager



To become a sponsor or to register to play, contact us at (807) 475-6460 or [alumni@confederationc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@confederationc.on.ca)

## Alumni Benefits

As a member of Confederation's Alumni, you are eligible for a number of benefits and services.

- Alumni Wearables  
Go to [www.confederationc.on.ca/wearables](http://www.confederationc.on.ca/wearables)
- Preferred CAA membership rates
- Manulife Financial - life, health and dental insurance
- TD Insurance Meloche Monnex - group rates on home & auto insurance
- Career & Employment Services
- Fitness Centre | Paterson Library
- Special Events

Visit: [www.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/benefits](http://www.confederationc.on.ca/alumni/benefits)

Are you an Alumni with a benefit or service to offer members? Please email your suggestions to: [alumni@confederationc.on.ca](mailto:alumni@confederationc.on.ca)

