

Career Symposium

The Woodlands School
& School Council

Thursday, May 12, 2016

7:00 – 8:30pm



The Woodlands School is hosting an informative evening for students and parents to learn about a wide variety of career paths and professions. Learn about education pathways, job descriptions, salary potential, entry level opportunities, and more.



Kenzie Tsang 2016

With over 20 presenters to choose from, participants will select to hear from 2 professionals of their choice.

Each professional will present during Session A and Session B.

Sign-up is available for students in the school's front foyer. Space is limited.

Parents and community members can sign up in advance by contacting the school at 905-279-0575 x405.

AGENDA

6:30 – 7:00 pm

7:00 – 7:25 pm

7:30 – 8:00 pm

8:00 – 8:30 pm

Sign In & Session Selection

Keynote Presentation – Jacqueline Dinsmore

Session A (*your selection*)

Session B (*your selection*)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jacqueline Dinsmore



Jacqueline Dinsmore was a corporate/ securities lawyer at Blakes in Toronto, and subsequently worked as Assistant General Counsel at The Toronto Star. Originally intended as a side project to satisfy her non-legal creative side, Jacqueline launched Luvali Convertibles/ FlapJackKids, a company that focuses on all reversible and convertible products for women and children. She has been named Top Mompreneur by

Mompreneur Magazine and appeared in Forbes Magazine alongside Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama. Her company has been featured numerous times in top press and media including The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, Ok Weekly, Us Weekly, Woman's World, USA Today, The Huffington Post and Woman's Day. Jacqueline's products have been featured in swag bags for Emmy and Oscar pre-parties, and can be found in over 2000 stores in North America, and over 15 countries worldwide. Dipping back into her legal roots, Jacqueline is also a founder and owner of Caravel Law (previously Cognition LLP). Caravel Law is a revolutionary law firm that has set out to change the legal profession and legal services industry for good, by making Bay Street trained lawyers financially accessible to entrepreneurs, with its tag line "Happy Lawyers, Happy Clients".

Cassandra Alves

Designer & Co-owner | KARCASS

Cassandra Alves is an aspiring designer and co-owner of KARCASS, a Toronto based company that focuses on the re-purposing of old and found objects through furniture based initiatives, creating pieces that are custom and handmade and as natural and environmentally conscious as possible. Cassandra is a post-graduate from Lund University and studied environmental design at The Ontario College of Art and Design and began exploring furniture after a course taken at OCADU. Her interests are rooted in projects related to positive community design and development, street/ community art and various sustainable-based initiatives.

Aris Dalakis

Construction Project Manager | Nexrock Design Build Inc.

Aris Dalakis graduated from Ryerson Polytechnic University, Bachelor of Technology, Architectural Science (Project Management) in 1997. Throughout his 19 years in the construction industry he has attained three additional certifications: Certified Construction Contracts Administrator, Construction Estimator and Gold Seal Certification. Aris has been exposed to all facets of the constructions industry including: land purchase, feasibility studies, conceptual plans, preliminary budgets, governmental producers (Site Plan Approval, Zoning, Building Permits etc), design coordination, design review, tendering process, bid analysis, final estimates, contract negotiations, on site construction, subtrade coordination, shop drawing reviews, project commissioning, project closeout and handover. In a typical day, he deals with a number of different people ranging from Land Owners, Real Estate Agents, Governmental Bodies, Architects, Engineers, and Construction contractors. The discussions with these people range from design issues, construction issues, scheduling, estimating, negotiations and accounting.

Raffi DerGhazarian

Post Production Manager | VICE Studios Canada

Raffi DerGhazarian is a Post Production Manager with VICE Studios Canada for the past 7 years. VICE is a global youth media company and the industry leader in producing and distributing the best online video content in the world. Launched in 1994 as a punk magazine, VICE now operates out of 36 offices globally, and has expanded into a multimedia network, including the world's premier source for original online video, VICE.COM; an international network of digital channels; a television & feature film production studio; a magazine; a record label; and a book-publishing division. Raffi has had 3 different levels of education, but the most helpful was a 2 year college diploma from Seneca College in Broadcast Television. His areas of specialization are in broadcast television, post production and distribution.

Sev Derghazarian

Information Management Lead | Ontario Telemedicine Network

Sev Derghazarian is a seasoned expert in the Information Technology (IT) space with a demonstrated series of progressive achievements over 15 years in both business and technology. Sev began as a student providing technical support to an office of 350 employees. A junior employee with little help, his first lesson was that everybody with a problem believes their problem should be your first priority. He currently holds the title of Knowledge Management Lead at the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN). His focus is on identifying, defining, planning and leading the implementation of solutions to increase efficiency and collaboration for staff. The bulk of his professional experience has been within Technical Operations which includes building, deploying and maintaining enterprise solutions (e.g. Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SharePoint, Symantec Anti-Virus, VMWare ESXi, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop) as well as 3rd tier support and administration of customer facing products (e.g. Teledermatology). His education includes a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from York University with continuing education in business Analysis and Project Management. He has expert certifications from Microsoft, VMWare and Citrix.

Karan Desai

Senior Product Analyst | Personal Banking | TD Bank

Karan Desai's team at TD Bank creates new products or improve existing ones, simplifies processes, and attracts new customers. A recent example was the Samsung Galaxy Tablet campaign that has been running for the last 3 summers – to attract new customers to the Bank. Customers who opened a new TD Chequing account, and used it to pay bills or receive their pay received the latest tablet! Karan has been with the Bank for 4 years – 2 years in Finance, and 2 in Product Management. He reached this career path after doing his BBA at the Schulich School of Business (YorkU) and then completing his CPA, CMA while working. He considers himself a generalist, but his strengths are Accounting, Finance, Analytics and Marketing.

Dr. Saurabh Gupta

Cardiac Surgery Resident | Hamilton Health Sciences

Dr. Saurabh Gupta is a graduate of the Enhanced Learning Program at The Woodlands School. Dr. Gupta attended University of Western Ontario in London for undergrad, focusing on Medical Sciences and Cellular Biology. During his medical school at University of Western Ontario's Windsor campus, he fell in love with the operating room and critical care. He found himself a perfect fit in the program at McMaster University and was fortunate to be one of nine medical students accepted into a Canadian Cardiac Surgery program last year. Apart from operating on hearts, he teaches medical students on a regular basis. Further, he is actively involved in research. His projects vary from meta-analyses of minimal-access procedures, aortic surgery to a Masters project looking at surgical stem cell therapy for heart failure. When not working, Saurabh is an avid motorcyclist, and also travels to find adventures around the world. Fun fact: his one claim to fame at work is having operated while wearing a three piece suit; feel free to ask him about this!

Jag Maghera

Pharmacist & Owner | Shoppers Drug Mart

Jag Maghera is a practicing community pharmacist and owner of Shoppers Drug Mart on Dundas Street at Clayhill Road in Mississauga. Jag completed his bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 2003 from the University of Toronto. After graduating he started working as a pharmacist at Trillium hospital. He changed over to Shoppers Drug Mart in 2004 to become an owner. He specialized as a Diabetes educator, drug addiction management, compounding medications and is currently an active teaching assistant at the University of Toronto. He has been involved in various practice committees and regularly gets involved in local fund raising activities.

Marius Masalar

Creative Director | Sore Thumb

Marius Masalar, a freelancer since high school, is a creative director, tech journalist, and photographer at Sore Thumb, a Toronto-based creative agency he co-founded with two of his best friends. They develop

thoughtful, modern marketing solutions for digital platforms. They work with global brands, small businesses and independent entrepreneurs to help them navigate the digital world. Think Mad Men meets Instagram.

Lori Meneshian
Pharmacy Technician | BioPharma Inc.

Lori Meneshian is a Pharmacy Technician with BioPharma Inc. Lori has spent most of her 15 years of experience working in a hospital setting and recently made a career change to a clinical research organization. In the hospital setting, her duties included preparation, verification and delivery of medication within the hospital. She has also worked in the pharmacy research department and has specialized in the preparation of IV medications. Currently, she is employed at BioPharma Inc where she receives, prepares and retains study drugs according to study protocols and government regulations. She has been a member of a hospital policies and therapeutics committee. She has both a certificate for General Arts and Science and a diploma as a Pharmacy Technician through Centennial College and is registered with the Ontario College of Pharmacists to practice as a pharmacy technician (RPhT) in Ontario.

Dinaz Mirza-Tomkiewicz
Social Worker | Peel District School Board

Dinaz Mirza-Tomkiewicz is a registered social worker in her 28th year with the Peel District School Board. Dinaz obtained her Bachelor of Arts – majoring in sociology – from McGill University and her Master of Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University. She has worked as part of a multi-disciplinary team at a mental health and addictions facility, at a family counselling agency, at the Children’s Aid Society, and with the Peel District School Board. As a social worker, she works with students, parent(s)/guardian(s), school staff, school board personnel, and collaborates with community agencies to address the mental health needs of students from JK through grade 12. In addition, she is a clinical coordinator of the Critical Incident Response Team, a certified trainer for the Living Works Program for ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), a member of the professional development committee for the department of social work, and has been a supervisor for social work students earning their internships at the Peel District School Board.

Anna Murray
Senior Program Manager; Engineer | Hydrogenics

Anna Murray graduated from Queen’s University with a B.A.Sc in Electrical Engineering and is a registered professional engineer. Anna is the Senior Program Manager/Engineer at Hydrogenics with over 15 years of managing complex, multi-million dollar engineering projects and multi-disciplinary teams of people. She is responsible for managing several programs spanning the entire international organization. Based out of the head office in Mississauga, she has managed fuel cell, electrolyser and hydrogen energy system developments with teams of Mechanical, Process, Chemical and Electrical engineers. She is on the steering committee for business process re-engineering at Hydrogenics and works closely with the Executive, Sales, Finance, Engineering, Production, Quality, Logistics and Service departments.

Marjorie Nadeau
Managing Director | National Bank Financial

Marjorie Nadeau has 15 years of experience working in capital markets in Canada and the United States. Marjorie’s current role is to structure risk management strategies for corporations. She assists clients in developing appropriate interest rate, foreign currency, commodity as well as equity risk management programs. Prior to joining National Bank, she worked at TD Securities in their derivatives origination group as well as Goldman Sachs in their investment banking division, NYC office. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in finance and minor in accounting from McGill University where she graduated with distinction.

Juwairia Obaid
Project Engineer | Ontario Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

Juwairia Obaid has over 6 years of experience in the field of engineering, with a focus on air dispersion, wastewater, stormwater management, and

the environment. Juwairia graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelors of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering and a Minor in Environmental Engineering. She also holds a Certificate in Preventative Engineering and Social Development from the University of Toronto. She is a Project Engineer (Developmental) at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. In this role, she is responsible for the technical and engineering review of various proposed engineering projects and activities to ensure that they meet applicable engineering design criteria and applicable regulatory requirements. In other words, her role is to ensure that residential, commercial and industrial development projects within Ontario do not have a significant adverse impact to the public and the environment. She has also previously worked in engineering consulting at Coffey Geotechnics, where she worked on Environmental Site Assessments, remediation for contaminated sites, asbestos control strategies during construction projects, corrosion assessments, air dispersion modelling and designing stormwater management and treatment works. She is a graduate of The Woodlands School, which played a critical role in encouraging her towards engineering by providing her hands-on experience through a variety of courses and through the Robotics Club. Juwairia has been an elected Executive on the Board of the Mississauga Chapter of Professional Engineers Ontario for the past three years, where she has served as Chair of the Licence Presentation and Scholarship Committees, and Vice-Chair of the Education Committee.

Dr. Lisjen Puka
Optometrist | Trillium Eye Care

Dr. Lisjen Puka is an Associate Optometrist at Trillium Eye Care in Mississauga. Dr. Puka completed his Bachelor’s degree in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Toronto and went on to obtain his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. While in Chicago Dr. Puka saw a wide variety of patients in primary care at the Illinois Eye Institute and gained experience in pediatric primary care by examining elementary school children in the Chicago Public Schools system. Dr. Puka worked with a multitude of pre and post-operative surgery patients at The Eye Foundation of Utah in Salt Lake City, and received extensive training in ocular disease at the Huntington VA in West Virginia. He completed his internship in contact lens and vision rehabilitation at the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans.

Anu Raina
Designer; Artist in Residence | Harbourfront Centre

Anu Raina has made quite a splash in Toronto’s Art and Fashion circles. Raina graduated with high honours, a top medal and several awards from the Textile program at Sheridan College, Oakville in 2010. In the same year she was selected as an Artist-in-residence at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto and saw her artwork exhibited at the Toronto Pearson International Airport. The award winning textile designer debuted her ready to wear clothing and accessories collection at the Toronto Fashion Week in October of 2010. Raina has designed exclusive prints as part of her collaborations with several prestigious organizations such as eBay Canada, Law Society of Upper Canada, Keilhauer and Art Gallery of Ontario. She was also nominated by Ontario colleges for the 2012 Ontario Premier’s Award for outstanding achievement by recent graduates. Raina has been featured in The Globe and Mail, National Post, CBC Radio, CTV, Omni and several mainstream fashion publications.

Dr. Sheela Rupal
Dentist & Owner | Erindale Village Dental

Dr. Sheela Rupal has been the proud owner of Erindale Village Dental, a general dentistry practice, located around the corner from The Woodlands School on Erindale Station Road, since 2010. Earlier in her career, Dr. Rupal worked as an associate dentist at several practices, both large and small. She was born and raised in the Erindale Woodlands community, attending both Queenston Drive Public School and The Woodlands School. She later attended the University of Toronto Mississauga campus, working towards a health sciences degree, and studied dentistry at the University of Toronto, graduating in 2000.

Jeremy Shtern

Associate Professor: School of Creative Industries | Faculty of Communication and Design | Ryerson University

Jeremy Shtern is associate professor and a founding faculty member in the School of Creative Industries at Ryerson University. Dr. Shtern's research and teaching focuses on transformations in the structure and governance of communication industries and creative work as they reorganize around globalization and digital technologies. Among other contributions, he is co-author of two books. He earned his BA in Film Studies from Queen's, an MSC in New Media, Information and Society from the London School of Economics and Political Science and his PhD in communication from Université de Montréal. He founded and directs the Global Communication Governance Research Lab at Ryerson and is also the founding editor of Canadian Journal of Communication's Policy Portals. He teaches undergraduate courses in the Ryerson School of Creative Industries and regularly teaches and supervises in the York/Ryerson Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture.

Micheal Simaan

Litigation Counsel & Managing Partner | Kramer Simaan Dhillon LLP

Micheal Simaan obtained a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and political science from York University in 1994, and his LLB from Osgoode Law School in 1997. Michael was called to the Ontario Bar in 1999 and articulated and became a partner with a mid-size Toronto law firm where he worked for 15 years before starting the firm Kramer Simaan Dhillon LLP as its managing partner. As commercial litigation lawyer he handles all aspects of estate and will disputes as well as all types of contractual disputes including shareholders', directors' and partnership actions; securities litigation; debtor and creditor rights; bank litigation, business, property and share valuation proceedings, labour and employment law, estates litigation, Anton Piller injunctions, contempt motions, and internet defamation actions. He has appeared before all levels of court in Ontario but is particularly known as a trial lawyer given the numerous cases that he taken to trial. He is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Advocates' Society and the Canadian Bar Association.

Duane Sorrey

Senior Technical Specialist | RBC

Duane Sorrey is a Senior Technical Specialist at the Royal Bank of Canada, working in their Global Wealth Management Applications division. Duane does development in applications which support the Investment Advisor community at RBC. He have a BSc(CS) and MSc(CS), both from the University of New Brunswick, and has been working in the computer industry for over 25 years. He specializes in financial/wealth systems, large database systems, and back-office batch processing.

Jeannie Stiglic

Journalist & Producer | CBC

Jeannie Stiglic is a journalist with more than 20 years experience. Jeannie has worked for The Montreal Gazette as a reporter, CBC Radio as a reporter, director and producer, a story editor of UpFront Entertainment, and CBC TV as a producer at award-winning programs Venture, the fifth estate, CBC Sunday, CBC News: Investigative Unit and currently Marketplace, the consumer investigative program which broadcasts on television, with radio and online components. If you're interested in learning how journalism works in the age of transformation or discovering what other jobs are open to you, you'll want to take in this session. Plus, you may get some tips on hidden cameras!

Elaine Tang

Medical Resident | London Health Sciences Centre

Elaine Tang is a Resident Medical Physician at London Health Sciences Centre in London, Ontario. Elaine graduated from The Woodlands School in 2006 and went on to complete her undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto. She worked a variety of miscellaneous jobs throughout undergrad, but medicine was the career she desired. She further pursued her medical training at Western University and currently works as a General Surgery resident.

Joanne Tawton

Police Constable | Toronto Police Service

Joanne Tawton is a Police Constable with the Toronto Police Service, presently assigned to the Duty Operations Centre, situated at Police Headquarters in Toronto. Joanne has had a diverse career in law enforcement, spending the last 35 years in Policing. She graduated from Georgian College (Barrie Campus) with a Diploma in Law & Security and went on to acquire her 2nd diploma in the Advanced Police Science program at Humber College and has a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree in Justice Studies from the University of Guelph-Humber. Early in her career, she was a Customs Officer with CBSA at the Windsor port of entry and a Correctional Officer at a medium security facility for women prisoners. In 1981, she was hired with the Toronto Police Service, where she still works today. She has expanded her knowledge and expertise in such areas as Criminal Investigations, Frauds, Warrants, Youth Bureau and Prisoner movement. She was a founding member of the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) and a past executive & lifetime member of the International Association of Women Police. Joanne has received the Georgian College Alumni Award for a very admirable career in policing.

Amanda van Wyk

Forensic Biology Technologist | The Centre of Forensic Sciences

Amanda van Wyk has been a forensic biology technologist since 2006 where she examines forensic evidence for body fluids and other sources of DNA to be used in the pursuit of justice. Amanda holds an honours bachelor of science degree from The University of Toronto with majors in forensic science, biology and a minor in psychology, as well as a postgraduate advance diploma in Genetics Technology from the Michener Institute of Applied Health Sciences. During her studies (and even while in high school), she perused opportunities to gain laboratory work experience by applying for grants, projects, internships and research assistant positions and upon graduation from her postgraduate program had gained experience in 8 different laboratories in varying capacities.

Naomi Yano

Registered Psychotherapist | Private Practice

Naomi Yano is a Registered Psychotherapist and Emotionally Focused Couples Therapist in private practice in Mississauga. She has been practicing as a psychotherapist for 7 years. Naomi obtained her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Toronto, and her Master of Science in Couple and Family Therapy from Fuller School of Psychology in Pasadena, California. She focuses her work on individual adults and couples. Her special interests include the use of cognitive behavioural therapy and mindfulness based approaches in treating depression, anxiety, grief and loss, relationship breakups and coping with challenging emotions. She also specializes in couple relationship problems, including difficulties in communication and recovering from infidelity. Naomi is interested in the integration of mindfulness, attachment theory, neuroscience and emotions.

