

NAIT NUGGET

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New “technology fee” coming to NAIT

By Caleb Perreux

NAIT has announced that in the 2023/24 academic year, students will be required to pay a new mandatory non-instructional fee (MNIF) for student technology. The fee, planned at \$30 per semester for fall and winter terms, \$15 for spring and summer terms and \$2 per week for apprentices, will go towards crucial technology upgrades on campus. The fee comes along with an average 5.5 per cent increase in domestic tuition for the 2023/24 year.

MNIFs are fees that help offset the costs of goods and services students expect, such as the fitness centre, the one AT NAIT and the U-Pass. “MNIFs are a key revenue source that we reinvest into student services, supports and technology that enhance the NAIT student experience and support student learning but are not covered by tuition,” said Peter LeClaire, NAIT VP Academic, in an email announcement. An emailed statement to the Nugget from NAIT adds: “The new mandatory non-instructional fee (MNIF) will help enhance several technical services that are outside of the classroom and lab spaces such as improving Wi-Fi in non-classroom settings and makerspaces and increasing the amount of loanable technology available to students.”

What it covers

Renata Medeiros, NAITSA Vice President Academic, said the new student technology fee will help NAIT cover the costs of implementing and upgrading some technological infrastructure for students in and out of the classroom. Some changes include better Wi-Fi, which Medeiros says students have complained about. “There are some blind spots around campus ... we want students to be able to use it wherever they are,” said Medeiros.

The fee will also go towards purchasing new loanable computers which are near the end of their life cycles. “We want to make sure that students have good and reliable computers that they can take out,” explained Medeiros. Also to be upgraded is the ITS Student Help Desk. “We want to make sure that service is better and better each time. And if students have an IT issue, if they’re not able to log into their Moodle or any other thing, that the help desk group can help them,” she said.

NAIT and NAITSA Collaboration

According to the Post-Secondary Learning Act, NAITSA must approve all new MNIFs at NAIT. A spokesperson confirmed in an email that NAITSA approved the new MNIFs on March 6th after months of conversation, and their feedback was incorporated into the fee recommendation on March 7th. Medeiros says NAITSA and NAIT have been talking about introducing MNIFs since last November. She adds that they wanted to make sure that there was a compromise between cost and functionality. “[The fees] will be for the best interest of the students and it will be at a reasonable price. Because we know that tuition is higher and it’s just getting higher and higher. So, we don’t want to make this a barrier for our students.”

The VP Academic, however, is aware of the growing technological needs of students since coming back in person. “They sometimes don’t even have Wi-Fi at home, and they need somewhere to go and do their assignments or even watch the online classes, so they come here to campus. We have been hearing from [students] that the Wi-Fi is not good and sometimes when they are in class doing assignments or doing their class, the Wi-Fi just crashes.”

Medeiros continues by adding that they wanted to see the numbers before agreeing to the MNIF. “We asked NAIT for every single detail on every data that they had so that we can make a very informed decision.” One of the agreements between NAIT and NAITSA to implement the new technology fee was the creation of a four-person committee. NAIT’s only legal obligation after an MNIF has been approved is to consult,



Photo via NAIT Content Collective

which NAITSA was not comfortable with. “Their only legal requirement is to consult with us. We were not comfortable with that, approving this MNIF and only being consulted on where the money is going. We wanted to be able to have a say and make sure that the money goes where the students need it to go,” said Medeiros.

“With [the committee], we’ll be able to manage the money that will go into this MNIF, so it will be two people from NAIT as well as two NAITSA executives. And then we have to make sure that the money is going to where the students need [it] to go.”

Both NAIT and NAITSA agree the upgrades are necessary. “It was a very hard decision for us to make to approve this MNIF and we understand that with inflation and the high costs of just living, it’s getting worse, and tuition as well,” said Medeiros. “But NAIT is also getting their budget cut a lot from the government, and the projects that will come out of this MNIF, they are not going to be 100% funded by the students,” said Medeiros.

According to NAIT and NAITSA’s agreement, the MNIF will only cover a portion of the fees. For example, the MNIF will cover 5.6 per cent of the upgrades to the Student Help Desk, and 8.4 per cent of the Wi-Fi upgrade. The rest of the cost will be paid by NAIT.

What it will cost

The technology fee will amount to \$30 for fall and winter terms, \$15 for spring and summer students and two dollars a week for apprenticeship students.

NAIT is also increasing the amount for the existing athletics and recreation fee and the one at NAIT and U-pass support fee. Full-time fall and winter students will now pay \$166.60 in MNIFs, including \$130.27 in recreation and athletic fees, \$6.33 in OneCard support and \$30 for the new student technology fee. Spring and summer term fees will cost \$18.17 (\$15.00 for technology support fee and \$3.17 for one at NAIT and U-Pass support fee), and apprentices will pay \$11.22 per week (\$8.69 for athletics and recreation fee, \$2.00 for student technology fee and \$0.53 for one AT NAIT and U-Pass support fee.) The recreation and athletic fees cover fitness equipment loans, esports and active study spaces.

Feedback and Concerns

Renata Medeiros says she wants to hear from students, as it’s the main reason why the committee was formed. “So that the students have a voice on what their money is doing here in this institution.” NAIT also encouraged students to reach out to Student Services if these new fees may cause financial hardships. “Access and affordability are important to you, just as they are important to us. We will continue to provide resources for you to access financial aid and flexible payment options,” said LeClaire.



NAIT NUGGET

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NOTICE: In the March issue, the Nugget used a photo alongside the article "NAIT students told to 'bring your own device' in Fall 2023." The photo used was not from the DMIT program. We apologize for any confusion this error caused.

The Nugget is an independent media source. The opinions within do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Nugget or NAITSA.

EDITORIAL

Lessons from a returning alumnus



Photo via NAIT Content Collective

By G. Mara Killian

I started my first program at NAIT in the fall of 2016. I was in DMIT's Digital Cinema stream. Due to my disability, I was on a reduced course load, which meant I took half the courses of the other students. Then in 2019, we started to hear the stirrings of a new, highly virulent version of the flu originating in China. We'd all later come to know this as COVID-19. Like many of you, I was stuck in isolation for two years. And due to personal stress, my already reduced course load became even more reduced.

It took me five years to finish a two-year program.

Regardless of those struggles, I graduated in April 2022. I've since started my new program, Radio & Television, and I've been loving it.

Regardless of those struggles, I graduated. And returning to campus has been a great, if not expensive, experience. And as somebody with seven years of experience at NAIT, I'd like to give you a few tips.

Use the computer commons

NAIT has four computer commons dotted throughout campus. Now that some programs at NAIT are moving to a "Bring Your Own Device" model, you'll be glad to know that NAIT has these resources available. You'll also be glad to know that all these computers have the Adobe products installed, and you can use them for free with your NAIT credentials. These labs are found at the following locations:

- CAT215
- W203
- U310
- U210

In addition to using them for school work, they can also be used for personal projects. But please ensure that the students who need a computer can use one.

It's okay to file a formal complaint against an instructor

It's a trope in many college-based films that you'll get that

one bad instructor who's terrible to everybody. While that doesn't generally happen here, I've had some not so great personal experiences with some of my instructors (who will go unnamed). These experiences led me to file a formal complaint.

But, you should do an informal report first and see if anything changes. When an informal report is filed, the head of the program sits down with the instructor and talks to them about what happened. I've seen this work before, but it's not a guarantee. If it doesn't work, or if you feel unsafe, you can make a formal one as well.

Get some food on campus

NAIT houses two amazing restaurants, Ernest's and the Nest.

Ernest's is a four-star restaurant located across from the V-building. It's run by students enrolled in the Culinary Arts program. Everyone at the restaurant, from the host to the people cooking in the back, are NAIT students. While they welcome walk-ins, they suggest you make a reservation to ensure the best possible experience. These students are about to go out into the greater culinary world, so you can rest assured that you'll get high-quality food for a reasonable price.

The Nest is an award-winning campus bar in the S-Building. The food is cheap and good quality, with a number of great deals peppered throughout the week. While it can sometimes be slow, the customer service is top-notch. I always feel welcome when I go to the Nest.

Check Out Oaks Life

Last but not least, check out Oaks Life. I'm not just saying this because I'm a Club President either (the Gamers of Dungeons & Dragons, by the way). Oaks Life tells students all of the upcoming events on campus—and there's a lot. Whether it's a club meet-up or a NAITSA-run event, Oaks Life allows students to join the greater NAIT community. So get out there and attend an event.

NAIT's motion capture studio making waves

By Caleb Perreaux

Detroit: Become Human, The Last of Us and Mortal Kombat. The Hobbit series, Guardians of the Galaxy and Thanos in Avengers: Infinity War and Endgame. These are all examples of award-winning and record-breaking media that captured the emotions and facial expressions of their actors using motion capture technology. For many years, this technology was only available in studios and places that could afford it, like Los Angeles and later, Vancouver. Electronic Arts, one of the largest video game companies in the world, has a motion capture lab to match. Theirs has over 100 cameras and has been used to create over 200 video games.

But in Edmonton, the scene is starting to expand. Tucked away in NAIT's Productivity and Innovation Centre (PIC) is a 2,000 sq. ft. motion capture studio. Skylar Zerr, Studio Technologist and Animator, came from the aforementioned scene in Vancouver, with roughly a decade's worth of experience in the art of motion capture before packing his bags for Alberta's capital. "You can't buy houses [in Vancouver]," Zerr shared with a laugh. "[With a] growing family, I had to. It was time."

The Motion Capture studio was funded by The Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Government of Alberta's Research Capacity Program and NAIT in 2018 and came online in 2021. In February of 2023, the Nugget got to visit the studio and see how things worked.

Twenty-one infrared cameras are aimed within a large square. Props, like a wooden stick Zerr showed us, are covered in dot-shaped stickers. As Zerr explained, "We have infrared cameras that are shooting laser beams on the [dots] and they're reflecting back to the cameras, right? So once the [cameras] identify and agree to where a marker is, it can reconstruct that marker."

"What we're actually doing in here is mapping a human skeleton," said Zerr. "When you have that on an entire person, you can imagine you can reconstruct the person. And then you have a virtual digital representation of yourself, with your proportions and everything."

There's a very popular meme of Benedict Cumberbatch crawling across the floor while filming *The Hobbit* in what seems to be a skin-tight suit with dots everywhere. While the pre-production version is amusing, once the technology is applied, the result is realistic and creates the terrifying image of Smaug.

The stick Zerr held was just a stick, but with the science of Unreal Engine, the software used to create several AAA titles such as *Batman: Arkham City*, *Fortnite* and *Star Wars: Fallen Order*, the stick becomes something much more. The camera captures the positions of each of the dots, and Zerr and his team use Unreal Engine to map the distance between each. The software is then able to transform a simple stick into a flashlight by mapping the distance between each of the dots. When the actor holding the stick moves it around, so does the flashlight and the accompanying beam of light.

"This creates that direct relationship between the character and the person so that [the motion capture] doing the work for me in real time, so that's why especially game companies choose motion capture," Zerr said.

The studio can also track the movement of a body. Actors wear suits and gloves in various sizes. "[The dots] define all the knuckles and the hand and the shoulders, the torso, the head and the elbows. [Which] are all important. The ankles," Zerr explained, pointing to the different markers on some of the suits. "We even capture the toe flex that happens when you step." All of these components are vital to creating a realistic movement without looking too jarring, especially when creating a humanoid model.

There's also a variety of furniture in the room, such as ladders, boxes and treadmills. These items help actors interact with something physical to create a more stimulating performance—like running through an empty city fighting off zombies or climbing to safety to avoid a fire.

It takes little time to realize the appeal of the studio and the potential for video game lovers. But the studio doesn't only capture action heroes fighting zombies and doing barrel rolls. Bernard Johnson, Business Development Lead at NAIT, couldn't divulge exactly what clients they've worked with, but he did confirm they've worked with other universities, like the University of Alberta, for data validation.

"This isn't only used for entertainment; it's used for scientific research. We can



An actor poses wearing a full body motion capture suit. A technician works at the computer in NAIT's motion capture studio. Photo by NAIT

actually use this and track the motion of people, which is obviously important when you're doing medical evaluations, especially on how somebody's walking," Zerr said. "Things are going good," added Johnson.

This studio serves as a pioneer of what seems to be a growing market and need for the developer industry in Edmonton. The video game industry in Edmonton has exploded. It began with BioWare, the creators of the iconic series *Mass Effect*. Now, Zerr says, developers are living in Edmonton and creating for developers in other provinces. "So I know that there are people that work for Epic here. There are people that work for Electronic Arts. They work in the Epcor tower with BioWare." According to Zerr, this has an impact on the local scene. "There's talent that's coming here and working for companies that don't have bases here yet, so that's definitely a positive."

Skylar Zerr came to Edmonton looking for more affordability but has found something he may not have expected: possibility. "I'm passionate about the city. That's partially why I'm doing this. I'm an advocate for Alberta specifically as well. Why should Vancouver get all the thunder, you know? I'm competitive with my previous city. I want to steal some of that and bring it here because it's disproportionate, right? There's so many talented people that are here and the infrastructure like this [studio] is here."

"This could be a draw for a lot of these enterprises. Small to medium game enterprises could build their entire game in here and save thousands of dollars along the way, while maintaining that elevated look," said Zerr.

In early February, NAIT hosted the Edmonton Global Game Jam in PIC. The event served as a collaborative effort for indie and small developers to build a game within a 48-hour time limit. Participants could also sign up for a tour of the Motion Capture Studio. According to Johnson, the event was very successful. "[We got some reactions like], this is going to add so much value to the ecosystem, like sign us up. How can we possibly get access to this facility?" Johnson says this reaction could be a sign for the future. "[We want to be] a bit more strategic about the asset that we have on campus. As well as how we can add value back to the ecosystem and to elevate it, because there is a lot of talent and we have some great resources here that can be used to develop some impactful games."

Studios like the one at NAIT make it so students can get excited about working in cutting-edge motion capture technology, without needing to move to a city like Vancouver or Los Angeles. As Zerr said, "You can make it happen here. It is a young and funny industry here, but you can make it happen. You can be a part of that platform."

By Riley Neilson

A portrait of an elderly man with short, white hair. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark-colored sweater with a light-colored geometric pattern over a white turtleneck. The background is a solid, dark grey-blue.

Garry Meadus.

Photo via mccawfuneralservice.com

Meadus was also highly involved in NAIT Athletics. He coached NAIT's first-ever sports team, the men's basketball team. He then coached NAIT's golf team from 1965 until 1971, leading NAIT to a conference title in the 1967-68 season. In 1964, Meadus was one of the founders of the Western Inter-College Conference. Meadus was the Chairman and Treasurer of the conference until it was renamed the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference. NAIT still plays in

Student Co-ordinator

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to the first issue of what we hope will become a permanent tradition in our school.

The primary reason that I hope that this newspaper flourish is that it will serve as a vehicle of communication which is an integral part of our society. Without communication there is no sharing or dispensing of ideas, no chance of identifying which leads to a feeling of belonging; no chance for a concerted group effort and therefore no society. Secondly the paper can provide an avenue where personal opinion can be presented and discussed openly. Personal opinion, amplified, is the precursor of group opinion which, as far as I am concerned, is the adhesive which holds any dynamic society together.

To successfully fulfill these responsibilities of a newspaper, it will require the utmost in cooperation from staff and students, conscientious objective reporting of the facts, plus an appreciation of the heavy moral responsibility which rests with any newspaper.

I think it is quite evident that the students making up the newspaper staff and their staff-sponsors have undertaken a large and important task and at this time I would like to wish them every success.

Mr. R. G. Meadus

A letter Meadus wrote in the second ever issue of the NAIT Nugget.



NAIT's faded and forgotten wall of fame

By Caleb Perreux

The word alumnus comes from the Latin language and means “one who has been nourished.” For hundreds of years, many schools have honoured their extensive alumni list, sometimes with dinners, galas or just a plaque on a wall. These traditions encourage accomplished folks from all walks of life to support their alma mater, and students can look up to these individuals as inspirations. Athletics often have a category all on their own—many schools put a Hall of Fame right outside locker rooms or where they play. In some schools like the University of Alberta, there have been inductions every year since 1990, and an entire room is dedicated to their alumni and their accomplishments.

NAIT does have an athletics hall of fame near the entrance to the gymnasium. It features five plaques, with an empty space where one has been removed. These plaques represent pioneers of the Institute. NAIT's wall features the founders, executives, coaches and players who have left a legacy to remember—people like Perry Pearn, Garry Meadus and Kevin Martin.

Despite the impressive accomplishments of these NAIT alumni, the plaques on the wall are faded and old. And for Brian Stein, the most recent induction, there are far fewer of them than there should be.

As Stein said in an interview with the Nugget, “A hall of fame or wall of fame can either grow in prominence and stature from generation to generation. Or it can fall into disrepair or be forgotten overtime. The activities expand beyond honouring builders, coaches, athletes and teams. It's the preservation of artifacts and archives.”

The man behind the fight

Brian Stein, a NAIT Alumnus, has had a long history with NAIT Athletics. He was a NAIT student in the 80s. Stein wrote for the Nugget in 1981 and even wrote the story about NAIT's first national championship in any sport, the 1981-82 men's hockey team. In the 90s, he was the Sports Information Director at NAIT. Stein later became an integral voice in the Alberta collegiate sports world, becoming the first ACAC Sports Information Director in 1990.

When Stein was introduced to NAIT's Hall of Fame in 2007, he was just happy to be along for the ride. He still has a copy of his speech from 16 years ago, in which he mentions other alumni that should be on the wall: “In closing there are many more deserving than I am. The coaches chart the game plans, and players execute them.”

Since he's been inducted, Brian has been on, as he describes it, a mission for justice to help others who, in his opinion, are more deserving of a spot in the hall of fame. “Without that success of the men's hockey team, I wouldn't have been there,” Stein explained. He's been vocal and active in the community, fighting for NAIT alumni.

“Since the last inductions in 2008, there have been a number of individuals who have passed who should have been recognized,” Brian said, adding that there's two names notably missing: Joan Groothuysen and John Utendale.

Groothuysen is a decorated cross-country skier who went to the Olympics for Canada twice: once in 1976 in Austria, and once in 1980 in Lake Placid. And this was all before being a student at NAIT. Once enrolled, she won two cross-country skiing championships and one cross-country running championship. She won both the skiing and running championships in the same year. Groothuysen remains the only athlete in ACAC history to win individual championships in two sports. She



Photo by Caleb Perreux

unfortunately passed away from cancer in 2018.

Dr. John Utendale was the first Black hockey player to sign a contract in the NHL. While Utendale never managed to suit up in an NHL game, he did play with Detroit's affiliate, the Edmonton Flyers. Utendale grew up in Edmonton, playing with the Edmonton Oil Kings before signing the deal with the Red Wings. His life after hockey is just as impressive. Utendale was a powerful voice in education in the state of Washington. He was also NAIT's first Director of Physical Education and coached the men's team in 1966-67.

Both of these figures would far surpass any criteria for an athletic hall of fame, but they aren't there. In fact, there hasn't been a new induction since Stein was added in 2007.

But the issue is larger than just some names missing; Stein believes the wall itself needs an overhaul. “There's one missing plaque due to a misspelled name, which is not on the wall today. The plaques all seem a bit old, with some of the pictures and descriptions starting to fade, losing their battle with time,” said Stein. “There's been no induction since 2007, no online presence since 2013 ... In a nutshell, NAIT could do a better job at preserving history.”

NAIT Athletics Director Jordan Richey couldn't agree more. “It just hasn't been an institutional priority, which is sad to say,” said Richey. “I admit it.”

“That whole wall there as you see outside of the gymnasium there, that's very dated. It's all pixelated, it's nothing. It's horrible.”

Richey has only been Athletics Director for four years, so he can't speak to the entire history of the wall, but did highlight that things need to change. “[Hall of fames] really show what it means to be an Ook and what that meant to be, to raise the bar to an elite level Ook,” he explained. “I think it's really important to showcase and honour those that have put NAIT on the map.”

According to Richey, the main reason for the lack of inductions was a not enough resources. New inductees used to be unveiled at a large gala, but that sort of party isn't in the budget. “It was simply resources ... we just don't have the funds in our operating budget to do that kind of stuff,” he explained. “It was a big thing. It was a banquet, a dinner and it was just a lot of money and a lot of work to put on for that.”

“With the fiscal realities going on, having reduced staff, and that didn't fall into those people's roles anymore ... and then the sheer amount of money to put on a \$10,000 banquet as well ... it just never fit into the

“A hall of fame or wall of fame can either grow in prominence and stature from generation to generation. Or it can fall into disrepair or be forgotten overtime. The activities expand beyond honouring builders, coaches, athletes and teams. It's the preservation of artifacts and archives.”

—Brian Stein

strategic direction.”

But in his opinion, it's time for change. “We will be doing something now. We're not going to be following the same lead before with the big banquet and stuff ... we can do it all digital,” said Richey. “We can just unveil it and maybe present them, honour them at one of our home games or something like that.”

What now?

Like many other areas of NAIT, March and April are busy seasons. Athletics is busy with playoffs and day-to-day operations occupy the staff's mind. Richey said that once they are in the off-season, things will change.

“One of our summer projects is to form a committee that will be led by our former athletic director, Gregg Meropoulis,” Richey explained. They're planning on creating a committee, including a full-time Communications Coordinator that can devote time to projects like this. The committee would also likely feature community members with knowledge of the teams; even potentially someone like Stein, who according to Richey, “has every stat.”

On top of an induction criteria change, Richey would like to see other changes, such as a television rotating through the members of the hall of fame, social media posts and other acts that don't require as much financial commitment. In the future, he hopes they can host a gala for the inductees, much like the one Stein attended in 2007.

Stein is not quite as hopeful. “It's not expensive to put a plaque up,” Stein reacted. He doesn't mind the changes coming, but after 15 years without them, he remains cautious. “We'll have to wait and see.”

For Richey, he's excited to put the department's past behind them and make changes. “Do I think [the wall is] horrible behind part of the department for a long time? I do. I wish we could have done it, but I can't control what's happened in the past. Let's get it done now.”

The future of makeup: Akosua Nyarko and Crème de la Crème

By Kari Gachugu and Amy St. Amand

When Akosua Nyarko, a NAIT Optical Sciences grad, wanted a pair of eyelashes she'd seen online for an event, she couldn't find them anywhere in Alberta. Understandably, she was frustrated after all her searching. But this frustration would lead to the idea for her beauty-based business, Crème de la Crème.

Though Nyarko studied optical sciences at NAIT, her passion has always been beauty. As a child, she played with makeup, making her own concoctions using household items. "I remember being a kid and making my own eyeshadow and it basically consisted of baby powder and food colouring, and then I would make a little paste," she shared.

From the very beginning, Nyarko wanted Crème de la Crème to be an experience in beauty. For her customers, it's more than just buying makeup—it's about the process of creating and customizing a unique piece.

Most drugstores offer ready-made makeup products, but Crème de la Crème is all about customization. Nyarko offers fragrances, various types of lipsticks, eyeshadows and more. The business model offers make-up lovers a chance to become involved in the making of their favourite products.

Starting a business is challenging, and when Nyarko told her loved ones she wanted to become an entrepreneur and start a beauty brand, not everyone supported her. At first, Nyarko was worried about creating a beauty business in Alberta. "You know, Alberta, we're really blue collar," she said.

"Once wedding season passes, you're not going to get clients. So you really have to think on your feet."

But more than breaking into a reluctant market, she was giving up what she went to school for and had a career in. Nyarko has always been interested in the beauty industry, but cosmetology school wasn't an option. "[My mom] didn't bring me all the way here [from Ghana] just to do people's makeup," she explained. "Back then, that wasn't something that my mom was going to allow me to do."

But her passion for art and creativity was something she couldn't ignore. "When you're in a career that's very black and white, it doesn't give you the ability to think about things that are abstract," she explained. "It's optical sciences, so there are no gray areas ... that was something that didn't really interest me, even though I did spend six years in it."

When she decided to leave her field, she expected her loved ones would support her decision. And some did—she recalls her brother and husband were supportive, but some of her other family members had reservations.

"Some people just won't support you because they're scared that you will fail. And it's a reasonable fear. Most startups fail but maybe that's also because they do not have a good support system," she said.

"There's no malice behind [your family] not supporting you. A lot of the times it's fear, you know, that you're going to fail ... like how are you going to pay your bills? How are you going to financially support yourself without having an income coming in?"

Nyarko started with lashes—her brand was the first to introduce mink lashes, the same ones she couldn't find, to Alberta. She sold products online and did trade shows, where she got lots of positive feedback. The biggest thing customers wanted to know was where they could find her in person, which inspired her to open a physical store.

"To all of a sudden go from an e-commerce company to wanting a physical brick and mortar store, that's even a bigger step than wanting to start your own company.

There are responses that you are responsible for, every single month."

To ensure she was making revenue, Nyarko expanded her product line to include customizable cosmetics, retail cosmetics and a large variety of lashes. "I remembered having conversations with my girlfriends who traveled a lot, and they would go to Paris, they would go to L.A., they would go to Miami, they go to these cute little boutiques in Europe and these boutiques would be like, make your own pizza, make your own wine, make your own gummy bears," she explained.

"And I'm like, you know what? We don't have anything like that in Alberta. We don't have a place where you could just come and create your own nail polish, create your own anything."

Explaining her product to customers was difficult at first—customers didn't understand the product and Nyarko had to work hard to explain what Crème de la Crème was. As an entrepreneur, hiring an extensive marketing team simply wasn't feasible. So, she did it herself.

"Bootstrapping was something that really helped. When you start a business, you're not exactly financially fluid. You don't have all this money to hire marketing teams, to hire someone to create a business for you ... you have to do that on your own," she explained. Pitching an indie beauty brand to celebrities and makeup artists wasn't easy. "I got a lot of doors slammed in my face in the beginning," said Nyarko.

"All I needed was one person to be like, 'Sure, I'll give your stuff a try.' And once you get your foot in the door, it's up to you to create that momentum."

Since then, Nyarko has had a lot of success. She's managed to get her products into the hands of celebrities like Queen Latifah, Rihanna and the Kardashians. She even recently did makeup for one of the judges at the Junos.

Nyarko credits her education at NAIT, despite not being in the same industry, as

the reason she's had so much success. Her higher education allowed her to create a realistic plan and think towards the future.

"I owe a lot of who I am today to having a higher level of education ... [it] allowed me to think forward, allowed me to think into the future of what it's going to take for me to create a business, start a business, grow it."

Her next step is to open more locations and grow her brand. She's had talks with Sephora, but she wants to keep the brand Canadian.

"I'm really proud that I am one of the few Canadian brands that are out there that are owned and led by women of colour. Women that look like me in this industry, we're really far and few between, especially in Canada, so I want to keep it Canadian."

Ultimately, Nyarko hopes for more growth in the beauty industry. Although things have changed, there's still not a lot of representation for women of colour. There's also a lack of options for varying skin tones in general.

"My biggest vision is that the beauty industry continues to grow, and I'm hoping that the future for cosmetics has more women of colour, has more women, and that customization, I'm hoping that's going to be the future," said Nyarko.

"And if it doesn't, I don't need the beauty industry to lean towards that. I can lean towards that, I can create that change ... if that change is not happening and I don't see it happening, why can't I create my own seat at a table?"

To check out Nyarko's products or learn more about customizable makeup, visit Crème de la Crème at 150 Chippewa Rd #182 in Sherwood Park. It's open 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and NAIT students can receive 20 per cent off.



One of the lipsticks offered at Crème de la Crème.

Photo supplied

From RATV student to working on the set of “The Last of Us”

Quinton Berger's journey in Calgary's film industry

By Alleah Boisvert

Most students can relate to feeling overworked and over caffeinated, especially if they are juggling multiple commitments. Many of NAIT's full-time programs pack a lot of action into a very condensed two years. Quinton Berger, a NAIT Radio and Television alumnus, remembers this feeling all too well since graduating in 2015.

“I basically lived off of Full Throttle energy drinks for two years,” he said. An avid film fan, Berger knew soon into his time at NAIT that television and film production was the direction he wanted to head in.

After graduation, Berger freelanced under his own production business, Shot By Q. He's worked on everything from corporate gigs to low-budget music videos for local SoundCloud rappers. Now, he works as a Motion Picture Technician in Calgary's film industry.

Part of his role is to manipulate lighting scenarios and ensure cameras are placed in a way that doesn't ruin the integrity of the set. It involves building platforms and structures for rigging cameras and safely assisting actors to be in the shot.

“That's what I really like about it is I'm basically just like an on-set problem solver. So, you get to look at [a problem] and be like, ‘Alright, how could we do this? Okay, that didn't work. What if we tried this?’”

Berger began his journey in Calgary's film industry two years ago as a production assistant. “I got a job on the show *Heartland*. I was able to stay with a friend of my family and yeah, quit my warehouse job that same day,” he said.

This led him to work on other major productions, including HBO's *The Last of Us*. The series was shot in locations across Alberta in 2021 and 2022, but most of the production took place in Calgary — a huge opportunity for anyone working in film in Calgary.

“Being on the set of *The Last of Us* where there's an entire set built specifically for the show, there's people running around, there's guns going off, a guy on fire, zombies, whatever. It's obviously a pretty startling jump from a graffiti'd up alley that I would do in a rap video,” he said. “I'm pretty stoked about it.”

“There actually has been a lot of stuff that you would be surprised that was filmed in Alberta,” said Berger. He used the 2010 horror comedy, *Tucker and Dale vs Evil*, as an example. “It's amazing ... but yeah, shot in Calgary.”

“I think we've gotten ourselves into a pretty good place right now where a lot of people are realizing [Alberta's] potential. There are tourists who are coming to the



Photo supplied

locations that we shot *The Last of Us* on, so you kind of see this everlasting effect,” said Berger.

“If you make a big movie somewhere or if you shoot something that ends up being a cult classic down the road, then you get these movie nuts. People like me who are like, ‘Oh my god, this was there.’ It pays off in the long run too, especially just with all the money it generates for the local economy, the jobs it creates and then the people who come to see this is where that happened.”

While Calgary has been climbing the ranks of major film cities, Edmonton has been making headlines for being ranked as the best Canadian location to live in during a zombie apocalypse. From his experience as a problem solver on the set of a zombie show, Berger has a different opinion.

“Canmore. Because it's remote, it's mountainous. As much as I love Edmonton, Edmonton is a city. When you're in a city you're at the mercy of everyone and everything around you. You can't hide out [for long] and you're very exposed when you're in a city. Your best bet for a zombie apocalypse is to maybe go to a city, get what you need, and then get as far away as you potentially can.”

Along with surviving a zombie apocalypse, Berger has advice for students graduating from the same program he left nearly ten years ago: “If you think you're too big for the small stuff, then you're too small for the big stuff.”

“One of the biggest things that has always helped me is the eagerness that I show when I do things. People can tell, whether it's a low-budget music video or a big Hollywood production, that I care about it and I'm here to do this.”

“It's also a big ‘yes, and...’ industry. You have to take things as they come and just kinda roll with it. Say yes to everything because you never know ... I've gotten gigs, especially in freelancing, just based off recommendations,” said Berger.

“Be open to change, be open to accepting things that maybe weren't your picture-perfect idea of your dream job at first,” he said. “Maybe you're going to just be doing weekends in Lloydminster for a bit, and yeah sure, maybe that's not the network anchor level you had originally hoped to achieve, but plot twist—you just f*cking graduated. You ain't shit until you can prove it.”

As for NAIT students trying to survive the apocalypse that is the end of the semester?

“Maybe don't drink too much,” he joked. “But you know, eyes on the prize. Keep it moving. Do your shit. Keep your head down, get that job, make that salary. That's why you're at NAIT.”



Behind the scene photo of one of the sets on “The Last of Us.”

Photo via Twitter @ebenbolter

Accessibility & Addicting Games

How Bill Karamouzis' Edmonton spirit led to entrepreneurship



The founding team of Addicting Games. From L to R: Bill, Jimmy, Becky, Celina, Matt, Chris, Rhys, Erin, Kevin

Photo via AddictingGames.com

By Alleah Boisvert

Edmonton is a city of opportunity, innovation and progression. Its entrepreneurial spirit is contagious, and NAIT students are often some of the first to catch the bug. For Bill Karamouzis, this Edmonton spirit led to the recent commemoration of his 20th anniversary as an entrepreneur. He's the founder and CEO of Addicting Games — and a NAIT Bachelor of Technology alumnus.

"I am probably NAIT's officially longest running student. My transcripts started in 1999 or 1998," said Karamouzis. While taking night classes at NAIT and working for Capital Health, Karamouzis was earning banner ad income from his self-built website, which was a collection of popular images and videos.

"The Internet was starting to take off then," he said. "NAIT was really relevant, the courses were good, but it was really a time to be building online, and that window wasn't going to stay open forever."

Karamouzis decided to drop out of school and pursue entrepreneurship. He invested in underutilized domain names attracting traffic, like FlashPlayer.com, WordGames.com and of course, AddictingGames.com.

He ended up returning to school after being accepted into an MBA program through Queen's University, then returned to NAIT in 2017 for the Bachelor of Technology program.

"I think when you go back to school as a working adult, you kind of appreciate it more because there's no one who forced you to do it. You're there because you want to and you're paying your own money, and if you don't want to do it, there's no one to complain to. When I first went to NAIT, there was the parent component, there was the 'I need to get a good job' component. When you're an adult, some of that is already solved, it's really on you to be successful ... It was challenging, but it was rewarding too."

Since he was taking part-time classes at NAIT while working, Karamouzis experienced the challenges of school during the peak of COVID. Working in the tech industry, overcoming challenges happens regularly.

"Innovation in tech can come from any angle ... in our industry, we have innovation in content. The type of content people like to consume changes, the platforms they consume content on changes, so we went and started off on desktop, now it's mobile, now it's been fractured between console, mobile, a lot of people just take their games wherever they go," he explained.

"The platforms have changed, the technology to deliver the content has changed, the games and the game tastes have changed, so really you're in this constant state of innovation and trying to evolve."

Millennials who grew up with the internet faced tech revolutions as they navigated online domains and the start of social media throughout their careers; Karamouzis thinks that AI could be Gen Z's technology revolution.

"For us as developers, we started with just Internet," he said. "But going forward, I think tools like AI and being able to leverage them is going to be the next frontier.

AI is an enabler. So, what can you take and then use AI to amplify is going to be the next big opportunity for five to ten years, where people are using it in ways that we don't even know yet."

Blockchain technology is another up and coming technology challenge younger generations may have to face in their careers. Karamouzis and his team have utilized this by introducing virtual NFT collectibles through their online multiplayer shooter game, Ev.io.

"It might look different than what we have today, but there will be cases where NFTs make a lot of sense and blockchain makes a lot of sense. But right now, it's all being discovered almost in real time, and we see all those failures and we see some successes. To someone who's not in it, it does look chaotic—because it is chaotic. It is literally the Wild West out there."

AI and NFTs aside, one thing Addicting Games has always been sure to pivot towards is accessibility.

"We want everyone to be able to play, and that's been our calling card and we stuck with that since [2002]. So, we see competitors making really amazing, beautiful looking games and we think that is amazing and we look at that as a huge success. But for us, we will always say, can this work on a Chromebook? Does it work equally well across the whole world? Whether you're in Latin America with poor Internet connection or somewhere in rural Alberta and you have poor connection, can this actually work equally well for everyone?"

Karamouzis also values accessibility in educational gaming. During the pandemic, Karamouzis and his team hired 20 teachers to help teach kids math through his MathGames.com domain, which blew up after schools shut down. The domain has helped in other ways, too.

"My old high school actually, M.E. LaZerte, [was] using Math Games and asking how they can use it for some of the students that were still struggling with math entering [grade ten]. So, you know, algebra is challenging for everyone. I don't think that ever stops being challenging at any grade."

Although Karamouzis works in both California and Edmonton, he shares the same values and attitudes of his hometown—low ego and team oriented, with an empathetic instinct that helps him understand the needs of others and dedicate his brand to accessibility in gaming.

"There isn't such a big divide between people. We have a ton of immigrants in the city, we have a diverse culture in the city, I think it's really welcoming ... we're just used to this mixture of opinions and people," he said. "I tell people about Heritage Days. I grew up thinking it was everywhere, but it's a very Edmonton thing and it feels like a reflection of the personality of the city."

Karamouzis has captured Edmonton's entrepreneurial spirit in a way that NAIT students should keep in mind when starting their careers. Technology will come and go, but innovation starts with accessibility and meeting the needs of others.

Need a study beer? These NAIT grads have your back

By Fraser Sockett



Photos via blindenthusiasm.ca and Facebook @BlindEnthusiasm

The Market Brewery (Blind Enthusiasm Brewing) / Biera (9570 76 Ave. NW)

Head Chef Christine Sandford (Culinary Arts '07) runs the kitchen that serves guests as they gaze upon a glass-encased brewery in the middle of Biera's dining room. The menu includes European-inspired high-end bistro food paired with beers brewed by Blind Enthusiasm. The brewery does not filter its beer but uses extended cold conditioning to let the beers naturally clarify and mature before release. Upstairs is a barrel-aging program dedicated to melding beer with the flavours of wine and spirit barrels.

Dog Island Brewing (250 Caribou Trail SW, Slave Lake)

While not in Edmonton, brewers Ben Fiddler (Instrument Technician '01, Electrician '02) and Chad Paulson (Instrument Technician '09) own this brewery northwest of Edmonton in Slave Lake. Founded in 2016 out of a storage room, Dog Island has grown to include 18 taps. They also produce a hard iced tea called "Nice Tea."



Photo via dogislandbrewing.com



Photo via Instagram @dogislandbrewing



Photos via Instagram @omenbrewingyeg and omenbrewing.com



Omen Brewing (9942 67 Ave. NW)

If you like the dark side of the Force, this is the brewery for you. Omen Brewing is the only brewery in Alberta that specializes in dark beer. Rhys Oswald (Electrician '06) is a co-owner of this family-owned local brewery in south Edmonton.



Longroof Brewing Co. (#104 9916 72 Ave. NW)

Troy Wassill (Radio and Television '96) is the lead brewer and co-owner of this brewery, founded in 2019. If you have fond memories of the now-closed Empress Ale House on Whyte Avenue, stop by this place, as they currently have the original bar from the Empress in their cozy taproom. They also have a dog-friendly patio if you need a place to stop by when taking Fido for a walk.

Town Square Brewing Co. (2919 Ellwood Dr. SW)

Town Square is owned by three NAIT alumni: Brandon Boutin (Steamfitter/Pipefitter '05), Tyler McNaughton (Architectural Technology '05) and Sterling Nordin (Heavy Equipment Technician '02). Not only do they brew beer, but they also have a crisp, refreshing hard seltzer called Rad Water.

"Town Square Brewing is an Albertan Craft Brewery boldly brewing adventurous craft beer in Edmonton. Our brewery might be small, but we pride ourselves on the gigantic flavours coming from our brews. We aren't afraid to step outside the box, and you can count on us bringing something unique with each creation," McNaughton told the Nugget.



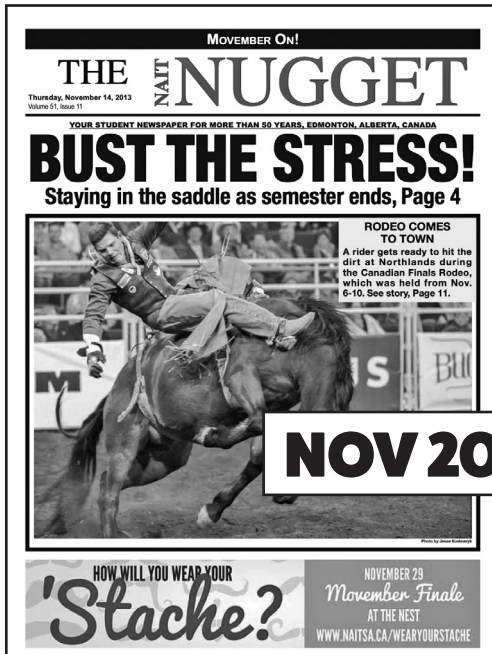
The Growlery Beer Co. (40 Airport Rd. NW)

Closer to NAIT is The Growlery, which Kevin Danard (Landscape Architectural Technology '97) and Jeff Pollock (Business Administration- Finance '95) founded in 2019. Located in the Blatchford neighbourhood, this brewery's vision is to reduce its ecological impact, live sustainability and provide a better future for the next generation. The Growlery is the perfect spot to have an end-of-the-year party with your classmates. They've even collaborated with NAITSA in the past and brewed an exclusive lime lager for Nest Fest 2021.

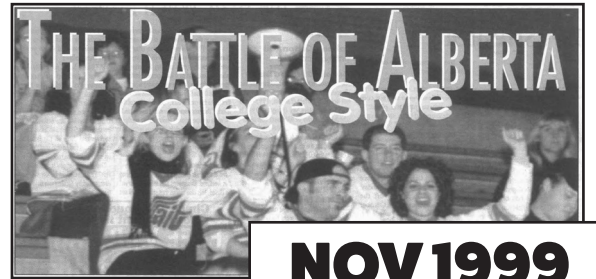
60 years of the Nugget



JAN 2023



NOV 2013



NOV 1999



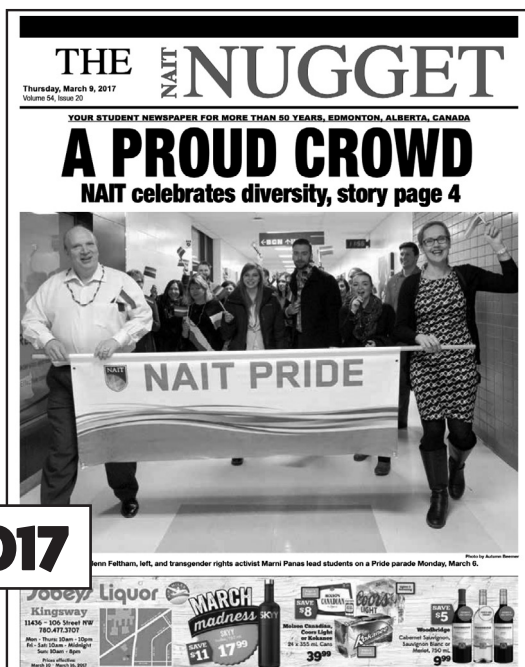
SEPT 2003



FEB 2023



OCT 2010



MAR 2017



NOV 2002

The Nugget
September 11, 1992

SEPT 1992



The amazing Professor Crookshank wowed them at the Orientation Week festivities last Wednesday in the Big Top in the Main Courtyard. Hundreds of students took in the week long fun and frivolity that included live music, amazing prizes and a S.U.D.S. Garden every night to cap everything off.

the NUGGET
NUGGET PRODUCTION STAFF
Editor: Linda Hume
News Editor: David C. Schabert
Typesetter: Cheryl Decker

Letters
Dear Dr. Joyce:
I am writing to you regarding the...
I am writing to you regarding the...
I am writing to you regarding the...


Windy days
By Sue C. Workman
I am writing to you regarding the...
I am writing to you regarding the...
I am writing to you regarding the...

NUGGET STAFF WANTED
BENEFITS
TWO-WEEK
EASY-LEARN
FRIENDLY PEOPLE

APR 1981

SEPT 1964

"THE NUGGET"
VOL. II No. I
Sept. 15, 1964



The Northern Alberta Institute Of Technology
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

JIGGLE, WIGGLE AND GIGGLE AT THE NEST



OCT 1990



Photo By Sean Connor
Dan Gallagher Hits The Nest

MAY 1969

NAIT "STUDENTS STORES" SOUVENIR TIME

JACKETS NAIT CRESTED NYLON	\$9.75
(JACKETS) NEW NAIT CRESTS	\$4.00
(BLAZERS) WIRE BOUND CRESTS	\$6.50
SWEAT SHIRTS NAIT CRESTED ALL SIZES-IN GOLD, MAROON, NAVY&GREEN	\$3.50
"GIRLS" NEW NAIT CRESTED PHYSICAL ED.	
"BOYS" SWEAT SHIRTS -ZIPPER FRONT	\$3.25


1983

1973

1964

Issue 1, Volume 26
the Nugget
NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT'S NEWSPAPER
August 24, 1988

RESTRICTED SMOKING



Smoking is permitted in designated areas only!

Restricted smoking is here. Retaining students in particular take note. The day of lighting up in any hallway you choose when you get the urge to puff are over.

Smoking is now permitted only in the areas listed below. All other areas are now smoke-free.

DESIGNATED SMOKING AREAS

Area	Designation
Main Campus	Lobby
P115	Lobby
G115	Lobby
G115	Lobby
J110/4	Cafeteria (Partial)
G115	Cafeteria (Partial)
T110	Tower Lounge (Partial)
G115	Lobby
G115	Lobby (Partial)
Mortar Trades Building	Lounge
B104P	Lounge
Services Building	Lounge
D207-8	Lounge
D109C	Lounge
Industrial Annex	Lounge
N214A	Lobby
P111	Lobby
P112	The Duck Cafeteria (Partial)
P113	Lobby
P114	Lobby
P115	Lobby
P116	Lobby
P117	Lobby
P118	Lobby
P119	Lobby
P120	Lobby
P121	Lobby
P122	Lobby
P123	Lobby
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P195	Lobby
P196	Lobby
P197	Lobby
P198	Lobby
P199	Lobby
P200	Lobby

AUG 1988

Nait Nugget
Volume X
Wednesday, November 27, 1974
Edmonton, Alberta
Issue 13

Bear's voice his trademark
By DON COLLARD



One thing about the Edward...
One thing about the Edward...
One thing about the Edward...

Exam week upsetting to instructors too
By DON COLLARD

It is the time of year when...
It is the time of year when...
It is the time of year when...

Letter bombs triggered by Polaroid

NOV 1974

OCT 1968

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF ELECTRONICS

1. Beware of the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to be bounced upon thy buttocks in a most ungentlemanly manner.
2. Cause thou the switch that supplies large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, so thy days may be long on this earthly vale of tears.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded, lest they lift thee to high-frequency potential and cause thee to radiate also.
4. Take care thou useth the proper method when thou taketh the measure of high-voltage circuits so that thou doth not incinerate both thee and the meter; for verily, though thou has no account number and can easily be replaced, the meter doth have one, and, as a consequence, bringeth much woe unto the Supply Department.
5. Tarry thou not amongst those who engage in intentional shocks, for they are surely nonbelievers and are not long for this world.
6. Take care thou tampereth not with interlocks and safety devices, for this will incur the wrath of thy seniors and bringeth the fury of the safety officer down about thy head and shoulders.
7. Work thou not on energized equipment, for if thou doeth, thy buddies will surely be buying beef for thy widow and consoling her in other ways not generally acceptable to thee.
8. Verily, I say unto thee, never service high-voltage equipment alone, for electric cooking is a slothful process and thou might sizzle in thine fat for hours on end before thy Maker sees fit to end thy misery and drag thee into His fold.
9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances, lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug, and thy wife be frustrated nightly and have no further use for thee except thy wage.
10. Commit thou to memory the works of the prophets, which are written in the instruction books, which giveth the straight dope and which consoleth thee, and thou cannot make mistakes.

THE CARTOONIST
BY NORBYN KUZOBEN



SO LAA MEE...
WHU...?
AURORA BOREALIS! PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'LL BE MOVING IN SHORTLY!
BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?
MINE, OF COURSE!
DO YOU SNORE?
ABSOLUTELY NOT! I GUESS IT'S OKAY THEN - I JUST HOPE DUPIS DOESN'T MIND.
YOUU, YOUU LIGHT UP MY LIFE!
SOMETHING VERY WEIRD IS GOING ON HERE!

DEC 1983

NAIT's Clean Technologies team makes breakthroughs in microplastics research



Jeremiah Bryksa, Patric McGlashan taking samples for water chemistry analysis in the North Saskatchewan River.

Photo supplied

By Liesl Sham

As part of the Clean Technologies Team at NAIT's Applied Research Centre, NAIT graduates Jeremiah Bryksa and Patric McGlashan have been focusing their research on microplastics in freshwater, more specifically in the North Saskatchewan River. Bryksa, an applied chemist with over 10 years of experience in laboratory testing, has been leading the team alongside senior research technician McGlashan since 2020. Their aim is to analyze the river with a high degree of detail to quantify and learn more about microplastics as an environmental contaminant.

The five year study on microplastics is just one of the several projects involved in a 10 year, \$10 million research collaboration between Heartland Polymers (a plastic producer in Alberta) and NAIT. Named Portfolio of Plastic Research In Action (PRIA), this agreement is the largest applied research partnership in NAIT's history. Other projects under PRIA work to further develop solutions to advance the reuse and recycling of plastic.

"We go out to the river in the spring, summer and fall and collect samples. We try to figure out how many microplastics there are, what kinds of microplastics there are, where they're coming from, and over the years we can figure out the trends and how they relate from year to year and month to month," Bryksa explained.

Microplastics are plastic waste particles that are considered an emerging contaminant. These small plastic particles range from five millimetres (the size of an ant) to one micrometre (1000th of a millimetre). The pair explains that microplastics have likely been around for a long time, but researchers are just finding out about them more recently. Additionally, there has only been one previous study focusing on their presence in the North Saskatchewan River in particular.

"Larger plastic, as it's in the environment, just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. So overtime it'll just become microplastics," Bryksa stated.

"When you're working with it, it looks like you're just working with a glass of water all the time," McGlashan added. "Everywhere we look we find them, and the better we get at looking for them, the more we find."

Bryksa and McGlashan have been able to develop different techniques to sample and analyze the various types of plastics. Their prominent goal is to find out how

many microplastics are present in the river, but they also find fulfillment when they are able to help out the scientific community through sharing details of their work. Last year, they presented aspects of their research to the entire microplastic community at an international conference.

"Those techniques are valuable to the scientific community," Bryksa said. "We go to presentations and publish papers and help the community out. It's like a secondary goal, to help the industry advance the science too."

To quantify the amount of microplastics in the river, the team measures the number of particles of plastic per volume of water. They use a three-step process in order to obtain those values.

"Think of microplastics like a needle in a haystack. They're hiding in there, so when we sample it, we collect all the hay and the needles. When we bring it back to the lab we need to separate the needles from the haystack, and once we have all the needles we put them on the instruments, count them up, and see what kinds of plastics there are," Bryksa explained.

The first step is a field day to physically go down to the river to collect samples. By using a prototype built by the Technology Access Center for Sensors and System Integration (TACSSI), this completely plastic-free instrument pumps 1500 litres of water through a cascading stack of stainless steel sieves to filter particles down to whatever size fraction is chosen.

The next step is extraction: the process of removing either the plastic from the water, or the substances that are contaminating or covering the plastic. This occurs in the lab and takes up to five days per sample. It is carried out through density separation, chemical digestion with hydrogen peroxide (Fenton's Reaction) and enzymatic digestion (digesting proteins and fats from remaining critters that have survived).

Finally, analysis is performed to determine how much, and what kinds of plastics are present. Currently the team works with DOW Canada, as part of the PRIA Initiative, who does all their analysis using a laser direct infrared system. They've recently acquired a μ FTIR (micro-FTIR) instrument and Raman microscope to

potentially increase the number of samples they can run and develop inhouse test capabilities.

"[In FTIR,] a source of light is shot onto the sample. It passes through the sample, and it bounces back to a detector, almost acting like an eyeball. That eyeball will see exactly what kind of changes happen between that initial photon and what comes back when it hits the eye. And those changes will tell you exactly what that compound is made of. Essentially, it'll characterize everything and it'll give you a fingerprint. The Raman acts completely similar, but instead of going through the particle, it just hits the surface," McGlashan explained.

During the past few years of the project, Bryksa and McGlashan have had their fair share of challenges and setbacks. Researching and testing methodologies presented instances of frustration and feelings of defeat.

Bryksa said, "There were lots of times where we wanted to give up ... and I think the biggest challenge was staying motivated. There were lots of times we thought we hit a dead end, hit a brick wall, and didn't know what to do. But we had lots of support with each other, with some of the leadership here at NAIT and also with our industrial partner, which allowed us to keep going."

Amidst the challenges however, the milestones and achievements that resulted from their perseverance allowed them to gain incentive and drive to continue their research. Bryksa recalls a joyful and significant moment.

"The first data that we generated was probably one of the proudest moments for us. We did a lot of back-end work perfecting the methodology, making sure we sample properly and extract. It's quite challenging working with the really small particles, so it took us about two and a half years to generate the first actual data from the North Saskatchewan River."

McGlashan added, "The day that we finished the method was a very satisfying moment where we knew we were making some serious headway ... comparing our results to literature gave us a moment where we could pat ourselves on the back because we've come up with something that is not only on par, but is very competitive

with the front lines of science."

Bryksa and McGlashan encourage students to be more conscious of their actions when using plastic. By trying to reduce the amount of plastic used, cleaning and sorting plastic properly for recycling and not littering, the impacts of plastic on the environment can be lessened.

"The amount of plastic someone uses directly correlates with the amount of microplastics they personally will put into the environment. When it comes to single-use plastics, if you're looking at trying to reduce your plastic footprint, avoid as much plastic as possible. I think that's the most simple way to put it," McGlashan said.

Bryksa added, "[However,] plastic is really crucial for society. We use it to preserve food, build things ... so it's a double-edged sword. We need it, but we also need to manage it properly."

The microplastics project is still ongoing, but upon reflecting on their own education, career and research journeys, Bryksa and McGlashan share words of encouragement to NAIT students.

"There's a lot of challenges we face as a society. We study environmental science, so I think it's really important ... to get young people to continue in sciences. Even just in plastic there's going to be tons of work in plastic engineering, chemical engineering, chemistry, different ways to recycle and reuse plastic. I think it's a huge field with lots of prospects for any student looking for something to do," Bryksa stated.

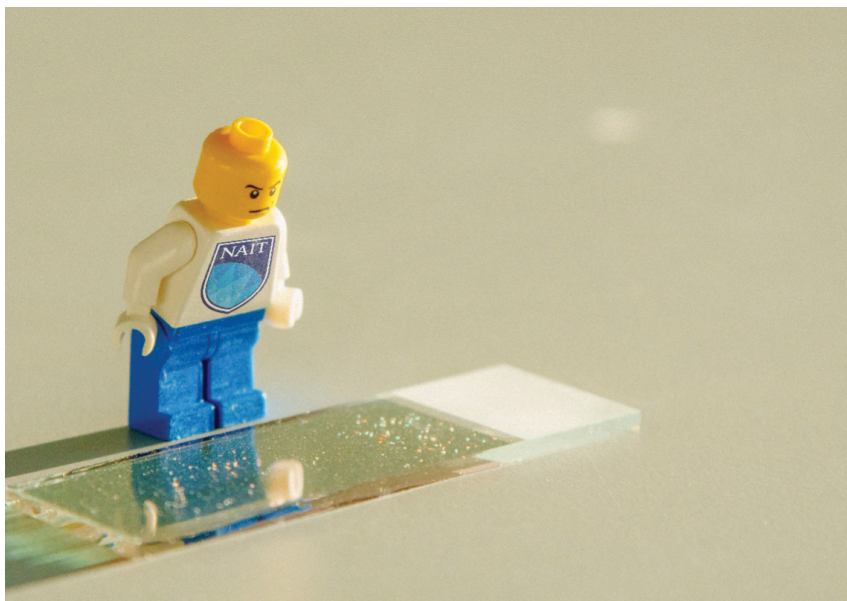
McGlashan continued, "Don't give into failure. Don't give into bad grades or negativity towards what you're doing because you can get a job in anything that's related to what you want. Always expect the unexpected because there could be things that you never could have even imagined that can come out of what you're studying now."

The team hopes to continue to bring awareness to microplastics as they carry on with their project, set to end in 2025.



Field Team Shot Summer 2022 (left to right) Katrina Gonzales, Aldo Fumagalli, Kailyn Gibbons, Sachin Pundir, Patric McGlashan, Div Chawla, Jeremiah Bryksa

Photo supplied



Unofficial NAIT Lego figure looking at microplastics on a microscope slide.

Photo supplied



Unofficial NAIT Lego figure in a solution of microplastics floating in water.

Photo supplied

Graduating student feature

Reece Martin, Culinary Arts

Why did you join the program?

I was working in the industry five years prior and I shadowed a chef that came to this school.

What is your favourite thing about the program?

Being able to be creative with all the different ingredients that you may not be able to use on a daily basis.

What is one thing you're going to miss?

The people. The chefs, especially. I've created amazing relationships with some of the chefs and other students here and I'm really going to miss it.

What advice would you give to prospective students?

Do it. Do it. It's not an expensive program, you have lots of fun, you get to taste a lot of foods. Do it.



Olaf Kojnsness, Automotive Service Technician

Why did you join the program?

Ever since I was young, I always had an interest in automotives and mechanics in general. I grew up back home working on things in the garage with my own father. When you start an apprenticeship the obvious path is to go to NAIT.

What is your favourite thing about the program?

NAIT does a really good job at preparing individuals, and students specifically, for a future in the automotive field.

What will you miss?

I'm really going to miss the people you're exposed to. As a person in a trade, I have knowledge from my shop, I work in a specific shop, I know how the culture is there. But when you're thrust into a classroom your eyes are opened to everyone else. You get to hear a lot of experiences, and you get to learn a lot from the other individuals in your classroom. I'm really going to miss that secondhand learning experience from my peers as well.

What advice would you to give to prospective students?

Go for it, finish it. Keep going through it. Just put in everything you have.

Justin Denman, Heavy Equipment Technician

Why did you join the program?

I always enjoyed turning wrenches, like messing with vehicles, anything like that, and then found myself in a career with the heavy duty guys. Then I just needed to upgrade, further my course, get my first year and my blue book, started which brought me here.

What do you like about the program?

The knowledge that I obtain is interesting [and] fun to learn. It's helpful to understand not just the fundamentals, but the specifics on how to troubleshoot and figure out what we do out in the field.

What will you miss?

The students are more of a connection than anything ... but the teachers are the connection to the industry for the knowledge that they're passing on. Because without them, we don't have anything.

What advice would you to give to prospective students?

If they enjoy turning wrenches and enjoy a daily challenge of either electrical, technical, mechanical, anything like that, this is definitely up their alley. The NAIT course is definitely something that can help them achieve what they want in life.





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NAIT Alumni Jordan Papirny signs contract with AHL



Jordan Papirny after winning the ACAC Championship with the Oaks in 2021/22.

Photo by NAIT Athletics

By Riley Neilson

Jordan Papirny, an Architecture Technology grad, hasn't had a simple route to the pros in hockey. He spent time playing in the WHL, then went back to collegiate sports when he couldn't clinch an NHL contract. But he's now one step closer to the NHL; Papirny made his AHL debut on March 17th.

Papirny started in the WHL in 2011, and the future looked very bright. He was drafted by the Brandon Wheat Kings with the 22nd pick of the 2011 WHL Bantam Draft and became the first goaltender in Wheat Kings' history to be selected in the first round.

He debuted with the Wheat Kings in the 2012-13 season. Papirny played in three games and posted a 2.84 goals-against average and a .893 save percentage. By the following season, Papirny was Brandon's starting goalie, playing in 46 regular season games with a 3.28 goals-against average and a .900 save percentage.

The team made it to the playoffs that year, and Papirny became one of the best goaltenders in the WHL. It started with Brandon stunning the Eastern Division Champion Regina Pats by winning four consecutive games against them. Papirny and the Wheat Kings then had to face the Edmonton Oil Kings, who were on their way to a Memorial Cup. This was also the Oil Kings' third eastern conference title and second WHL title in three years. Despite being severely outmatched, Papirny kept the series somewhat close, despite Brandon being outshot a combined 234-129 in five games.

Papirny continued to improve in 2014-15 as well. In the 59 games he played, he posted a 2.74 goals-against average, and a .910 save percentage. He became the first Wheat Kings goalie to record 40 wins in a season since the 1976-77 season. He was also named to the WHL Eastern Second All-Star Team in the 2014-15 season. In 2015-16 Papirny posted a 2.61 goals-against average with a .910 save percentage while backstopping Brandon to a WHL championship.

Despite all these accolades, Papirny went undrafted in the NHL entry draft

and could not sign a professional contract. Instead, Papirny went to the University of Calgary and immediately made an impact on the men's hockey team. He had a 2.11 goals-against average in his first season and a .925 save percentage while being named to the USports All-Rookie Team.

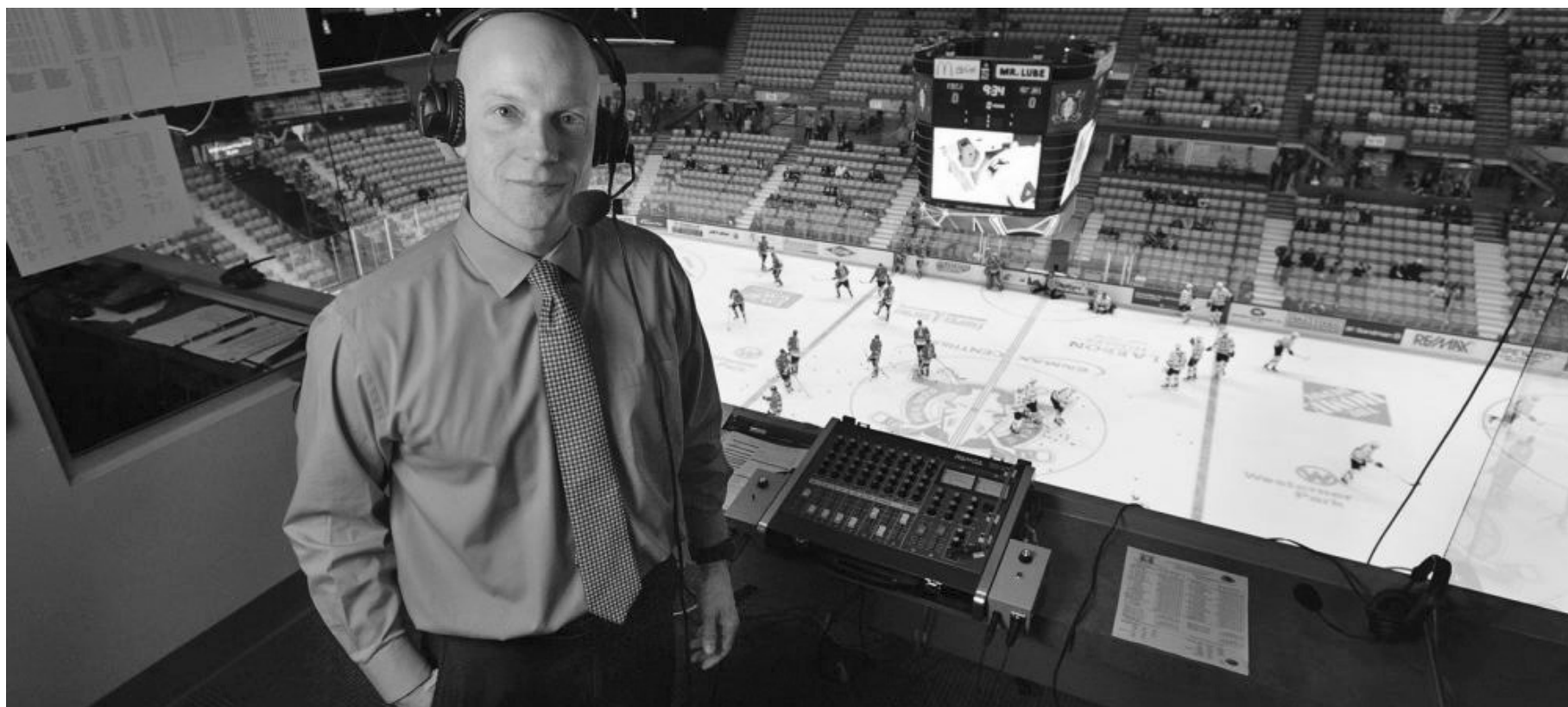
After two years at U of C, Papirny returned home to Edmonton and attended NAIT. In the 2019-20 season, Papirny led the ACAC in both save percentage and goals-against average with a 1.82 goals-against average and a .933 save percentage. Papirny was on the ACAC First All-Conference team. During COVID, Papirny debuted in the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL), the third best hockey league in North America, playing a game with the Florida Everblades. That did not lead to another chance to suit up for the Everblades that season, so Papirny returned to the Oaks to play in the 2021-22 season. Papirny won all 11 games he played that season, again leading the league in goals-against average and save percentage with a 1.63 goals-against average and a .948 save percentage. He led NAIT to the ACAC Championship, was once again named to the ACAC First All-Conference team and was chosen as ACAC Player of the Year.

Papirny's performance for NAIT helped him secure a one year deal in the AHL with the Vegas Golden Knights' affiliate club, the Henderson Silver Knights. Papirny has spent most of the season with the Savannah Ghost Pirates, Henderson's ECHL affiliate. In 19 games, Papirny has a 3.83 goals against average and a .907 save percentage.

On March 17th, Papirny made his AHL debut against the Bakersfield Condors, the Edmonton Oilers AHL affiliate team. Papirny stopped 33 of 34 shots, but Calvin Pickard was perfect in net for the Condors, so the Silver Knights lost 1-0.

Papirny may get the chance to suit up for more games down the stretch of this season. The Golden Knights have been relying on the pipeline of affiliate teams, as their goalies are injured. But for now, we will just have to wait and see.

“Chase the fun”: Cam Moon on radio, hockey and finding opportunity



Cam Moon stands in the announcer booth.

Photo by Red Deer Express

By Zach Kubusch

Many young hockey players have to come to terms with their dreams of going pro ending. Cam Moon, a NAIT Radio and Television alumnus and the Edmonton Oilers play-by-play announcer for 630 CHED, was no exception. Instead, Moon found solace working in the radio industry, sharing his love of hockey with listeners each game.

Moon has played hockey for his entire life, beginning his playing “as soon as he was able to.” He moved away from home to play junior at 17, working at hockey schools over the summer to make money in the offseason. Despite his passion, he quickly realized that his dreams of going pro were unlikely.

“I was all in as a player until junior was done and then I really didn’t start thinking about life after hockey until my last year of junior. So when I was 20 ... It was painfully obvious to me that playing the game as a pro, I just didn’t think was an option ... I wanted to move on to what was next,” said Moon in an interview with the Nugget.

Cam Moon ended up taking his hockey experience into the Radio and Television program at NAIT. He knew about the program and wanted to move back to Edmonton. While at NAIT, Moon learned more than just technical know-how. Working with people from all walks of life prepared him for working in industry.

“When I came [to NAIT], I was now in school with people from very diverse backgrounds and that helped open things up for me. I think I learned more just through the people I went to school with about other aspects of the radio and television industry, but just life,” said Moon. “I was pretty sure I was going to enjoy everything about the industry and then when I came here it just reaffirmed that for me.”

During his time at NAIT, Moon also worked several jobs in the industry.

“The first year [at NAIT] I played for the Oaks, the second year I got [a] TV job so I was going all over the place while I was going to school, but I was like, ‘I needed more.’ And back then, there was no internet broadcast, they don’t exist. So it’s either on air or nothing.”

What Moon needed was a job in the sports industry, one that could use his knowledge of hockey in a practical way. Opportunities were limited, with only a few teams having positions for broadcasters. Moon got a position in Wetaskawin doing commentary.

“They actually were on the air ... I got paid like nothing but I did it because I was like, ‘I need to do something. I need to push forward.’”

Moon figured the position would look good on a resume and increase his understanding of how to work during a live broadcast, but it alone wasn’t enough for him. He also got a position for Shaw Cable 10 doing in-between period interviews—one that he figured out as he went.

“Did I know what I was doing? No, but I figured it out.”

Eventually, Moon got a bigger opportunity to kickstart his career.

“Soon thereafter, I got my first play-by-play job, which was in Nanaimo and then that really got the ball rolling. But it was like a real job. It’s a busy job. There [were] a lot of hours but it was fun.”

Moon’s outlook on life mirrors his time as a goalie. In a game, goalies have to focus on the next play to stop the puck, but they can’t control what is happening elsewhere on the ice. Throughout his career, Moon has done something similar by taking what he can and not thinking about what happens next.

“A door opens and you walk through it. I don’t know where the next adventure takes me. I have no idea but right now the only thing I worry about is the next game,” said Moon. “And I’ve always been like that. I know it sounds very coach speak, very cliché but it’s true. I got to do the best I can possibly do that next game. If I take care of those little next games, then the big stuff will take care of itself.”

But Moon believes that waiting for your time isn’t all you have to do. A strong work ethic is important, especially in the competitive radio industry, where positions can be few and far between.

“Those that can do multiple things and are willing to do it from a team point of view and have the work ethic are the ones that are successful,” Moon explained.

“You know you’re going to be able to get in there, and maybe it’s not exactly the job that you want but it will move you forward because you’re gaining experience, you’re doing some things that are related to where you ultimately want to go and [you’re] showing that you’ll get in there and grind ... it’s worth its weight in gold.”

Moon has had a 20+ year career in the industry, and he credits his time at NAIT for preparing him what to expect.

“I look back at it and it was some of the best years of my life,” Moon said, referring to his schooling at NAIT. “It was an incredibly positive experience, and I can’t say enough about how well it prepared me to get into the industry.”

Moon continues to live his life one day at a time and focuses on the little things that make him happy.

“Chase the fun. That’s what I always do. The money will take care of itself.”

Michelle Byrt: Culinary Arts, COVID-19 & cheeze

By Fraser Sockett

On the south side of Edmonton sits one of the few vegan places that survived the COVID-19 shutdowns of 2020. Good Stock Foods (11409 40 Ave) is a family-owned business run by Red Seal Chef and NAIT grad Michelle Byrt (Culinary Arts '09).

Formally a café style plant-based restaurant, Good Stock Foods had to pivot in 2020. After the first lockdown, they suspected COVID-19 was not going away. Adapting on the fly, they changed from 50 per cent take-out to 100 per cent take-out, turning their dining room into an M&M style vegan take-and-bake shop.

That was not the only way Byrt adapted to a changing world. She created Prairie Melt, a simple dairy-free plant-based “cheeze.” It only has five ingredients: potatoes, canola oil, nutritional yeast, lemon juice and salt.

“I saw a need in the restaurant industry for a dairy-free cheese that works and isn’t too expensive,” Byrt explained. “I focused on making it allergen friendly. The allergens are exploding right now. It’s nut-free, gluten-free, soy-free, dairy free.”

The name, Prairie Melt, hints at the unique feature of this product: it melts. It may seem like a requirement for a cheese to melt, but many vegans understand the struggle of finding a cheese substitute that replicates the texture and meltability of dairy-based cheese.

“It took a few months of trial and error; there is a bit of a process to actually get it to melt. The ingredients are pretty simple. Getting the combination right is really tricky because you need it to melt,” explained Byrt. “You need the right combination of potato and oil, then figure out the temperature that it melts. Once I had all the ingredients worked out, it took a really long time to figure out the exact ratio. I had to study how much fat content cheese has, and how much salt content it has. It’s not exactly like cheese, but it does have that same mouth feel.”

Byrt sells Prairie Melt exclusively through Good Stock Foods, but many local restaurants serve menu items that feature it as well. Stop by Next Act Pub, Stone & Wheel Pizzeria or the 3 Amigos to try this product without committing to buying a whole 900 gram container.

Prairie Melt isn’t the only vegan cheeze Good Stock produces in-house. While toiling in an unforgiving kitchen, Chef Byrt spent years perfecting a 30-hour process to make a cashew cheeze—a product that only contains cashews, vegan probiotics,



A grilled cheeze using Prairie Melt.

Photo supplied

herbs and spices. It’s another dairy-free, gluten-free, plant-based alternative that goes well on bagels, charcuterie boards, crackers, sandwiches and anything you would put cheese on. It comes in four flavours: dill & onion, truffle, italian herb and garlic, and spicy chili garlic. But be warned, this isn’t a cheeze for those with nut allergies.

Currently, Byrt and her family are working on getting both cheezes produced at a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points and federally inspected facility to expand to various grocery stores and beyond farmer’s markets. In the meantime, stop by Good Stock Foods to enjoy a vegan-friendly take-and-bake after a hard day of classes.

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“A duty to uphold”: Lt. Eric’s journey in radio

By Zach Kubusch

There are three guarantees in life: death, taxes and radio. As a Radio student, I’m obviously biased. But for those of us in the industry, listening to the radio is a big part of our lives. Eric Holt, a NAIT Radio and Television graduate and co-host for the Dustin Neilson show on TSN1260, would likely feel the same.

Better known to his listeners as Lt. Eric, Holt has loved radio since he was a child.

“I grew up around [radio] a lot. My folks always had it on. We always had music around and everything, specifically radio. Basically, my dad worked and my mom was a stay-at-home mom ... she would always have the car radio on, like 50s and 60s hits. So we always listened to the oldies on the AM and then my dad, in the meantime, he’d work. And then he’d get off work and we would listen to like WHL and SJHL hockey games,” said Holt.

“I liked radio because it was always around. Getting to be older, my brother and I, we always fiddled around, we taped stuff off the radio.”

Growing up with radio caused Holt to have a natural interest in the technology. He remembers DJing his brother’s hockey tournament and burning CDs as a child.

“I always liked playing music ... just having music and matching it to stuff and kind of playing around with audio,” he explained.

Without even knowing it at the time, Holt’s passion for audio would translate to a career. He didn’t pursue post secondary right away. “After high school, I just worked and dicked around and partied a bit ... I didn’t know what I was going to do with my life,” Holt explained.

But coincidentally, he was offered a position at a radio station in his hometown.

“There’s a heavy metal show in Saskatoon called Metalurgy and it was on like all my life. I listened to it all the time. And I was like, ‘Oh, Larry Lava’s so cool,’” said Holt.

“And then Larry Lava retired, and coincidentally I just graduated high school ... and the program director at CFCR 90.5 FM Saskatoon ... said, ‘Hey, Eric, would you like to take over?’”

Holt worked there for five years, playing heavy metal on Thursday nights from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. He played mostly local music, but brought in bands and friends to promote shows.

“It was so much fun ... I worked Friday at 6:00 a.m. so some nights you’d stay out all night, it was wild.”

After doing community radio for five years, Holt set off to Edmonton to complete the Radio and Television program at NAIT in hopes of bringing his career to life, in any sort of way.

“I just said, ‘Well, I’ll see where [the program] takes me.’ ... I guess when I went to NAIT, the goal was to get paid. To make somewhat of a living.”

He didn’t have goals coming into the program, just a passion for music and sports. He had always dreamed of calling games for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, his hometown football team. But the main goal was to just do what he loved.

He already knew how to work a lot of the equipment from his previous position, but Holt still learned a lot during his time at NAIT.

“I learned to be comfortable with myself in front of large groups of people ... I was pretty introverted before NAIT,” he explained.

“I got to chill with people outside of my age group, which was neat ... it wasn’t so much a technical learning side from the class, but I met a lot of interesting people, which I never would have met.”

These days, Holt’s life still revolves around radio, but long gone are the days of staying up all night spinning heavy metal and partying.

“I used to go out and party all the time, but I can’t do that anymore, so I’ve got to be pretty on the ball.”

Instead, Holt prioritizes rest and staying current on what’s happening in the world.

“You’ve got to have your finger on the pulse and know what’s going on at all times, specifically with whatever you’re covering,” Holt explained. “Get your sleep, wake up at a good time, get there an hour before and do a bunch of prep and you should be good to go.”



Eric Holt (left) poses with Allen Lulu (“A&W Guy”) and Dustin Neilson (co-host of The Neilson Show) .

Photo supplied

“I’ve got to be in a routine now, I’m not young anymore. I’ve got to make sure I’m taking care of myself.”

Although he loves what he does, there are still challenges. Dealing with the public, especially in the age of the internet, can be taxing. Many radio station have text or phone lines where listeners can immediately share their thoughts.

“[With] a text line, people can instantly tell you what they’re thinking of you,” Holt explained. “There’s some stuff sometimes that’s flung at you and you can’t fling it back ... you have to handle it in a responsible way.”

The industry can be hard to break into, with so many avenues of media these days. But Holt explained the most important part to landing a job in radio is who you know and what you know. “Sometimes one can take precedence over the other. In my case, it was who.”

If you don’t know anyone in the industry, Holt suggests doing something where you can be consistent and stand out. That could be getting tape, or starting a YouTube channel.

“There’s no guarantees, but try to be unique in the large, large landscape of online channels.”

Ultimately, Holt recommends just being a good person and employee.

“Your odds are better if you’re helping people, walking around with a smile on your face, not being an idiot. You know, being on time, being punctual, being somebody that people can depend on.”

Being on the radio is such a different world from regular jobs. You’re booked for certain times, you’re supposed to be there. You have to give 100 per cent of your effort and be exciting all the time, even if you’re having a bad day. But in the end, being a radio personality is a way to connect to people from afar.

“You do have a bit of a duty to the people who listen to you. People plan their days sometimes around you, and if you’re not going to be there for them, that’s a thing ... we’ve been on the air during some pretty trying times at certain points, but you are a respite for the listener,” said Holt.

“Whatever you’re doing, you have a duty to uphold.”

Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal awarded to former NAIT graduate

By Liesl Sham

From NAIT alumnus and company founder to recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal, Brad Bartko has made it his mission to create more accessible and barrier-free spaces within Edmonton and surrounding areas. As an individual living with cerebral palsy and navigating life in a wheelchair, Bartko has experienced many instances in and around establishments where accessibility was either limited or non-inclusive.

"Where my journey started was when somebody at a bar told me that the reason they don't have an accessible bathroom was because they don't get any of 'my people' in their establishment. And to me, that needed to change," Bartko said.

Just over a year ago, Bartko founded his company disABILITY – Accessible by Design (ABD) with his wife Jenn. The duo works as disability consultants helping establishments ensure their spaces are inclusive to all members of the disabled community.

"High tables, low tables, more space, making sure that bathrooms were set up, all that kind of stuff. [Making sure] their [push-to-open] buttons were in the right place, braille menus and the kind of stuff that people don't really think about."

Because of Bartko's negative experience within the hospitality industry, he explains they also offer training to staff so they can better communicate to customers with various disabilities.

"That bar incident was a pivotal point in my life and in my career. We started training staff on better ways on how to, you know, talk to people with disabilities. How to better serve them."

As a former NAIT student and now an experienced disability consultant, Bartko was able to comment and reflect on the institution's accessibility when he visited this past winter.

"The building I found accessible; the buttons worked, easy access. Snow removal at that time could've been a lot better, so keeping sidewalks clear. It's the little things that everybody can do that goes a long way to making a difference. But overall, NAIT does a good job. They are a school, so they follow rules and regulations."

Bartko and ABD have been working on significant projects in the past year, such as helping the city of Spruce Grove design their 130,000 square foot Civic Centre set to open in 2025. According to the city's website, the Civic Centre Project is "the largest project in Spruce Grove history."

"We were the disability voice on that job, so we're really proud of that. We submitted 21 recommendations for accessibility and they accepted 19 of 21. We [were] very honoured and very privileged to [have been] a part of that."

ABD has also partnered with AdaptAbilities to launch the HOPE Campaign this year, which aims to Help One Person Every Day. He explains that this 365-day campaign is a way to give back and support members of the disabled community with items or services such as ramps for their houses, wheelchairs or gift cards to name a few.

"On day 365, we want to give away a fully accessible house to a recipient. All the money raised will go back to AdaptAbilities to better the community as a whole, and my goal through all of this is education and awareness."

Bartko's goal for many of his initiatives is to give people in the disabled community hope and a sense of belonging, and to increase the level of education and awareness for the rest of the world. He explains that there is a massive gap in the education sector around people with disabilities, and states that applying his lived experience in his work is a great way to help try to bridge that gap.

As a result of Bartko's impactful projects, he was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal this past January, a medal which recognizes Albertans who have made significant contributions to the community.

"I'm very proud of that. I will flaunt that around, I will take that to my grave," Bartko said.

"That is not a me award, though, that's a we award. My wife is a massive part of that, the team is a massive part of that, and we wouldn't be here if it wasn't together. It's a very special accomplishment to be recognized in the disability space, and I'm



Bartko holds his Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Photo supplied.

truly honoured and truly privileged and blessed to be a part of such an amazing group."

Bartko emphasizes that able-bodied individuals can be the most effective allies and advocates for the disabled community if a proactive approach is taken. He encourages individuals to become educated and surround themselves with people who are disabled to better understand their world.

"You're going to enter our world, so why not understand it now? We need to be proactive and thinking about the future, and not just thinking about today. Everybody's going to have a disability at some point ... and we want to be proactive rather than reactive. It's not about me, it's all about we. We need to come together to create a better world for ourselves."

To learn more about Bartko and his company disAbility – Accessible by Design, visit www.disabilityabd.com. NAIT students can support the HOPE Campaign by visiting www.hopecampaign.ca.

Printing solutions with the NAIT Library's Makerspace

By Brian Janssens

When I returned to NAIT last September, I had no prior experience with 3D printing. The process appeared time-consuming and challenging to get started in, but I heard 3D printing could be a handy tool for solving a wide range of problems. One such problem I was trying to solve was replacing a missing storage container for a set of triangular cards in a board game. I found a 3D file online that was created for this exact situation—all I needed to do was print it. Luckily, the NAIT Library's Makerspace had the equipment and knowledge I needed to solve my 3D printing problem.

The Makerspace is located in the library on the third floor of the U building. It's available to NAIT students with a Makerspace Technology Membership, which can be purchased for \$12 each semester. Those interested in using the Makerspace equipment must complete free certification courses on Moodle. The 3D print certification covers everything students need to know to get started with their first 3D print. Following certification, an appointment with one of the Makerspace specialists is required to complete orientation. Members then have the skills to prepare 3D models for printing and load the files into one of the many printers available. The print cost is determined by the amount of filament used, with most material types priced at \$0.15 per gram.

The Makerspace also hosts workshop sessions throughout the first half of each semester to help students refine their skills. These sessions, hosted by Library Supervisor Gilbert Ou, are more informal and allow students to ask questions and get help with their projects. Ou's biggest tip for students interested in exploring the Makerspace and 3D printing is to come and try it.

"People are interested, but they hesitate because they always thought [sic] that they don't know if they can do it. Once you start doing it, it's not that crazy. There are different kinds of skills that you need to have, but those are skills you can grow with," Ou said.

Carmen Reems, Library Service Director, spoke to the polytechnic goals of the Makerspace. "Every student that comes to NAIT, regardless of if they are a Business student, Mechanical Engineering student, or Autobody student, should have the ability to explore new technology and grow their tech skills and digital literacy skills. Even if it is not in your curriculum, we firmly believe everyone should have the ability to build those skills," said Reems. "Anyone, from no experience to a Machinist, can come in and utilize and explore this space."

Reems also spoke to the growth and past additions to the Makerspace. "We are always needs-driven. What we hear from students, instructors, and programs is the direction we try to go," said Reems. "If the students using the space are interested in something, then we become keen on making that happen because they are our main

user group."

Before starting in the Makerspace last semester, I was in the mindset Ou described. I felt hesitant to challenge myself with 3D printing to replace the missing container for my board game. However, I'm glad I decided to explore the options provided by the Makerspace. Now with every project, I am trying new things and expanding my technical skills.

To learn more about using the Makerspace's 3D printers, check out the NAIT Library Services website or visit the library in U310D from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

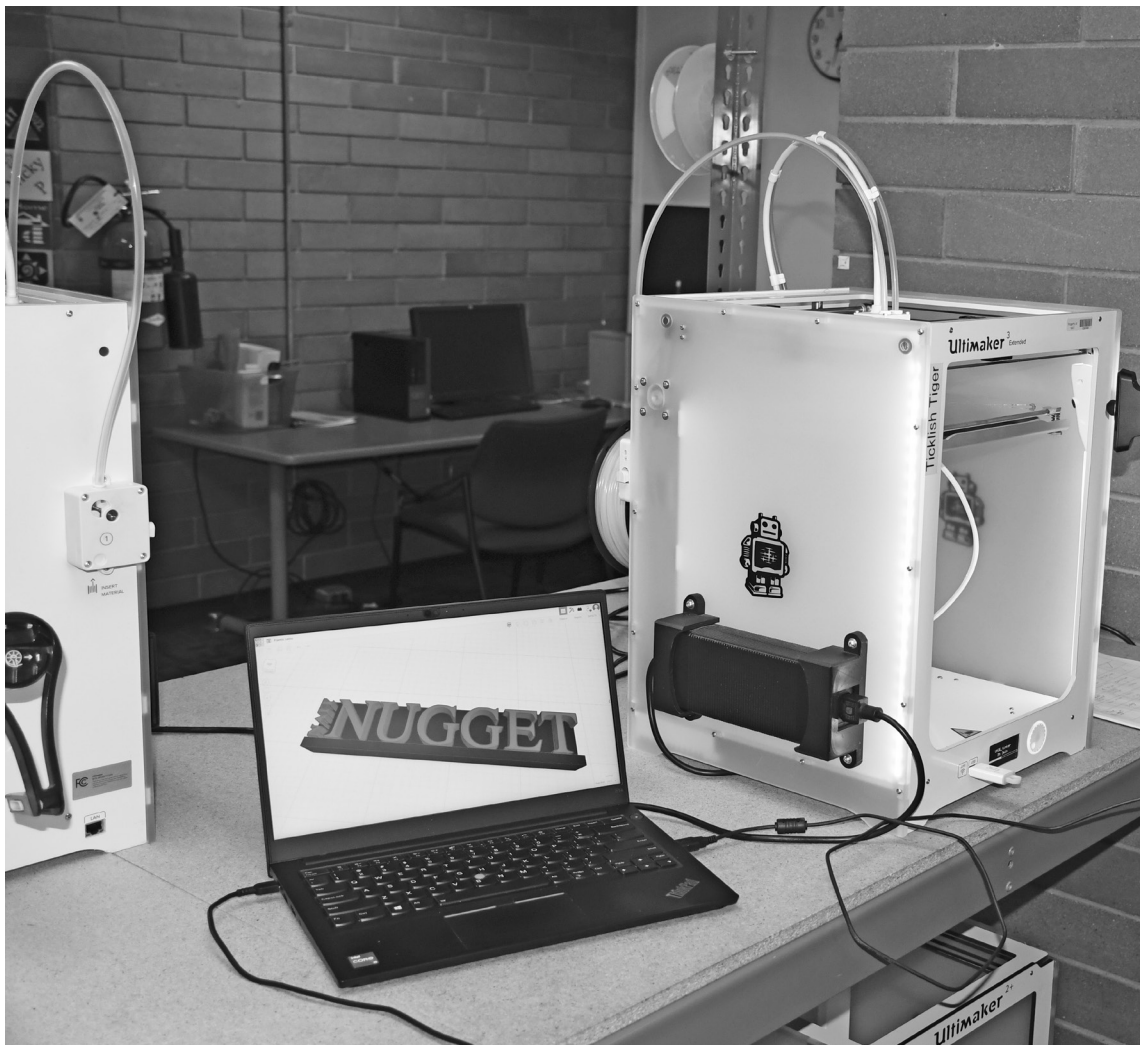


Photo by Brian Janssens



