



Photo by Brynn Campbell

Eunice Jolley poses for a portrait in front of one of her many paintings. Jolley took up painting about 20 years ago when she started to experiment with oils, watercolors, and acrylics. "I just love it, that's all," Jolley said in regards to her hobby.

Students of business and justice programs can complete degrees in half the time

Agreement with universities offers online opportunity

By Joanna Becket

Loyalist College graduates can now complete their business and justice degrees – online – and in half the time.

On Jan. 16, the college announced it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Fredericton, in N.B., and Husson University, in Bangor, Maine, that would allow graduates of Loyalist's School of Business and Management Studies and the Centre for Justice Studies programs online opportunities to complete their university degrees.

"Having the combination of a college diploma, a university degree, and an MBA puts that graduate in a different light when viewed by an employer," said Dan Holland, Dean of the Schools of Business and Management Studies, and Biosciences, and the Centre for Justice Studies at Loyalist College.

"I think the community colleges do a great job in training students in applied skills," said Holland. "This initiative offers new pathways to degree completion for our graduates."

"I've signed a lot of these types of transfer agreements and I think this is probably one of the strongest ones ever negotiated," said Holland. "Many of the Loyalist programs allow students to transfer their Loyalist credits towards a university degree."

"But this one is different in a couple of ways," he said. "It's the first tri-party agreement I've seen – with Loyalist College, Husson University and the University of Fredericton partnering – and the first agreement that recognizes Loyalist in a substantial way."

Husson University is a private university accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, one of the top accreditation agencies in North America.

The association has also accredited Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"That says a lot," said Holland.

With this partnership, all graduates of Loyalist College's School of Business and Management Studies and the Centre for Justice Studies programs will have the opportunity to transfer to Husson College for the fourth and final year of the bachelor's degree programs.

As students in Husson University's online diploma-to-degree programs they will work toward a bachelor of science in business administration or a bachelor of science in criminal justice.

The programs are delivered through the University of Fredericton's online learning platform.

"Loyalist students are given three years of credit for two years of study at Loyalist," said Holland. "Qualifying students can get up to 90 credits toward their four-year program which requires 120 credits. And they can do it online."

"As a past graduate, you could actually be in the workforce and already working in your area of interest. Or you can graduate and start working right away. It's not mandated that the program has to be completed in one year," said Holland.

Students completing the Husson University programs will receive a certificate in applied management from the University of Fredericton. They are then eligible to apply for the university's one-year online MBA program.

For students taking the university route it traditionally requires six years to complete an MBA.

Add it all together with this program, a student earns a college diploma, a university degree and an MBA in just four years – half of the time it usually takes.

Tony Pilon, 26, a third-year business administration student at Loyalist, responded enthusiastically to the news that the program was now available.

"Wow! Jeppers! That's amazing!" he said. "I just hope I'll be eligible for it. Normally it would have taken two years for a bachelor's degree and two years for an MBA. I never really thought about going to the level of a master's degree. There's hardly any barrier to entry and it's time-sensitive. It's pretty cool."

"I'm a big believer in continuing education," said Holland. "Never stop learning."

Art community finds home

Local artists of limited means get place to show work

By Brynn Campbell

Struggling artists' work has found a free home.

Thirteen unique artists joined together to form Artists Below the Line, an art community for local artists of limited means.

It began when founders Lisa Morris, Peter Paylor, and Kenny Leighton found a venue for artists without disposable income with the help from the CORE Centre on Pinnacle Street in Belleville.

Artists Below the Line isn't just about selling a few paintings: this small community has become therapy for some and even given others a sense of purpose.

"You have a 22-year-old young man, who is from Mexico, who has found this community, that has accepted him as an artist, as a friend. He is sitting across from an 88-year-old woman who is all excited because she found this group. They are worlds apart but they have this common thread," said Morris.

That 88-year-old is Eunice Jolley, who

joined Artists Below the Line after she discovered the group in an ad in the newspaper.

"You can only do a certain amount of knitting and embroidery," said Jolley. "This group has given me something to look forward to. I am part of a group that has the same interests as I do. Anyone that can draw a line should come out."

Morris recalled how Jolley confronted her about the group and said, "Honey, you have no idea what this means to me. I've got a reason to get up in the morning."

"It's almost a compulsion," said Jolley. "You just have to do it. When you get started you can't leave it."

The 13 artists will be displaying their work at the first show starting Feb. 29 at the CORE Centre. Each artist has a unique style, not the typical landscape-and-portrait crew.

"Not everyone plans on selling their art," said Paylor.

"I think for a lot of us it is about the community we are creating and the support. It is about having a chance for some other stuff to be seen."

Cofounder Leighton will be among those displaying their work.

Leighton uses a combination of many medias for his artwork: acrylics, water-

colors, oils, markers, T-shirt paints, liquid paint and even bingo dabbers.

"I am all about displaying it. I don't care about selling pieces or anything like that. I just want to have pictures up in legitimate places," he said.

"They aren't photos, exactly; they're not paintings exactly either. They're somewhere in between. For me it is very therapeutic."

What started out as three friends discussing how artists of limited means could showcase their work turned into a reality.

"We would talk about art, and we would talk about the venues that are available for artists in town," said Paylor. "Especially for those who were doing something slightly different. They don't really have much of a chance to show work in the venues that are available now."

Most venues in Belleville require a fee to join the gallery, or to hang pieces.

"The people who do paintings or photography have to properly frame their work. The costs a lot are higher," said Paylor. "It means that people with limited means are shut out, not just of showing the work, but sometimes of creating the work, so that is where it started."

The founders were later inspired by

"Art on the Street," put on by Kingston Street Health. Kingston Street Health used an old storefront to display the work of people dealing with homelessness and mental health issues.

"It's not a show about the street; it's a show for artists," said Paylor.

"We met an artist from Belleville. He was telling us about his work and that he had participated in the show for a couple of years. He was telling us that he had stopped doing art, and ended up in the hospital. When he started doing art again he felt well. He talked about how doing art was an important part of working around his mental illness."

After the event in Kingston, the group felt determined to get something underway.

Paylor and Morris checked out the CORE Centre one day, where they explained their ideas and ambitions to the staff. Ideas became reality and dates were set for when the first show would be displayed.

The 13 artists have been busy preparing for the gallery where their alternative styles of art will be displayed.

The show runs Feb. 29 to March 10. The gallery is located at 223 Pinnacle St., across from the Belleville Public Library.

New train station almost ready to pull into town

Station expected to be open by the end of March

By Mallory Haigh

Belleville is one step closer to having a new accessible and modern train station.

J.J. McGuire General Contractors of Pickering, under contract with Via Rail, has almost completed construction on the \$7-million train station and line upgrade. The station is expected to be open by the end of March.

The original station at 222 Station St. was built in 1856, and was designated a National Historical Site of Canada in 1973.

In 2007, after Via launched the Via Rail Capital Investment program to overhaul and modernize rail travel in Canada, the Belleville stop was slated for the construction of a new station to better meet the needs of travellers.

Among accessibility and environmentally-friendly upgrades, the new station will change the overall way passengers are moved on and off the trains. The use of elevators on both sides of the new loading platform, as well as energy efficient lighting and heating systems, make the building a modern upgrade to its historical counterpart.

Steven Metcalf, J.J. McGuire's construction manager for the Belleville project, expects construction to be completed in early February.



Photo by Rebecca Rempel

A man waits for the 3:15 p.m. VIA Rail train en route to Toronto, at the Belleville train station, which is currently under renovations. VIA Rail is adding a number of trains to the schedule, starting on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

"We will then turn things over to Via," Metcalf explained.

"The biggest design change we have been tasked with is to install a central platform. This enables passengers to load from three lanes rather than one, and is much more efficient in terms of moving people," Metcalf said.

Via Rail Ontario spokesman Malcolm Andrews said that construction is on time.

"Once we take over from the contrac-

tors, the station will be open for business in March," he said. "We are exactly on our \$7-million budget."

The new station development is also part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the economic stimulus plan designed to create jobs as well as improve infrastructure throughout the country.

A new building and renovated tracks aren't the only thing expected to change with the new station, however. When Via

announced its Capital Investment Program, the corporation also indicated train schedules would change.

According to Andrews, commuter trains to and from Toronto will remain unchanged.

"One of the biggest changes that affects Belleville is that the late train to Montreal will only go as far as Kingston," he said, noting that all changes will come into effect today.

For students and commuters who use the train as a main source of transportation, there are generally very few complaints about the adjustments to service.

"As long as the daily train to and from Toronto isn't changed, I personally won't be affected," said Anna Kent, a second-year student at Durham College who frequently uses Via services to come home to Belleville on weekends.

Loyalist general arts and science student Ryan Bell, who calls Ottawa home, also doesn't see the changes as a problem. "It's not like I ever took the late train (to Montreal via Ottawa), so the schedule shift doesn't change anything for me."

Via Rail has accommodated travellers to all destinations with its changes. Two new trains have been added to the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto corridor, in order to replace the late-night route from Toronto to Montreal. This, said Andrews, will enable more people to get to where they need to go more quickly.

New schedule changes are available on Via Rail's website at www.viarail.ca.