



COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

Alumnotes

July 2017

ALUMNA NEWS: Rowing Canada Names Under-23 National Team

Madison Mailey '14 has been selected to row for Canada on the Under 23 Canadian Rowing Team. This summer, she will be representing Canada in Bulgaria at the World Rowing Championships. The regatta will take place in Plovdiv, Bulgaria from July 19th to 23rd.

To learn more, click the link and follow along at "rowingcanada" on Instagram!

<http://rowingcanada.org/news-events/news/rca-names-under-23-national-team>

We are very proud of Madison, and the entire Canadian National Team as they represent our country on the world stage this summer.



Canada Under-23 Team on "College Uni Day." Madison (bottom row on far left) proudly wears her Northeastern unitard!

FEATURED ALUMNI: Monika Cieslak '14 - A doctor's doctor

This alumna is currently earning a medical degree in Ireland, but has the determination and passion to change the world.



Monika inspiring a new generation of young girls.



Here is the Surgical Society Executive Committee standing in front of The Royal Surgeon's College. You can find Monika, front and center.

When my computer connects to her phone, the FaceTime video reveals Monika Cieslak herself, earbuds in, jacket on, and smiling. "Do you see me?" she asks "I'm about to take you on a little tour." With that, I'm thrust out the doors of her home into downtown Dublin. While we talk, she's walking to her classes as a third-year medical student, constantly on the move in her driven quest for a medical degree.

Monika is a born doctor, born from doctors. Her parents met at medical school in Poland, before immigrating to Canada, and even her grandfather chose to become a doctor. Perhaps genes can code for physical appearances as well as an innate interest in human anatomy, perhaps it was the stacks of textbooks her father kept at his office that kick-started her curiosity. Maybe the two catalysts combined for a prognosis of passion. In any case, the symptoms of curiosity about the human body and its functions started young and they started strong. When I ask Monika what her earliest memory is of her wanting to become a doctor she laughs and responds "There's a lot."

Monika used to walk into her dad's office and copy down pages of medical textbooks and deliver them to her brother who was in medical school himself at that time. Whether he could make use of her notes is questionable, if that gesture is the stuff doctor prodigy dreams are made of, undoubtable. Memories of ballet offer another look into a brain programmed for medicine "I remember being in ballet class at a young age, more interested in how our body permitted us to dance than the dancing itself. I've always had this underlying fascination with

the human body and how our body can do such amazing things, from movement to fighting illness."

When she wasn't finding the medical and clinical relevance of the human body in three dimensions, she was immersed in it in two. Monika fondly remembers a favourite cardboard book she gushed over called "The Giant Book of the Human Body" by Neil Ardley, that she still has today. "I literally loved that book! I coloured on it, I read it out loud...I still remember the content of every page today."

The innate interest in medicine she experienced as a little girl strengthened in adolescence. "Throughout high school, I never was able to convince myself that I wanted to do anything else. I started to believe in myself, work hard and do everything possible to achieve my dream." Monika explains, passing under some trees bare of leaves. "Eventually it felt that high school was just a stepping stone into medical school." In Poland, studying medical school after high school was the norm so when examining the post-secondary options, she saw Poland as the obvious choice. "I'm Polish. I speak Polish. I wanted the opportunity to live closer to my extended family and experience living in the country my family came from" she says. When Monika was applying for university, her mum suggested giving Ireland and its excellent schools a shot. When she got accepted she had to decide between studying at home in Canada or going all the way to Poland. Ireland presented itself as the best of both worlds, so off she went to study at The Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin.

Medical school isn't an easy thing by itself. On top of that, Monika had to adjust to a new country, different foods, novel brands, and a completely dissimilar time zone. While her friends and their families back in Canada experience a time difference of only a few hours, Monika has to wait till 4pm to talk to her parents at the earliest. However, her attitudes and habits speak for themselves; they announce someone that can fight through any challenges faced, and is gifted with the ability to do what she believes in. "My school year is very difficult, especially during exams. However, when the school year ends, the hard work feels extremely rewarding." As Monika explains this, green lights from a store window flicker across her face as she moves through the city picking up pace. "As time passes you become very appreciative that you have the opportunity to study." Unsurprisingly, Monika describes herself as a hard worker. "I study whenever I can to be honest." Of course, she makes time for friends, relaxation and extra-curricular activities. I'm privy to her exercise regime, an hour a day of walking at least, but for the most part Monika works hard at what she needs to do to excel. Monika has plotted her path, and there is more pediatrics than parties on it.

Monika pushes herself at school, but the most uplifting thing about her quest for success is that it seems to have no discernible finish line be it a certain position or place of practice. It seems to be prescribed by a doctor from the motivational divine via pharmacologists of sincerity. "I really want to accomplish something in my life. I want to contribute scientific research and make a difference in people's lives, but ultimately I want to be always improving my knowledge." Along with research, Monika wants to practice medicine. Although the exact location of practice isn't as important as the practice itself. As Monika passes through a tunnel, she explains her reasoning. "There are sick people all over the world. It would be a privilege to practice medicine anywhere."

At the moment though, Monika is enjoying Ireland. The neighbourhoods I saw in the video looked charming, and the people that inhabit them are given great reviews by Monika as well "Irish people are so sweet, so pleasant and so welcoming. The people are unbelievable." Near the end of the interview, I asked Monika if she believed Irish people really were lucky. "Irish people have a fascinating history, they are strong, hardworking and I believe they have earned their luck in the most honourable way."

Based on Monika's drive, excitement, and new opportunities on the Irish coast, I'd say her thoughts on the Irish apply to her, as well. As she moves on with her education and her career in medicine, Monika will surely go on to forge her own pot of gold.

~ Emily Kelsall '16

Support For Collingwood's New Grad Class

September 2017 will see many of our graduating class heading off across the globe. Some will be traveling to McGill, Queens, and the University of Pennsylvania just to name a few. Should you wish to offer some support to a recent Collingwood grad as they travel onto their next adventure please contact Kathryn Slemko, Associate Director, Advancement at kathryn.slemko@collingwood.org This could mean being a friendly face to meet as they arrive at their new university or perhaps offering some advice on the best places to visit in their new cities around the world.

Collingwood Finance and Business Club Call-Out

The Collingwood Finance and Business Club (CFBC), a student led club, introduces students to the financial and businessworld. We invite guest speakers, ranging from university

professors and former Wall Street employees to student parents, to share knowledge with our Morven students.

The CFBC would like to formally invite all alumni who are currently working in the two industries to share knowledge with our students.

We will be hosting three events:

[September 20, 2017](#)

[October 4, 2017](#)

[October 18, 2017](#)

If you are interested, please email Kelly Cao, CFBC Founder (kellycao7@hotmail.com) or the sponsor teacher, Mr. Brian McDonald (brian.mcdonald@collingwood.org).

Stay Connected With Collingwood

With a series of reunions coming up we would like to put a call out for the following alumni to update their information in order to receive the invitation:

Mr. Alim Abdulla	Ms. Farzana Khubchandani	Mr. Robert Snowden
Mr. Jason Adams	Mr. Nicholas Lauga	Mr. Trevor Thomas
Ms. Fiona Barnett	Mr. Kaiser Lee	Ms. Lily Wang
Ms. Emma Blewett	Ms. Tara McNulty	Mr. Andy Weeks
Mr. Tony Chen	Mr. Sam Orr	Ms. Nicole Wein
Mr. Tony Davey	Ms. Sarah Overbey	Mr. Dylan Wheeler
Ms. Nicky Hartley	Mr. Karl Palenschus	Ms. Mandy Wolfe
Mr. Simon Hay	Ms. Wendy Sanders	Mr. Justin Wong
Ms. Marlee Johnson	Mr. David Sewell	
Ms. Goli Khorsandian	Ms. Alexandra Smith	

If you know any of the above, please feel free to pass on this newsletter to them and encourage them to update their information here: <https://www.collingwood.org/alumni/update-your-address>

Upcoming Events



Class of 1992 25 Year Reunion: September 30th

7:00pm - 10:00pm

The Beachhouse

Please [click here](#) to register for the reunion event



Class of 1997 20 Year Reunion: October 21st

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Café Ca Va

Please [click here](#) to register for the reunion event

Collingwood wishes everyone a fun and relaxing summer!

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