

Knowledge is the key

June 6



Sean Kilpatrick/SUN

TANIA PAOLINI will be graduating from Algonquin College this week with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She plans to use her computer expertise to improve the mental health field.

Algonquin grad bringing hi-tech touch to nursing

By LAURA CZEKAJ

TANIA PAOLINI is not one to brag about her accomplishments.

The Algonquin College graduate prefers not to gloat about the prestigious Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Student of Distinction Award she received for the significant contribution she has made to the nursing profession.

It's even harder to get Paolini to discuss her aptitude for computer technology or how through education she has combined her passion for hi-tech with her desire to help the community's most vulnerable through nursing. The Ottawa native may be modest, but her success in her schooling and her subsequent career speaks volumes.

"I wanted to be part of an innovative profession and nurses do have the ability to promote healthy changes and influence outcomes," she said.

Paolini will be attending convocation with her peers who are graduating from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program offered by Algonquin College, in collaboration with the University of Ottawa.

Mental health

Paolini worked as a registered practical nurse in long-term care for several years before deciding to return to school as a mature student for computer programming.

After finishing the program, she chose to return to college to pursue her BScN.

She is currently working with the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group as a patient safety project lead implementing an electronic incident reporting system that bridges her interest in information technology and mental health.

"I think that the vulnerable (mental health) population doesn't get enough attention," she said. "It's an area of health that I feel I can do more in."

Through her work at the hospital, Paolini experiences an immense sense of satisfaction in the knowledge she is providing help where it is needed.

"I love the environment I am working in and the people I work with," she said.

Her plans are to pursue graduate studies in the hopes of learning more about the effects and uses of technology on nursing practices.

"I think technology is the future, even in health care," she said.

A strong supporter of furthering one's education, Paolini encourages those considering a return to the classroom as a mature student to take the plunge.

"I think knowledge is key," she said.

laura.czekaj@ott.sunpub.com

OTTAWA SUN WEB EXTRA
 > U of O GRADUATION
 For an inside look at the University of Ottawa's convocation ceremonies held yesterday at the National Arts Centre, visit ottawasun.com to view photos. In attendance was Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, who also received an honorary degree.
 ONLY AT OTTAWASUN.COM

Algonquin facts

More than 2,000 of the 5,674 students graduating from Algonquin College this year will attend Spring Convocation ceremonies at Scotiabank Place June 8 and 9:

- The graduating class of 5,674 is 6% larger than last year's at 5,366;
- Total programs: more than 140;
- Base annual tuition amount: \$2,276;

- Percentage of male and percentage of female students: 49% male, 51% female;
- Full time students: 14,857;
- Part-time students: 23,000;
- Full-time faculty: 515;
- Foreign students: 930 from 100 countries;
- Origin of most Canadian students: Ottawa;
- Origin of most foreign students: People's Republic of China;
- Operating budget: \$193 million.