



Cavaliers at Place Bell

On November 29, Champlain Saint-Lambert's Women's Basketball team got to play an RSEQ season matchup at Place Bell in Laval during the NCAA Northern Classic weekend.

The Northern Classic brings together five teams from the National Collegiate Athletic Association to compete at the 12,000-seat arena. Over the course of the weekend, men's basketball teams from U.S. universities will compete in a tournament to be crowned the first-ever Northern Classic champion.

"Women's basketball continues to

grow across Quebec, and we are proud to share an exceptional initiative that highlights the talent of our student-athletes while promoting the women's game within our province," said Cavaliers Head Coach Georges Germanos.

"This is a truly remarkable opportunity for our athletes—to compete in a professional arena, in front of a large crowd, as part of an international-level event that enriches the athletic and educational experience we strive to provide at Champlain," he said.

At 2:30PM on Saturday, the Cavaliers took on the Dawson Blues in a major moment for women's basketball in Quebec that highlights the city's passion and commitment to the sport.

The Cavaliers ended the game with a win over Dawson 61-55 in front of an energetic crowd in Laval.

Champlain News is a monthly internal campus newsletter created to inform, commemorate and highlight achievements of students, faculty and staff. Our community has a great deal to celebrate and learn from one another as we look forward to the next 50 years of Champlain Saint-Lambert.

Have an idea or a story you'd like to see featured in the newsletter? Know of an alumni you'd like to see profiled? Send your suggestions to Communications Manager Marilla Steuter-Martin at msteutermartin@crcmail.net

Code Quest Hackathon

On November 13th, the Champlain Programming Club officially hosted Champlain College's second Code Quest Hackathon, and this year's theme was "Build the world of tomorrow."

The 40 participants delivered in every way. Over 12 hours, they built ambitious prototypes, jumped into workshops, teamed up, debugged, hit setbacks, pushed through—and ended up creating some genuinely impressive projects.

If you're a Champlain student who wants to learn, build, or be part of a driven tech community, the Programming Club is always open. MIO club President Anvarzhan Sul-tanov for info.



Nursing at Sim Expo 2025

Paul Brisson, co-coordinator of the Nursing Program, participated on a panel at the Simulation Expo in conference in Montreal last month.

The SIM Expo is a multidisciplinary conference, which hosts clinicians, researchers, and educators. It is a unique, annual opportunity for great minds in healthcare simulation to unite, collaborate on current issues, share knowledge, and advance simulation.

The theme of this year's conference was artificial intelligence and Brisson's presentation focused on the topic of "Accelerating VR scenario creation in nursing education through AI voice generation". Brisson spoke on a panel called "AI

for Creating and Facilitating simulations" alongside a researcher from McGill and a programmer.

The conference tackled all manner of subjects from ethical considerations, real-world applications and case studies of how AI is being implemented successfully — and where it's falling short.

Champlain's Nursing program has been a leader in integrating simulations and harnessing technological advancements to help students learn in new and immersive ways. This was a great opportunity to shine a light on the great work of the department.



Shine Theatre Production

On November 27 and 28, Champlain's Shine Theatre Club put on a production of U-R-U by Julia Lederer in the college auditorium.

Lederer is a Canadian playwright from Toronto whose 2020 play tackles themes of technology and society. U-R-U tells the story of Helen Spectacular who arrives at the world's largest robot-producing start-up with a plan to free the ro-



bots and grant them human rights. Congrats to all the students in the

cast and crew who worked hard to make this performance happen!

Model UN at SSUNS

Champlain's Model UN Delegation attended the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium, the largest high school Model UN conference in Canada, from November 10-13 and delivered a record-breaking performance. The 13 incredible delegates spent the entire conference immersed in debate and diplomacy, and proudly returned home with 10 awards. Congrats to the participants!



Music Society Showcase

The Champlain Music Society's showcase in the auditorium was a great opportunity to highlight the talent and creativity of performers and organizer.

Congrats to all the musicians who performed and made the event so memorable.



Photo by @lorik_enzo

MEDLife Gives Back

Throughout the month of November, Champlain's MEDLife club has been gathering donations of non-perishable food items and winter clothing to share with external organizations and support the campus Food Pantry.

Members of the group have been working hard and collaborating with other student groups to collect donations and help make the holiday season warmer and brighter for people within our college and



community and beyond. The students were able to gather a total of 190 cans and 19 winter jackets plus a multitude of additional clothing

and goods to give away. Hats off to these amazing students who are acting with such generosity and kindness!

Millennium Certificates

Valérianna Chaaya, a student in the Social Science Psychology Option at Champlain, is a student ambassador for the Millennium Certificates program and has become involved not just in the program itself, but in promoting it among her peers.

"I have been recommending the program to countless individuals since I started," she said. "I think everyone should give it a chance, especially given that all of the available topics of Millennium certificates are interesting! That's a strength of the certificates: none of those independent studies will be like another. Even if it's the same student doing multiple. All certificates teach you various different skills in various different ways!"

At Open House last month, Chaaya was in attendance alongside teacher and Millennium Certificates co-coordinator Gabriel Flacks, to spread the word about the program and its impact, drawing on her personal experience and enthusiasm.



"Val has been a sincere ambassador for the program, sharing about it with students on campus and offering her support as a peer mentor," said Flacks.

Over the last few years, Chaaya has completed four certificates on the themes of "Democracy & Society", "Critical Race studies", "Indigenous & Decolonization" and "Gender studies".

"Since joining the Millennium Certificates program, I've gotten better at communicating my thoughts, accepting that learning is sometimes

to struggle and I've made amazing friendships," she said.

Chaaya is currently working on the certificates for "Health and Wellness" and "Technology & Society", displaying a unique engagement and dedication to her extra-curricular learning.

"Initially, I didn't plan to do all of them," she said. "What can I say? I fell in love with how the system works and the community surrounding the millennium certificates!" For more information, MIO Gabriel Flacks.

Adam's P.A.C.E. Turns 20

By Julie Paquette

The Adam's P.A.C.E. program is celebrating a remarkable milestone this year: twenty years of inclusion, growth, and community, all born from the vision of one young man. The program exists today because of Adam Taylor, an adult with Down syndrome who dreamed of attending college just like his peers. At the time, there were no post-secondary programs in Quebec that offered adults with special needs the opportunity to continue their education, develop independence, and participate fully in college life. Adam believed deeply that such a space should exist — not only for himself, but for others who wanted to learn, belong, and contribute.

With the support of his family, friends, the Riverside School Board, and Champlain College Saint-Lambert, Adam helped create what would become the P.A.C.E. Program (Post-Secondary Alternative Community-Based Education). It was a pioneering idea: a community-focused, life-skills-based program designed to help adults grow socially, personally, and academically at their own pace. Tragically, Adam passed away from leukemia just three months after the program opened its doors. Yet his dream did not end. His



Adam Taylor inspired the P.A.C.E. program.

mother, Ann Taylor, became an unwavering supporter, deeply involved in keeping the program strong and true to Adam's original vision. Thanks to that dream and the community that rallied behind it, Adam's P.A.C.E. has now seen more than 80 graduates pass through its doors in the last two decades.

Over the years, P.A.C.E. has become far more than an educational program. It is a place where adults with diverse needs learn essential life skills, explore their community, build friendships, and gain meaningful experiences. Students participate in everything from financial literacy workshops to community outings, cooking, communication skills, fitness, and workplace learning through stage placements in local businesses and by taking one Champlain class per semester. The program blends structure and flexibility, recognizing that each student grows in their own way and at their own rhythm. The result is a warm, supportive environment where learners develop confidence, independence, and a strong sense of identity.

The impact of Adam's P.A.C.E. over the past twenty years can be seen not only in the skills students gain, but in the relationships they build and the connections they form with the wider community.

This year's anniversary celebration will honour this history in a meaningful way. On April 16th, 2026, the program will host a special 20th anniversary event beginning with a 5 à 7 presentation celebrating the story, the growth, and the many milestones



Julie Paquette is the teacher at the Adam's P.A.C.E. program.

of the past two decades. A photo museum will highlight every past graduate and showcase where they are today, offering a touching tribute to the lives that have been shaped by the program. The evening will end with a joyful dance with a DJ, giving current and former students the chance to celebrate together and create new memories.

As Adam's P.A.C.E. looks toward the future, the program remains rooted in the same values that shaped its beginning: respect, dignity, community, and possibility. The next twenty years will continue to build on the foundation Adam dreamed of — expanding partnerships, strengthening life-skills learning, increasing stage opportunities, and continuing to offer adults with special needs a space where they can grow, thrive, and feel seen.

Adam's P.A.C.E. is, at its heart, a legacy of love and inclusion. It stands as a testament to what can happen when one young man's dream is heard, valued, and brought to life. Two decades later, Adam Taylor's vision continues to shine through every student who walks through the program, every family supported, and every partnership formed. His dream changed lives — and continues to change them still. Here's to the first twenty years, and to the many more still to come.

Alumni Spotlight: Franco Lipari

Franco Lipari (Business Administration, 2002) is the founder and owner of Soccer iQ, a performance and skills training centre in Laval. Since opening the business in November 2023, the response has been overwhelmingly positive leading Lipari to open three other locations in Brossard, Ville Saint-Laurent and Montreal's east end.

A former Champlain soccer player, Lipari went on to coach for the Cavaliers and find ways to stay involved in sport. It was while coaching his daughter's soccer team that Lipari came up with the idea for his business and the dream to provide a top notch training facility for players using the latest technology.

"I went to see this facility for a training with my daughter. I couldn't believe this is all we have," he said. "There's a lot of stuff available to hockey kids but not necessarily for soccer players. I said to myself, 'there has to be a market here for a proper facility.' The next day I put things in motion."

Soccer iQ is a technical training centre that offers private and semi-private sessions for individuals or teams, specialized programs, and intensive training where athletes can work on ball manipulation, shooting accuracy or play 3 vs. 3 games.

"We have some technology that's not available anywhere else in the Quebec market," said Lipari.

The centre features a shooting wall with a light-activated panel and doesn't cater to just high-level players. "If you are a soccer player in the winter, you can come as an

individual, play on the machines, join others, there's a big community vibe."

Lipari says the centre is also popular with day camps and birthday parties for younger kids who have a passion for the sport.

"It's overwhelming and it's exciting to see that the idea we came up with is growing," he said.

Lipari is expanding his business rapidly to build on the momentum of the first location's success and gain a foothold in the market across the Greater Montreal Area.

"We want to set ourselves apart as a business," he said. "I wanted to shake up the soccer landscape in Quebec."

Soccer iQ wasn't Lipari's first foray into starting a business. With a degree in marketing from Concordia University, he opened Brandy's Canine Café with his wife in 2011 and co-ran the natural pet food store for eight years while also working as a marketing manager for Motovan, a company that sells motorcycles, ATVs, and snowmobiles.

"I always had an entrepreneurial spirit," said Lipari. "I like to be always busy."



Now focusing his energy on Soccer iQ, it's something of a full circle moment for the former soccer player and coach. He says with the growth in popularity of soccer as a sport, the new Northern Super League and the World Cup coming to North America next year, there's a clear demand for better training facilities.

"I'm not surprised that it's growing and I'm happy to see it grow," he said.

Lipari's advice for current students and recent grads: "My biggest regret is not having done this earlier. Sometimes you fear starting something like this because of the risk involved. Take a risk, try, if you don't find success, you have plenty of time to make up for it. I feel like people are often complacent, my thing is like, let's take a risk."

Men's Soccer Coaches Depart

After 17 seasons leading the Cavaliers Men's Soccer Program, Head Coach Mauro Di Ciocco is stepping down from the role he has held since 2008. Dean Howie, former head of Student Services who retired in July, is also stepping down from his position as an assistant coach with the team. The two had a long collaboration, including being part of the Cavaliers' historic CCAA National Championship win in 2007.

A three-time RSEQ Coach of the Year and the 2021–22 CCAA Coach of the Year, Di Ciocco guided the Cavaliers to nine RSEQ podium finishes. Nationally, he led the teams to one silver and two bronze medals.

Beyond the pitch, Di Ciocco and Howie emphasized community engagement, fostering student-athlete involvement with initiatives such as the Homeless



World Cup and Welcome Hall Mission—instilling values of service and citizenship.

"I've had the honour of working with Mauro and witnessing the impact of his dedication on our program and student-athletes," said Vince Amato, Coordinator of Athletics at Champlain College Saint-Lambert.

"He built upon the program's foundation and elevated it to new heights. His care for the students and the Cav-



aliers has been evident in everything he does."

Current assistant coach and Cavaliers alumnus Charles De Santis will assume the head coaching role in January 2026.

A former Cavalier from 2014–2016, De Santis is already preparing for the upcoming season.

Thank you Mauro and Dean for your years of dedication to the Cavaliers!

Aléo Foundation Scholarships

Three first-year student athletes from Champlain Saint-Lambert were awarded scholarships by the Aléo Foundation valued at \$3,000 over three years.

Anne-Sophie Béland (Women's Basketball), Charlie Rose Caron (Women's Soccer), and Félix Légaré (Men's Basketball) were among 21 recipients of the Cegep recruitment scholarships sponsored by RDS.

The Aléo Foundation's mission is to support student athletes in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec

Fondation



2025 STUDENT-ATHLETE BURSARY RECIPIENTS



ANNE-SOPHIE BÉLAND
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



CHARLIE ROSE CARON
WOMEN'S SOCCER



FÉLIX LÉGARÉ
MEN'S BASKETBALL

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(RSEQ) through scholarships and by providing lifelong services to all recipients during and after their athletic and academic careers. Congratulations to these exceptional Cavaliers whose

performance and dedication have earned them support from the Aléo Foundation. The awards were given out at the 40th anniversary edition of the scholarship evening.