

Jamie Chung, 2003 alumnus

In what was once Conestoga's darkroom, 2003 Conestoga alumnus Jamie Chung developed not only photos but a passion for photography.

"I really fell in love with the darkroom at Conestoga," Chung said. "That was the initial spark: developing my own film and printing. It's such a calm, nice space where I could be creative and experiment."

After graduating from Conestoga, Chung attended Parsons School of Design before apprenticing and assisting different photographers. He has now settled into his own freelance still-life work.

Describing himself as a "generalist," Chung photographs various subject matters, shooting for brands ranging from Apple and Sephora to Equinox and Tiffany & Co.

"The apprenticeship system showed me what it was like in the field to be a working photographer. Then I started getting some small work, and I won some competitions and got representation. The jobs came in slowly, and I just started building little by little," Chung said.

Photography has always been a uniquely collaborative experience for Chung, an aspect that has nurtured and strengthened his work. Working daily with people like set designers and producers to models and animal wranglers, Chung said that he appreciates every person's role in making the creative process turn into a reality.

"I've made a lot of great relationships and a lot of deep friendships over the years," Chung said. "I love that not every day is the same."



Courtesy Jamie Chung



Courtesy Jamie Chung

Hailey Heaton, 2015 alumna

Hailey Heaton felt like she always had the space to explore her enduring interest in photography while growing up.

"I had really cool friends that would always do weird stuff with me, like just taking photos out in the woods and whatnot," the 2015 Conestoga alumna said. "I felt like (I was) able to explore that while I was at Conestoga. It was the only thing I ever really wanted to do."

After Conestoga, Heaton attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She now works as a freelance photographer and pursues fashion and commercial work for brands such as Calvin Klein and The New York Times.

Now as a freelance photographer, Heaton's responsibilities go beyond just taking photos. She works with creative directors, pitches ideas for shoots and makes mood boards. Heaton enjoys the flexibility of getting to do what she has always wanted while feeling comfortable in her own skin.

"With all of my work, I want to portray real life and what it really feels like to be a woman and all these different feminine spaces navigating through the world. I like to portray this realness about that," Heaton said. "I like shooting real people who I think are interesting looking. Something I really value is not fully succumbing to the status quo of what's popular."



Courtesy Hailey Heaton

Alumni photographers

Written by Bailey Kreszwick and Hannah Simon, Staff Reporter and Co-Copy Editor

Designed by Lily Chen, Design Editor

Jeannette McCauley, 2010 alumna

2010 Conestoga alumna Jeannette McCauley found her love for art and photography through exploring different art forms, as well as traveling abroad to southern France.

At Conestoga, McCauley enrolled in photography, jewelry making, stone sculpting, ceramics and studio art classes. One of her favorites was the course dark room photography.

"I really loved seeing the process of developing photos and what all the different chemicals would do," McCauley said.

After high school, McCauley attended Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, where she earned a bachelor of fine arts in photography. She discovered that some of her favorite shots are those of natural landscapes, such as ones she took on her trip to France.

After college, she worked for subscription box companies, photographing products and managing their social media pages. Later, she became an art director, which allowed her to focus on photography and design work.

Now a full-time stay-at-home mom, McCauley follows her passion for art through freelance photography and pottery.

"Art is important because it's what keeps the world interesting. It's how we initially started documenting our history and our place here on Earth as humans," McCauley said. "I think one of the things that keeps us human is our ability to make and appreciate art."



Courtesy Jeannette McCauley

Alex Schon, 2014 alumnus

After 2014 Conestoga alumnus Alex Schon majored in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Lafayette College, photography may have seemed like a long-shot career option. But for him, the words engineering and arts were complements waiting to be matched.

"I think it's really cool that we always hear about left side brain and right side brain — analytical versus artistic. I've always thought, 'Why can't we use both?'" Schon said. "When I was in college, I took art and neuroscience classes, and that was the first time that I saw that you can merge the two of them."

Schon began photography as a hobby after taking the digital and advanced photography courses at Conestoga. He started with photographing the boys' soccer team and has now worked as a wedding photographer for 12 years.

Currently sitting on the executive board of the Wedding Professionals International Association, Schon works to elevate the standards of service that wedding professionals provide across the country. He said that he believes in telling the story of a wedding day through the couple's connection. His ultimate goal is to create photos that withstand the test of time.

"Weddings have taught me to be empathetic and open, that it's okay to feel and to connect with people," Schon said. "Wedding photography and my journey through photography have allowed me to connect with people that I never thought I would be able to on a level that I never thought I would be able to. It's really made me a more open, caring and loving person."



Courtesy Alex Schon



Courtesy Alex Schon

Jessica Ivey, 2016 alumna

Staying true to her passion for art from an early age, 2016 Conestoga alumna Jessica Ivey has found both success and happiness. She now lives in Center City, Philadelphia, where she continues to pursue her passion for art through photography, painting and drawing.

"I was into art since I could hold pencils or crayons," Ivey said. "I really just enjoyed observing the world around me from a very young age and trying to make sense of it in a creative way."

At Conestoga, Ivey completed the entire studio art curriculum, culminating with taking Advanced Placement in studio art in her senior year. She also took ceramics, photography and musical courses to enhance her artistic foundations.

Ivey earned a bachelor's degree of fine arts in visual communications from the University of Delaware while taking classes that focused on graphic design, fine art and advertising. She then brought her career to Philadelphia, where she currently photographs concerts, musicals and families.

In her free time, Ivey enjoys drawing, painting and performing at local restaurants.

"I think (art) is like a break from the stress of everyday life," Ivey said. "Art allows me to get onto paper in an abstract way — to show what I'm feeling."



Courtesy Jessica Ivey

Dylan Pearce, 2014 alumnus

Freelance photography allowed 2014 Conestoga alumnus Dylan Pearce to creatively explore his passion through a variety of different subjects.

"Growing up, in a lot of our free time and the activities we would do would be drawing or playing with clay, so I feel like (art) stuck with me. That's how I just started to see the world," Pearce said.

Pearce received a bachelor's degree of fine arts in photography from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He currently seeks out clients and projects independently as a freelance photographer in New York City.

At Conestoga, Pearce especially enjoyed his four years of studio art classes with teacher Leanne Argonish.

"She (Argonish) really spearheaded my career," Pearce said. "She kind of took me under her wing, and I am really fortunate to have had that relationship and friendship."

Currently, Pearce focuses most of his time on capturing photographs of people and fashion.

"It (art) is important to me because it gives me an outlet to express myself creatively," Pearce said. "I love to look at inspiration and love to look at what other people are creating. I think it gives us a sense of community."



Courtesy Dylan Pearce