



■ **ALTRUVEST CHARITABLE SERVICE** will have an orientation session for people looking for positions on the boards of directors of charities, tonight at 6:30. For more information, call 905-696-5139. SOURCE: Torstar News Service

■ **STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FORUM** will have a roundtable discussion on outsourcing versus insourcing this morning at 7:30. For more information, call 416-481-7228. SOURCE: Torstar News Service

Schools sign on

Student creates monitor system

By ADAM GONSHOR
for Metro Toronto

Daniel Marantz is three years removed from his high school, but his legacy remains in the form of a computer program.

A program he created called OARBS (Online Audio-visual Resource Booking System) which allows companies to monitor a list of their assets. Marantz, a third-year software engineering student at the University of Waterloo, has targeted schools because he feels his service is ideal for monitoring their equipment. For instance, instead of relying on a binder to sign out televisions or overhead projectors, teachers can log on to a customized website to see what

equipment is available and to reserve what is needed for future classes.

Marantz started to develop the program when he was a student at Thornhill Secondary School. In a computer class, his teacher suggested figuring out a way to monitor the school's equipment, as the audio-video specialist was no longer employed.

Marantz created a system similar to the one he offers now. "I talked to the staff to find out what they would want to see in the system, so I built that for them in my senior year," he says.

When he visited the school two years after graduating, he saw they were still using his program, and decided to start his own company. He perfected the program with the help of Colin Dellow, a friend in the same program at Waterloo, and began offering it to other schools.

The program is now being used at about 20 organizations worldwide.

OARBS not only allows

companies or institutions to manage their assets, but it also measures their productivity and can suggest improvements. If a certain piece of equipment, for instance, is rarely signed out, the system can point that out. This way the schools would know not to purchase similar equipment. Thornhill is one of many who have benefited from this feature.

"We found two pieces of equipment weren't being used almost at all. When we investigated, we found out that these were two TVs that were just positioned at the wrong part of the school and teachers just weren't aware they were there," Marantz says.

When he graduates, Marantz plans to work on OARBS full time, hoping to one day make the sign-out binder a thing of the past. For more on OARBS, visit www.oarbs.com.



Daniel Marantz (right) and Colin Dellow created a system that helps organizations monitor their assets.

COURTESY OF DANIEL MARANTZ

Careers, relationships have a lot in common

As young graduates, many of us are currently faced with big decisions about our careers and our love lives.

In light of Valentine's Day, I've decided to write about the uncanny similarities regarding finding meaningful love and meaningful work. Let's face it, there are many parallels. For both, there is usually a three-month probationary period, where both parties are deciding if this is worthwhile. Sometimes you leave your job or relationship, other times it's your boss' or partner's decision to end things.

"Your career and your love are the two most important cornerstones of your life. They are the foundation upon which your future is built," says Stephany Crowley, founder of e-datingExperts.com. "Whether it's time or money, your relationships affect your work, and your work can affect your relationships."

Christine Hart, president of Six Minute Dates says it's important to relax. A lot of the time young people are stuck on

the idea of having it all at a certain age.

"Ease off on the pressure you place on yourself. View the world as though there were an abundance of potential mates and perfect jobs rather than very few," Hart advises. "Young people put a lot of undo

pressure on themselves to succeed and 'get everything wrapped up' by a certain age. Sometimes this can mean marrying the wrong person, pursuing the wrong education path just to please others, or settling for an undesirable job."

With job hunting and dating, everyone knows a good first impression is important. "When you go for an interview, you take time to iron your shirt, clean your nails, and check your breath. The same applies to searching for a mate," says Hart. "You are looking for a match in both situations."

When searching for either a job or mate, it's important to learn from experiences. Chasing after something that's not good for us is a waste of time.

"We can spend a ton of time chasing after a job or

dating, work

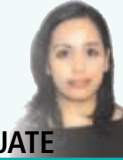
Tips from Stephany Crowley on dating and work:

- Know who you are and what you want. Smart people choose careers by evaluating their desired working hours, company benefits and their bosses. Smart daters also have an idea of what they are looking for.
- Know your deal-breakers. Working long hours or commuting long distances may be as much of a deal breaker for a relationship as it is for a job.

KAVITA GOSYNE FOR METRO TORONTO

relationship that we think is absolutely perfect for us, ignoring all the signals and then realize, once we're in it, it's not what we thought it was," says Hart. Although you may need to go on many interviews before finding a job and many dates before finding a relationship, the journey is more important than the destination.

"Everyone lives highs and lows in both love and career," Crowley says. "But it's only enduring and growing through the lows that you can enjoy higher highs. Jobs and relationships build character, strength and wisdom."



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