

## **Mohawk College Alumni of Distinction Award Acceptance Speech**

**Date: Friday, January 28, 2005**

I'd like to thank the Mohawk College Alumni Association for this honour.

Just before I started my first day of school at Mohawk College I made three vows. I'm a very goal oriented person.

1. That I would not get involved in any extracurricular activities outside of my classes. In my graduating year of High School I think I appeared in my yearbook nearly 20 times, because of all the clubs, sports, plays and organizations I was involved in.

2. That I would get a job with CBC radio after I graduated. Nerd that I've been since birth, except for a brief period in junior high, it was the only radio station I ever listened to.

3. I was rather frustrated that two of my three younger brothers had already beaten me to the punch on this one, but if you can't lose it in college you just aren't trying.

Sadly I didn't do too well on the vow front.

1. As for extracurricular activities. I held out for my first year, but then I could hold back no longer and was involved in Mohawk's choir, radio station, newspaper, clubs, ran for student government more than once, didn't win, and worked four part-time jobs within the college alone.

2. As for CBC radio. Well, immediately after graduating I had a great career in retail, food service and hospitality, yet after a series of several curious twists of fate this Star Trek loving geek now programs Canada's national science fiction television network – SPACE.

3. As for losing it before graduation. Boy did I try! But again the fates had other plans for me and decided that all my sexual energy was best directed in becoming a queer activist. I came out of the closet in college and since then it seems I have outted myself to the entire world!

I dedicate this award to all the angels in the Mohawk College community who looked out for me, supported me, cheered me on and sometimes even picked me up when I fell down while I was a student at Mohawk College.

People like: Rose Charmee, Josie Bufalino-Jasek, Andy Posthumous, Brian Bolt, Joanne Connery, Brian Goodman, Olga Delvecchio, Sandy Willet, Kim Van Louwe, Kathy Inman, Carmine Domanico, Patti Miller, Lynn Chalmers, Rachel Matthews, Shelagh Gill, and believe it or not Catherine Rellinger.

Thank you. Thank you very much.