

:: Farewell to Fanshawe Broadcast Pioneer ::



Fanshawe College staff and students, along with members of the broadcast community across Canada, are deeply saddened to learn of the death of long-time faculty member Barry Sarazin. Sarazin died on November 29 at the age of fifty-eight, following a gallant fight with prostate cancer.

"Barry," as he was known to his students, friends and colleagues, was considered a founding father of radio station CIXX-FM, the first fully licenced campus radio station in Canada. Co-author of the original CRTC application, Barry also managed the radio station in its early years.

Barry was recruited to the College in 1973 by Fred Steinmetz, former Chair of Communication Arts at Fanshawe College. He worked as a full-time professor in radio broadcasting for 28 years, including several years as program co-ordinator.

Although diagnosed with cancer in 1999, Barry fought the disease relentlessly. Between treatments and spending time with his family, he returned to teach part-time, most recently in 2004.

Barry was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the College and to the broadcast community as one of the first two inductees into Fanshawe's Communication Arts Wall of Fame in 2003. Throughout his years as a teacher, co-ordinator and mentor, Barry stayed current by working on-air at local radio station (CFPL) AM980. Prior to joining Fanshawe, Barry worked at radio stations in Blind River, Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa, Smith Falls and Oshawa.

Outside of broadcasting, Barry's passions included his family - wife Beth, their children Kristin and Geoffrey and two grandchildren. He was an avid sailor, having held prestigious positions with both the local Power Squadron and the Yacht Club.

One of Sarazin's fondest memories was during inaugural programming for the campus station, when CIXX-FM was launched on October 31, 1978. He recounted, with humour, local interest and alarm when the students aired their own rendition of Orson Wells' "War of the Worlds"!

Sarazin himself once said "The radio station is like a stage, where over the years, so many people have come to practise their craft, and in some cases, the station, like the stage, has been molded to fit something that each person could bring to the table. And that's been the lovely thing about working with the station."

Barry's fine performance - his life - was celebrated during a memorial service on Friday, December 2nd at the Westview Funeral Chapel in London.