

1996-1997



November 27, 1996:

Davis Campus held its first on-campus Multicultural Festival, a response to Sheridan's failure to recognize Black History Month earlier that year. That fall, the Generation X Club and the East and West Indian Association also formed, with the goal of creating a more multicultural environment at Sheridan.

January 15, 1997:

Sheldon Levy took over as Sheridan's fourth President. Levy wished to make "accessibility" his trade mark, utilizing an "open door policy," community forums and a weekly column in the Sun, "The President's Forum." His first priorities were addressing student housing issues and improving the morale of students, faculty and staff at Sheridan.

The Sun also released a list of student priorities for the new President: new carpets, more seating, bike racks, lights in the parking lots, an "armada of microwaves," and "a direct, private four-lane expressway connecting Trafalgar Campus and Davis Campus, uniting the students of Sheridan College like they have never been before."

January-April 1997:

President Levy spearheaded the creation of the Sheridan Student Opportunity Trust Fund. For every dollar raised by the college, the provincial government gave a dollar to help students in need. Sheridan raised over \$3.5 million by April, with large donations coming from the Inter-Campus Student Corporation and the Sheridan Alumni Association.

March 1997:

The School of Continuing and Part-Time Studies had 43,000 part-time students taking 1,200 courses from 600 part-time teachers.

May 1997:

The announcement came that Sheridan had won a \$12 million loan to create a new world class animation, communications, design and technology centre at Oakville. Over the next year, Sheridan went on to secure over \$30 million in funding for the new building, training programs, scholarships and equipment from private industry partners such as IBM, Silicon Graphics, Cisco Systems, Williams Communications and Alias/Wavefront.

In his response to the news, Education Minister Dave Johnson pointed to Sheridan as an example for the whole college system to follow – the schools should specialize. "Sheridan found something they did better than most people and they pursued it. I believe we will see more of this in the future as colleges specialize. I urge other colleges and universities to take up this challenge and develop world-class partnerships in their own areas of excellence."

The Globe and Mail | April 15, 1998

Summer 1997:

In a "summer beautification" project, Sheridan spent over \$1 million on renovations and landscaping to improve the college's appearance.

"We aim to build on our historic accomplishments while anticipating the future. Our mission is to be the destination of choice for those seeking academic excellence, quality employment and opportunity for creative growth in the 21st Century."

Sheldon Levy | June 1999

February 1996:

Sheridan announced that it had to eliminate \$16 million from its budget. The college planned to lay off 75 faculty members and 34 support staff, the third largest cut in the college system.

March 1996:

The launch of Sheridan's Curriculum Conversion Project led to program and curriculum revision across the college and a renewed emphasis on learner-centred education, self-learning, self-management and less class time.

April 1996:

After eight years, President Mary Hofstetter resigned. She left Sheridan with new high profile programs, a larger global presence and multiple partnership agreements with business and industry (e.g. Ford, Chrysler), with other institutions in North America, Europe and Southeast Asia, and with several governments (Hungary, Pakistan, China).

September 1996:

Due to lack of funding, Sheridan had to lower its enrolment. For the 1996-1997 school year, Sheridan received 31,489 applications for 4,736 full-time student openings. The most popular choice – the School of Entrepreneurial Studies – had 645 openings and received 6,044 applications.

"We're here at Sheridan and we pay to be here, so we decided that there should be something to recognize us as [an] ethnically diverse community."

Myrna Montrichard, Davis Student Union, *Sheridan Sun* | December 5, 1996



"As I look back at the first year, I think the biggest accomplishment was bringing the community to realize that by working together and doing things differently, there's a very bright future here."

Sheldon Levy, *Sheridan Sun* | January 15, 1988

"This is a very competitive industry, and this should give Ontario an extra edge. It should keep our creative capital here in Ontario, and these are very creative folk."

Alexandra Raffae, CEO of the Ontario Film Development Corporation, *The Globe and Mail* | May 7, 1997



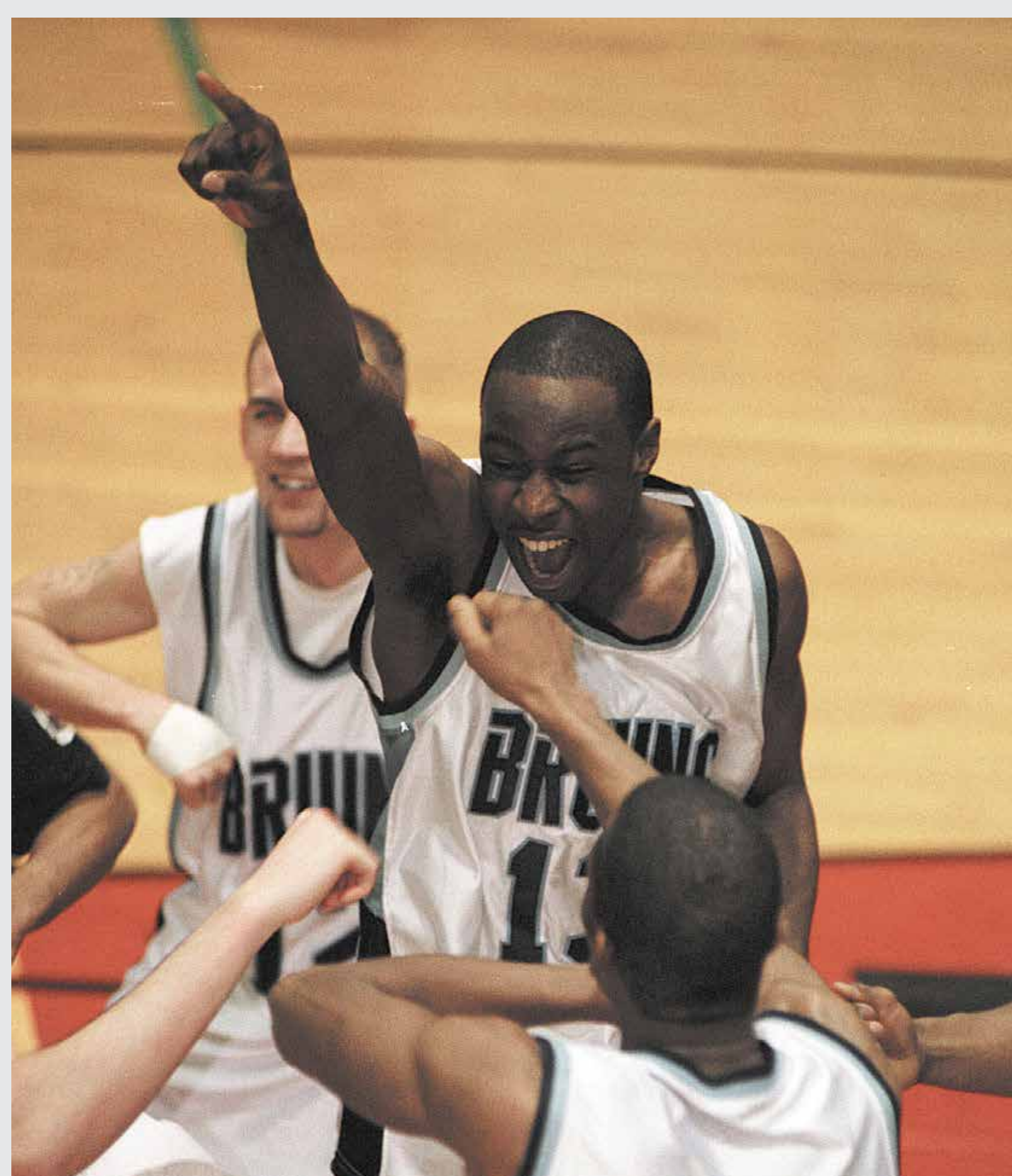
"We aim to build on our historic accomplishments while anticipating the future. Our mission is to be the destination of choice for those seeking academic excellence, quality employment and opportunity for creative growth in the 21st Century."

Sheldon Levy | June 1999

1998-1999

“I think that Davis should have a vision and a focus, and more independence of Davis from Trafalgar. I don’t think Davis has been treated as a fair partner in the Sheridan family.”

Sheldon Levy, *Sheridan Sun* | January 15, 1998



March 1998:

For the first time since 1990, Sheridan's Men's Basketball team won the Ontario College Athletics Association championship. They won the championship again four out of the next five years.

April 1998:

The Canadian Athletic Therapists Association granted Sheridan's Sports Injury Management program full accreditation – the first college program in Canada to earn this distinction.

1998-1999:

President Levy intensified efforts to create more joint programs between Sheridan and universities in Canada and the U.S. He insisted that it was time for the college system to undergo a makeover and publicly criticized the government's unwillingness to grant colleges like Sheridan degree-granting status.

1999:

The new residence at Trafalgar and the Student Centre at Davis opened.

January 1999:

The college gained international attention when the animation program was put on display at the “Sheridan Animates Manhattan” event in New York City.

January 1998:

Sheridan's budget explained that while student enrolment since 1990 had increased by 33%, government funding had decreased by 42%. Funding per student had dropped from \$5,125 to \$2,953. To continue offering high quality education, Sheridan increased tuition rates by 9.8% for most programs and by 20% for certain post-graduate programs.

February 1998:

President Levy introduced a plan to provide a stronger focus for Davis Campus, building on its academic strength and abilities in Science and Technology. The college also announced a \$1.5 million facelift for the Davis Campus athletic centre and plans for a new student centre.



“Equality among students is on the way. Yes, Davis Campus’s much needed and deserved upgrades are finally in the works...Soon students from both campuses will be able to forget the lingering resentment about facilities...All Sheridan students pay the same fees and for doing so deserve equal access to quality facilities. This makeover will put both campuses on an even scale.”

Editorial, *Sheridan Sun* | March 19, 1998

“By most people’s standards, Sheldon Levy should be one happy camper. Here is a guy who, on a warm spring night in Oakville, Ont., has Hollywood eating out of his hand. Huddled in his college’s cafeteria are industry hotshots, scrambling to hire his grads the stars of Sheridan College’s renowned computer graphics and animation programs...Employers chasing grads? The scene has a delicious, almost surreal quality in the late 1990s. But the president of Sheridan is far from happy. If Levy had his way, those grads would be heading off not just with jobs, but with applied degrees to boot. ‘Hands down, our program is one of the best in the world,’ says Levy. ‘Programs of this calibre have degree designations around the world. It’s insulting.’ What sticks in Levy’s craw is the fact that, in Ontario, colleges are seen as the poor country cousins. When it comes to building sophisticated, student friendly links between colleges and universities, Ontario is Canada’s last dinosaur. No other province has been so rigid in protecting the moat around the university fortress.”

Maclean's | May 11, 1998, p. 54

2000-2001



Winter 2000:

Sheridan introduced a new tangram logo.

Summer 2000:

The Annie Smith Building at the Trafalgar Campus was named in honour of Art and Art History program founder Annie Smith.



Fall 2000:

Sheridan sent four main proposals to the Ontario Government's Investing in Students Task Force. The plan called for a new charter for the college system, the utilization of web-based administration, the adoption of more e-learning opportunities for college students and a reduction in the amount of red tape imposed on the colleges by the government. In short, Sheridan asked for more control over its own operations.

September 2000:

The official opening of the Sheridan Centre for Animation and Emerging Technologies at Trafalgar Campus.

September 2000:

With enrolment down, Sheridan adopted some of the highest tuition rates in Ontario. The college considered opening a new campus in Milton to boost enrolment.

October 2000:

Sheridan's Career Centre expanded its efforts and presence on Sheridan's campuses.

October 2, 2000:

Premier Mike Harris visited Sheridan to announce a \$4.6 million grant from the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund for the Knowledge Transformation Environment Initiative – a collaborative effort between Sheridan faculty and private sector partners.

December 2000:

As President Levy prepared to leave Sheridan College at the end of the year, one of his central goals suddenly became a reality. In September, the Ontario Government announced its plans to allow Ontario's Colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees in applied areas of study. By the end of the year, Ontario's Postsecondary Education Choice and Excellence Act made the development official.

To prepare for this massive change in the college system, Sheridan formed the Applied Degrees Planning Team to determine which unique degree programs the college might propose to the government.

“We need to have a building to bring Sheridan potential to its fullest. Sheridan needed a ‘90s solution, big enough for the dreams and visions of students to come true, and the equipment to support their innovativeness...[The SCAET building] solidifies Sheridan as a leader in the communications field.”

Sheldon Levy, *Sheridan Sun* | September 14, 2000



“What we're trying to do is create a ‘Career Culture.’ Starting right from the first semester, students begin to explore career direction and the steps needed to follow through to employment after graduation.”

Maria Bezely, Manager, Career Centre, *Sheridan Sun* | September 28, 2000

“With the right choices and some careful planning, Sheridan College will be in the front lines, leading the colleges of Ontario into a new future of education.”

Jay Godek, News Editor, *Sheridan Sun* | September 21, 2000

