



## Admit One by Bruce McKinnon '90



Talk about moving full circle. Rubena Borg graduated from Sutherland-Chan in October of 2015. Shortly after becoming an RMT, she began working at an established multidisciplinary clinic in the Yorkdale area, originally founded by S-C alum Lori Strathdee '92. Now, she's back at the school in the role of Admissions Coordinator, covering for Jennifer Schembri who is on maternity leave. The roots of this circle have some history...

*I grew up in Toronto, right here in the Annex, so I always knew about Sutherland-Chan, because it was just down the street. When I was in high school, I actually took the Intro to Massage workshop on the weekend to see if this was something I wanted to do. I fell in love with massage back then, but it didn't happen right away. At the time, my parents were not so crazy about me massaging people for the rest of my life...that was a big NO! So I ended up taking business. I had a successful career and I really made my place there.*

*I spent over 20 years in the retail field, working jobs ranging from part-time to management. Prior to enrolling in the program at S-C, I was working in Sephora Canada's head office. What you see when you walk into the store, the client experience – that was my job – to set the stage... This was how I spent my last seven years. I worked my way up from assistant manager to a national role, a position that I created for myself. But when I reached the top of that ladder and had a look around and said, "Is this it?", I could still see where and what I wanted to be – a massage therapist.*

Rubena originally became involved with S-C's admissions team as a Student Representative. While she was still engaged in her studies, she participated in monthly information sessions hosted at the school. Here, she was able to speak to prospective students and offer insights into the challenges of the program, based on her own student experience.

After she graduated, Rubena was offered an opportunity to be the RMT Representative on the admissions team, a position that was previously held by Susan Bessonette '96. In this role, she continued her involvement with the monthly Information Sessions, offering insights into the realities of entering the profession and finding a job. She would also demonstrate a massage treatment for those in attendance. These experiences, in addition to her previous life-work in the retail world, combined to make Rubena a perfect fit for the Admissions Coordinator job.

*Coming from a retail background, it was natural for me to present and to sell, not so much to sell the school as to be informative to prospective students. So I was doing that on a monthly basis. I was also assisting with trade shows for S-C. I helped present the Intro to Massage preadmission course at the University of Guelph. And we also did health and career fairs at U of T Scarborough and Mississauga, where I would be there as a representative of the school.*

It was while setting up for one of the regular monthly Info Sessions that Rubena learned that the Admissions Coordinator, Jennifer Schembri, was going to have a baby. Jennifer realized that Rubena might be the ideal person to take her place during her maternity leave.

*Landing back at the school to cover Jennifer's maternity leave evolved quite naturally because I was already helping out with admissions. Florent called me one day to ask what I thought about taking over Jennifer's role. Was it something that I would be interested in? I never want to close any doors! I always thought it would be great to give back to the school that has given me so much.*

*I think my work history really helps in admissions. A lot of people call in and say, "But I'd have to quit my job and that is a huge step." Well, I did that. And I was terrified. So I've been there and I can offer that voice of insane reason. You just jump! And it was terrifying for me, but it was absolutely worth it.*

These new responsibilities necessitated a change to Rubena's clinical work schedule, but she is still able to treat as well as be at the school.

*The people I work for in the clinic were completely understanding when this position came up. Because I'm covering a maternity leave, I asked if I could have the first couple of months to sink my teeth in 100%. So they gave me little bit of a break. I've had to shift a few things around, but I practice on Sundays now. It's actually very relaxing and I can still keep in touch with touch.*

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If you're reading this and know someone who might be interested in taking the program at Sutherland-Chan, you can have them contact Rubena at [rubena@sutherland-chan.com](mailto:rubena@sutherland-chan.com) or 416-924-1107, ext. 23.

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