

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

CURRENTS

Whale of a tale

Students participate in experience of a lifetime

"You just have to roll up your sleeves and dive in."

That is how Wayne MacIsaac, a Natural Resources Technician student at College of the North Atlantic (CNA), describes performing a necropsy on a 40-foot sperm whale.

In March Jon Joy, the Natural Resource Technician instructor at CNA's Bonivista campus, brought several of his first-year students to a beach near Grand Bank where the specimen washed ashore.

"(A representative) of the Whale Release and Stranding Group asked me to help out with the necropsy of a 40-foot male sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*), which washed ashore near Fortune," explains Joy.

"Students from the first-year Natural Resource Technician class helped out with the operation, which involved measuring the animal and cutting it open to remove the stomach contents."

The stomach contained several hundred squid and octopus (cephalopod) beaks – the main diet of sperm whales.

"These were washed out and placed in alcohol for future identification. One of my research interests is the cephalopod component of whale and fish diets."

Joy has been identifying squid beaks for his own research and for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for several years now. He says the first-year Natural Resource Technician class did a great job.

"They seemed to manage the smell very well because (decomposing whales) don't smell the best. This one wasn't too bad – it was only a bit stinky. They helped with the manual labour too because there's quite a bit of labour involved to pull it apart."

While Joy had previously recovered squid beaks from one sperm whale, this was his first attempt at the necropsy.

"It was a good experience for the students



Wayne Ledwell, left, said students like Brenda Taylor, right, were a welcome addition to the project.

– for them to receive some hands-on field experience – it's not everyday you get to deal with an animal that size. Whales are a little unique."

He says upon graduation, the students will have to deal with spur-of-the-moment field work so this was great training.

"Whales – they're unlikely to be involved with them, but big game animals and different fish species, possibly birds – those are the types of animals they would be involved with. They may be involved in taking tissue samples, taking notes, making observations and taking things like stomach samples."

This is exactly the type of work the students completed during their experience with this sperm whale. It was an experience the students never could have predicted they would take part in.

"I was very surprised to come to class and learn we would be doing this," says MacIsaac. "We had covered information in class about sperm whales (but I) didn't expect to be out performing a necropsy on one. We left at 7 a.m. to perform the testing and didn't get back until six in the evening. It was a nice sunny day but the first thing I noticed when I saw the whale on the beach was how big he was. Books don't compare when you look at the real thing."

He says the smell wasn't a major problem.

"After a while, you just get used to the smell."

MacIsaac says they began by measuring the hide and taking tissue samples.

"We had to measure the length, the eyes, and then we took out the heart and liver. Then we took out the stomach and had to go through that. We got about 300 squid beaks out of it – it was amazing."

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Symposium offers opportunities in oil and gas

The college played a significant sponsorship role in the second annual International Symposium on Oil and Gas Resources in Western Newfoundland earlier this month.

Sharon McLennon, business development coordinator of western and central regions for Contract Training and Continuing Education, says the four-day event was well received.

"The symposium exceeded our expectations in terms of participants," says McLennon. "We had about 100 people, which is a 35 per cent increase from the last symposium. Also, the mix of people changed – there were more industry leaders as well as researchers and government officials – and that was a very good thing."

The college was a Silver Sponsor for the event that was hosted by the greater Corner Brook Board of Trade.

"The college sponsored the breakfast on June 6. As part of that sponsorship, Arthur Leung, Manager of Special Projects for the college's Oil and Gas Committee, introduced the Minister of Natural Resources the Hon. Kathy Dunderdale. She spoke not only for the breakfast, but for the meet and greet and the official opening."

In addition, McLennon says there was great representation from the college.

"We had about five people from the college participate in various aspects as a delegate or attend specific events," she continues.

"This is the first year CNA has come on board as a sponsor. It was great exposure for the college and it communicated that CNA is playing a role and has an even more significant role to play in the oil and gas sector in this province, and in particular in the west

coast industry."

She says the symposium offered a great venue for CNA to interact with members of the industry.

"The college has already started to forge some relationships with members of the industry from a training and development point of view. This includes ongoing consultations with Tekoil and Gas Corporation, as well as other members throughout the province," says McLennon.

And she hopes the college will capitalize on these new relationships.

"Through the contract training division of CNA, we expect to play a greater role in western Newfoundland, especially through the Bay St. George campus and our new Business Development Officer for Stephenville/Port aux Basques, Tom Rose."

She says during the conference, Rose met CEOs of companies that have exploration rights in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"He's already planning to follow up with local training needs and rig refurbishment in Stephenville. As well, he plans to connect with Cyril Organ (who is currently on leave from the college) to continue his work through the Community Development Committee in Stephenville with oil and gas companies," says McLennon.

Meanwhile, Rose says he was impressed with the presentation made on June 6 by Mark Western, chairman of Tekoil and Gas Corporation.

"The part I was most impressed with was the company's commitment to the communities they will be operating in. This company will integrate their operations into Bay St.

George, which will bode well for the whole west coast region," says Rose.

"Oil and gas has significant importance in the worldwide economy and with some of the developments that are identified and the amount of deposits that could be in the west coast region, this could be mean a lucrative future, not only for Tekoil, but for the college and surrounding region."

He says development in the Bay St. George region could provide a great opportunity to offer training to those interested in a career in the oil and gas sector.

"It is our mandate to customize, develop and deliver training courses to meet Tekoil's demands in the region. This will allow us to partner with Tekoil to move their business forward. It's a win-win situation for all those involved and I look forward to working with the company in the future."

Norris Eaton, dean of Engineering Technology, was also impressed with the symposium.

"The Oil & Gas Symposium held in Corner Brook was a real gem. It totally focused on the oil and gas resources in western Newfoundland; consequently it provided an excellent overview of the exploration activity to date and detailed the huge potential of the area," says Eaton.

"While I have been following oil and gas activity in western Newfoundland for years now through the media and provincial oil and gas seminars, this symposium provided an exponential boost to my understanding of the possibilities and potential economic impact surrounding oil and gas exploration and production in the region."

Whale... continued

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He says digging around the insides of a dead mammal wasn't a problem for him either.

"It doesn't bother me at all. I hunt in my spare time so I'm used to cleaning moose and things like that," he says.

"It was the experience of a lifetime. I told Jon that if he ever goes again, to give me a call."

Meanwhile, Wayne Ledwell of the Whale Release and Stranding Group, says the students were a welcomed addition to the project.

"They did okay considering these were very large animals. Only one of the students was used to doing this type of thing," says Ledwell. "They will certainly remember it and probably tell stories about it for the rest of their lives."

He says he provided background information about the whale.

"They now know what a sperm whale looks like. I was giving them the life history of the whale. I think it was a good experience for them. They were able to come, and they were interested enough to come and we appreciated the help from all three of the students that were there."

Joy will continue to work on the tissue samples and squid beaks he collected.

"The carcass was left on the beach to decompose," says Joy. "It's in a relatively isolated spot."

For more information about the Natural Resources Technician program, check out the college website at www.cna.nl.ca or call 1-888-982-2268. For more information about the Whale Release and Stranding Group call toll free 1-888-895-3003.



READY FOR YOUR FUTURE!

College of the North Atlantic's School of Academics and Applied Arts held an Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level I Conference in St. John's on March 7-9 of this year. During the Academic Year 2006-2007, the college expanded its ABE Level I program offering from one to 10 sites as a result of funding received from government.

Those sites offering ABE Level I include: Bonavista, Clarenville, Deer Lake, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, North West River, Port aux Basques, Springdale, St. John's and St. Anthony.

Brenda Tobin, dean of the School of Academics and Applied Arts, says the two-and-a-half day ABE Level I conference was a mechanism to bring the instructors together.

"It was suggested that we hold a professional development event, since the current ABE Level I program was new to nine of the campuses, and we had some new faculty as well. So the professional development event was organized by a committee made up of faculty and administration."

She says there was a lot of input from faculty.

"There was a lot of sharing from faculty and administration at the Grand Falls-Windsor campus, particularly from Lillian Moores, who has been involved in literacy education for numerous years," says Tobin.

"The new faculty and their needs were taken into consideration when organizing the event. There was a slogan created for the event – READY For Your Future! It was created by the organizing committee by building on a suggestion from Brian Tremblett, an ABE Level I instructor. It drives home the impact of how important literacy is and how important being able to read is for a person's future."

The conference had approximately 45 participants including ABE Level I faculty, campus administrators, and representatives from CNA Executive, Student Services, Marketing and Communications, Professional Development and the School of Academics and Applied Arts. Officials from the Department of Education and current and former students also participated.

Conference sessions focused on the history of ABE within the provincial college system, curriculum and resources, assessment, consistency of approach, learning disabilities, learning-centered principles, impact of the ABE program on literacy in the province, marketing and student recruitment and self-confidence, self-esteem and stress for students.

George Anderson, former dean of Industrial Trades and a retiree of the college, was guest speaker at the event.

"George has a long history with the college," says Tobin. "He was a motivational speaker and really drove home the impact of an ABE program, particularly Level I, on an individual's life," says Tobin.

She says another highlight involved the student panel.

"Students – former and current – were given an opportunity to speak to participants and to take questions from the floor. They emphasized the importance of believing in an individual's potential and how much the college, and in particular faculty, can help individuals through the ABE program. They indicated how much the college and the ABE program were instrumental in helping them in their lives; it was a really powerful panel discussion."

Cindy Christopher, manager of Adult Literacy, and Pamela Dawe who works for Department of Education and is a consultant

An Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level I Conference was held in St. John's from March 7-9. A number of faculty, staff members, students and government officials attended.

for ABE Level I, delivered a presentation that highlighted the impact and importance of the ABE program in helping to raise literacy levels within the province.

"Charles Ramsey, executive director of the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD), presented on the tremendous amount of NALD resources that are available on the Internet and how to go about accessing those resources," Tobin says.

By the end of the conference, a handbook for delivering a consistent and quality ABE Level I program was distributed.

"The school was so pleased to be able to bring everyone together to focus on ABE Level I. The event was well thought through and planned by a very committed team of individuals. Feedback from participants indicated it was truly a successful event with lots of opportunity for networking, learning, sharing and dialogue," concludes Tobin.

Bernard Stratton, program developer with the School of Academics and Applied Arts, found the conference beneficial.

"The ABE Level I Conference provided all participants with the opportunity to view and integrate the many perspectives of CNA personnel and Department of Education stakeholders who play a vital role in the success of the Level I student," says Stratton.

"Of particular value to all participants was the enlightening presentation by guest speaker George Anderson and the interactive discussion with a panel of former ABE students. Participants were also notably challenged and enlightened by the discussion that focused on the integration of all facets of college activities into the Learning College Initiative."

Diagnosis key to mental health

CNA providing help to those in need

Going through a learning disability without proper diagnosis can have a detrimental effect on your mental health. That's the message one College of the North Atlantic employee hopes to bring to the 16th Annual National Conference on Learning Disabilities being held in St. John's Sept. 27-29.

Donna Kavanagh, instructional coordinator of CNA's Waterford Bridge Road Centre, will make a presentation about the connection between mental health and learning disabilities.

"Our centre specializes in people who have psychiatric illness," she says. "And what we've noticed for the last number of years is people referred to us with a diagnosis of anxiety or depression, while we've been working with them we discover they have a learning disability."

She says the proper diagnosis can go a long way in preventing depression.

"Really, they would never have had depression if the learning disability had been diagnosed. We see it as reactive to the learning disability. What I mean is, in school these individuals had a lot of difficulty – then they started to believe they weren't able to learn and had no future. Then they became depressed."

Former student Lesley Tucker, who will assist in the presentation, has dyslexia and will bring her experience to the conference.

"When Lesley was referred to us she had been told she had a learning disability and

had been assessed on two separate occasions, but she had no knowledge of what her learning disability was or what could be done about it.

"She hadn't completed high school, yet her intelligence was very good. She was said to be an intelligent learning disabled person by the people who had assessed her. Our counsellor

"The goal is to raise awareness between mental health issues and learning disabilities... to show what is possible when the proper diagnosis is made and the proper supports are in place."

at that time did some more assessment with her and then we both met with her and told her she has dyslexia."

Kavanagh says that a dyslexia diagnosis affects how CNA will assist the individual.

"They would still have to meet the same requirements for any course they do but they can learn to use the technology, strategies, and accommodations to complete their program. In Lesley's case she completed Adult Basic Education and wrote the scholarship exam and won a \$1,000 scholarship. We've bridged for her to go on to a post-secondary program – Community Studies. She has continued to excel since she left us."

In fact, Tucker has maintained high marks during her post-secondary program.

"Her marks last term in the post-secondary program were very good – one 85 per cent and five 90s."

According to Kavanagh, Tucker is a great success story for the institution.

"She has been doing presentations with me about learning disabilities – she has become an advocate and mentors young people with

learning disabilities. She shares her story of her struggle, her connection with us, and her alternate success that she never dreamed possible."

Kavanagh's presentation in September will include factual information about the Waterford Bridge Road Centre, learning disabilities and the technology currently available.

"The goal is to raise awareness between mental health issues and learning disabilities. I would think the goal is also to show what is possible when the proper diagnosis is made and the proper supports are in place. We want to give hope to students and families to people working in the field – the goal is to make that happen."

Burin program receives accreditation

Burin's Welding Engineering Technician program recently received full accreditation from the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT).

On May 15, the national accreditation team visited Burin to evaluate the program.

"We are most pleased to inform you that the Welding Engineering Technician program has now been granted national accreditation status for three years until May 15, 2009," the CCTT stated. "We wish to extend our appreciation for your cooperation and hospitality extended to the (members of the visiting team and CCTT) by all at the college. Additionally, we congratulate you and your staff on attaining national accreditation status for your program."

According to the CCTT website, national accreditation identifies to prospective students, counsellors, parents, and employers the educational agencies and programs that meet nationally recognized criteria, and benefits all stakeholders.

It demonstrates to the community that an educational agency has achieved certain high standards; evaluates an organization according to national technology standards as defined by industry; requires that participating organizations complete a process of self-assessment, which provides valuable feedback to all areas of an organization; allows management to develop a "road map" outlining current challenges and setting of future goals and provides a framework for continually improving the quality and efficiency of technology programs.

Norris Eaton, dean of Engineering Technology, offered congratulations to everyone at Burin campus and the accreditation office for a job well done.

"National accreditation will give our graduates greater recognition in the job market both provincially and nationally," says Eaton. "It will also enable the college to articulate transfer opportunities to degree programs at other colleges and universities."

Campuses win spirit awards

Three of the college's Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE) teams walked away with awards in May during the 2007 National Exposition in Toronto.

The national exposition brought together over 900 top student leaders, faculty, business professionals and supporters from across Canada to showcase and honour work that Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) teams are doing through ACE across the country.

The national teams created projects that addressed the five SIFE educational topic areas: market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and business ethics. In addition, teams developed a 24-minute live presentation, complete with annual reports to convey their overall community impact to panels of business representatives.

Teams from Corner Brook, Clarenville and Prince Philip Drive each walked away with a Spirit of SIFE Award.

Steve Thorne, president of ACE Corner Brook, says the conference was an excellent opportunity for all those involved.

"I received my second nomination for National Student Leader of the Year, Denise Gibbon was awarded the John Dobson Fellow award and Rupert Sweetapple won for Best Business Advisory Member," says Thorne.

"The networking opportunity alone was worth the trip. Members of the teams were able to interact with top CEOs from across Canada. We had a networking session where students got to go to a career fair and talk directly to recruiters and find out what they are looking for."

Members of the ACE Corner Brook team are: Steve Thorne, Loriley White, Janet Wells, Nadine Rees, Renee Hanlon, Andrew Hibbitts, Leanne Fiander, Crista Smith, Monica Butler and Faculty Advisor Denise Gibbons.

ACE Clarenville also had a presentation that resulted in their taking home a SIFE Spirit Award. Members from Clarenville were: Sarah Chalk, Marianne Dillon, Amanda Hobbs, Cindy Martin, Katrina Martin and ACE Advisor Tracy Holloway, who also won the John Dobson Fellow award.

Finally, Prince Philip Drive, known as the Cabot team, also walked away with a Spirit Award.

"Being involved with ACE is a great way to help your community and increase entrepreneurship," says Lyndsay Butt, vice president of the Cabot team.

"It's a wonderful learning experience and a great way to network, not to mention it looks great on your resume. Working on projects and



The Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship National Exposition was held in Toronto recently. Steve Thorne of Corner Brook campus prepares to make a presentation to the winner of the award for Best Business Advisory Member. The award went to Rupert Sweetapple, also a member from Corner Brook campus.

then getting to present on what you've done is the ultimate sense of accomplishment."

The Cabot team is comprised of Sherri Gosse, Amanda Burke, Laura Rendell, Candace Short, Kelly Gosse, Lyndsay Butt, Krista Collins, Melissa Cole and Amanda Hindy.

ACE celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2007. During the years, ACE teams from Newfoundland and Labrador have excelled in the event.

This year's national champion came from Newfoundland and Labrador. Fellow provincial team ACE Memorial took home the top honour of being crowned the national champion.

Student work considered for patent

Daryl Hickey, a third-year student in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering Technology, recently won a gold medal at the Skills Canada Mechanical Computer Aided Design competition.

In addition to this achievement, Hickey has been with the college's Office of Applied Research as a work-term student. He has been working for the Applied Research's Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) in the Innovation Unit.

The MTC allows Newfoundland and Labrador's manufacturers and

entrepreneurs access to the combined technological and research capabilities of the province's public post-secondary education centre and also provides hands-on access to a suite of advanced technologies.

At the Prince Philip Drive manufacturing labs, Hickey has been involved with product designing and manufacturing of innovative products, some of which are being considered for patenting in the near future.

Employee appointment

Mike Campbell has been appointed to the position of Project Manager – Qatar Project. Based out of CNA Headquarters in Stephenville, Campbell will manage all Qatar Project-related activities and initiatives in Newfoundland and Labrador.

His responsibilities also include, but are not limited to, the coordination and supervision of personnel/consultants providing support to the Qatar project, and the maintenance

of the project's official document library/archives.

Campbell has diplomas in Engineering Technology from College of the North Atlantic and Business Administration from Memorial University. He also has over 20 years of engineering and project management experience in both the private and public sectors. He joined College of the North Atlantic as the Director of Facilities in 2001. In addition to

his Headquarters responsibilities, Campbell also has played a number of important roles in the Qatar Project. From 2001 until 2004, he was responsible for coordinating the construction of and major capital acquisitions for the temporary and permanent Qatar Campus facilities. From September 2004 through to June 2006, he served as the Director of Facilities at CNA-Q.

Making a difference

Growing up in Calcutta, India, Sanat Mandal had a dream – to make a difference in people's lives.

Mandal, an academic staff member with College of the North Atlantic, has done just that over the years.

His extensive breast cancer research has been published in numerous international medical journals and his latest paper has been published in *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* (2007, 17, 2139–2145).

"In this paper, I have reported the synthesis of a new class of novel molecules, investigated their biological properties in

human breast cancer cells, and examined their possible targets in which they can bind to kill cancer cells," explains Mandal.

"To evaluate the possible targets, I have used publicly available global gene expression data, several bioinformatics tools, advanced molecular modeling/molecular dynamic simulation techniques, and theoretical calculations using Density Function Theory."

He says among this class of molecules is S30, the most potent molecule.

"S30 is a promising future candidate for the treatment of breast cancer," Mandal continues. "This article has been identified by the Lead Discovery as an important article in the field of drug discovery. I am in the process of further developing it to improve its potency and also examining the cancer killing or growth inhibiting property in other types of cancer."

He says to date, approximately 56 of his

research articles have been published in international journals.

"I have been contributing regularly in the field of drug discovery. For this reason – high citation of my articles, and due to my expertise in multidisciplinary field of research – I have been serving as an invited reviewer to review research articles for these journals."

Mandal received his doctoral degree in

"Research publication brings confidence in teaching and enhances expertise. I believe that research and teaching supplement each other and are just like two sides of a coin."

Chemistry in one of the most prestigious research institutes in India – the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. He currently holds adjunct professor status in the Division of Biomedical Sciences at Memorial University and has been working at CNA since 1993.

Mandal's wife, Soma, holds a Masters of Science in Biochemistry, a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and postdoctoral experience in Molecular Biology including gene technologies. She has contributed to his research in evaluating the efficacy of breast cancer drugs.

"Soma and I have an ideal combination of expertise for drug discovery. She has performed most of the biological evaluation (for this paper) and as a result she is one of the major contributors. Also, I have been collaborating with a number of international scientists."

Throughout the years CNA has and continues to generously support his research.

"I believe that quality publication has many mutual benefits to both the researcher and college. Applied research and quality publications bring international recognition as well as generates revenues and financial prosperity from patents," says Mandal.

"Our college is already known around the globe as a teaching institution. Quality publications will provide CNA with international recognition as a research institution. The international scientific community can easily recognize our institu-

tion as a research institution of international standard."

He says this recognition will enhance confidence to attract industrial partners and other funding agencies to fund for research and development.

"Research is creativity and writing is an art," concludes Mandal. "Research publication brings confidence in teaching and enhances expertise. I believe that research and teaching supplement each other and are just like two sides of a coin."

Mandal will have a second manuscript published in *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* entitled "A Novel series of Potent Cytotoxic Agents Targeting G2/M Phase of the Cell Cycle and Demonstrating Cell Killing by Apoptosis in Human Breast Cancer Cells." Look for more on this in the next edition of *Currents*.

New scholarships announced

College of the North Atlantic recently announced a number of new scholarships to be awarded in 2007.

The Avalon East Safe Communities Partnership Scholarship is valued at \$1,000 per year for a 10-year commitment of \$10,000.

In addition, the VOCM Cares Foundation Scholarship is valued at \$2,500 per year for a three-year total of \$7,500.

In the ExxonMobil/HMDC Scholarships, ExxonMobil has committed a \$25,000 endow-

ment to partner with the existing Hibernia Development Management Development Corporation.

The Canadian Oil Heat Association (Newfoundland Chapter) Scholarship is valued at \$500, plus a \$500 tool donation, and will be awarded to a student at Seal Cove campus enrolled in the Oil Burner Mechanic program.

Finally, the Hickman Motors Limited Tool and Work Experience Scholarship is valued at \$1,000 per year and includes summer employ-

ment from June 2007 to September 2007.

This scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in the second semester of Automotive Service Technician at Prince Philip Drive campus.

All awards will be administered through Student Services and the Provincial Awards Committee. For additional information and details on these awards please contact Tara Pearce, Office of Alumni & Advancement, or Donna Feltham, Student Services.

Clarenville Human Resources Manager retires

Ron Finn, Manager of Human Resources at Clarenville campus, will be retiring July 31. Finn has dedicated most of his career to the human resources field, bringing a vast array of experience to the college.

Finn has spent over 25 years working in various positions all over Canada. His resume

Upon his retirement he will have a snow shovel burning ceremony. He will be moving to Vancouver Island to enjoy camping, fishing and the ocean of the West.



includes Recruiting Officer for Syncrude Canada in Fort McMurray, Recruitment Coordinator for Quinlette Coal Limited in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia and Personnel Manager for Hudson Bay Company in Calgary, Alberta. His career brought him back to Newfoundland and Labrador as Staffing Officer with the Department of Justice before he moved to College of the North Atlantic in January 2004.

Finn received both his Education Degree and Science Degree from Memorial University and started his career in the secondary school system as a teacher. He later moved into human resources and did a full turn around to finish his career in the area where he began – the post-secondary system.

Finn was very excited to say that upon his

retirement he will have a snow shovel burning ceremony. He will be moving to Vancouver Island to enjoy camping, fishing and the ocean of the West.

We wish you great success in your retirement and thank you for choosing to be a part of CNA.

Gander librarian wins poetry award

Congratulations to Karen Patzold, librarian at Gander campus. Karen has won the prestigious Arts and Letters Award for Poetry (Senior Division), which includes a prize of \$1,000.

Though Karen has been writing for years, this is the first time she has submitted her work for an award. She chose a recent work titled "Inheritance."

"I've been writing since I was young, usually fiction. Actually, I'm quite surprised I won – my husband Steve is the poet of the family," she reveals with a chuckle.

The Arts and Letters program dates back to 1951, when the Minister of Education, Samuel J. Hefferton, prompted government to establish an annual grant to acknowledge the work of artists in the province. According to the Arts and Letters' website, it is:

"Open to the residents of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, (with) the aim...to stimulate creative activity, both amateur and professional, by the provision of cash prizes, adjudication, and the publication or exhibition of meritorious entries."

There were 128 entries for the Senior Division in Poetry alone and

just six winners, among them such accomplished published poets as Susan Ingersoll and Carmelita McGrath. The Arts and Letters competition has been a springboard for many an artist in this province, says Chair Kevin Major.

"This is the 55th year for the awards. Our purpose is to encourage and celebrate the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador. If you were to look back at the list of winners from years ago, you would see such names as Christopher Pratt, Bernice Morgan, Lisa Moore, David Blackwood – now all very well known across Canada," says Major.

"I am willing to bet that they would all give credit to the Arts and Letters Awards as an important starting point."

Karen says she is honoured to have been chosen for the award and is greatly encouraged to continue with her writing.

"From now on I won't push writing down to the bottom on my list of priorities."

To view Karen's submission, and that of the other winners, visit the Arts and Letters website:

http://www.tcr.gov.nl.ca/artsandletters/winners_2007.htm

Safeguarding nature's resources

Since completing his education two years ago at College of the North Atlantic (CNA), Russell Wall has continued to expand his horizons.

Wall, 28, is a graduate of the Environmental Technician program and is currently employed with Intervale, a five-year-old company dedicated to conservation and sustainable development.

Originally hired for an internship in 2005, Wall made an impression on company executives and was offered a permanent position.

"I started the Environmental Technology Co-op program in Corner Brook in 2002 and finished in 2005. I was hired right out of school. A six-month internship was waiting for me when I got out."

Engaged to be married with a new born son, Wall did not want to leave the province to find work.

"I was quite concerned before I graduated. It was a big option to work away. When I graduated my son had only been born a week and-a-half. My fiancée was looking at fast tracking to finish her education and I wasn't looking forward to travelling back and forth between provinces. I was really looking to find a job that allowed me to stay on the island but also have flexible hours."

And that's exactly what he got when he signed on with Intervale.

"The company has been really good. It's been great working in Newfoundland and Labrador."

Wall started out working with peat filtration wastewater treatment systems.

"You still have your septic system but the water is filtered through the peat and is reusable. It decreases the footprint in your septic system. In remote areas it can allow you to have your septic system right next to your well. I was hired to coordinate that project when construction was taking place."

He then moved on to work with the conservation side of the company – a field he never thought to pursue.

"I also work with a habitat stewardship program on the recovery of wolffish but we're still working on the peat project."

Working from his home in Pasadena, Wall says Intervale, which has its office based out of Doyles on the southwest coast of the island, offers him the chance to travel throughout the province.

"I work all over the island and in part of Labrador. I've been pretty well everywhere on the island, the south coast of Labrador and a couple of places up north in Labrador," he says.

"The travel part of my job is from the wolffish project. We interview fishermen and promote stewardship and we try to give them a reason to release the wolffish alive rather than because it's the law. The law works but it's not ideal. We need to get them to understand the importance of preserving the species and how it affects the ecosystem."

As part of this project, they completed a 20-minute DVD about wolffish that also highlights the perspective of fishers.

"We are planning to go within schools and communities in October this year to show the DVD. We will show it to Grade 5 and 6 classes and then have public showings for different committees and groups."

But Wall says he never expected to find himself on this path in life.

"When I took the position I was more interested in peat filtration, field testing and water testing, which is what I was trained for at the college. The conservation side is a great job. Travelling around and getting to know these

"I was hired right out of school. A six-month internship was waiting for me when I got out."

fishermen, understanding where they're coming from and also trying to create that sense of stewardship and getting them to want to protect the wolffish is rewarding."

Meanwhile Kathleen Blanchard, president and co-founder of Intervale, says Wall has been a welcomed addition to their team.

"Intervale has been growing rapidly and Russell possessed a technical expertise we needed for this specific project in environmental protection and in fisheries."

She says when he was hired in 2005, they needed someone who knew about water quality monitoring and wastewater systems.

"We needed that immediately and he knew exactly what to do. Moreover, he was well trained in the construction of written reports, he was very quick with project budgets and he has good common sense about project management. He comes from a small community so he has a good sense of the perspective of small communities. I was looking for that,"



Russell Wall, a graduate of the Environmental Technician program who is currently employed with Intervale, takes samples from a peat filtration system. Wall began working for Intervale, a conservation and sustainable development company, when he finished the program in 2005.

she continues.

"In addition, he was extremely skilled with computers and had a good command of the latest information technology. These are the kinds of things he brought to us but

I kept him on because he has the ability to learn quickly and because he showed an interest in the issues affecting Newfoundland and Labrador."

She says she continues to hire students for internships.

"We have two more internships starting this year and we have hired another student from the Corner Brook campus' Environmental Technology program. We are a growing company and hopefully we'll continue to grow in the future."

She says they are able to provide practical experience with real issues that students have been learning about in classes but may not have had opportunity to experience directly.

"We want to retain these bright people in this province and I believe that an education that is well suited to the employment needs in Newfoundland and Labrador is what is needed right now."

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Teachers seminar held in Placentia Bay

Thirty-two faculty members from across the province participated in the Great Teachers' Seminar (GTS) on Woody Island, Placentia Bay recently.

The GTS process, which is peer-facilitated, draws on the collective experience of participants to celebrate successful instructional innovations, discuss instructional challenges and share "tricks of the trade."

In addition, participants reflect on men-

"I think the experience builds a community of practice among peers. One of the common benefits expressed was that they actually felt they belonged to a larger organization, not just a campus."

torship, ethics and best practices, and share resources that have impacted the principles and practices of facilitating adult learning. One of the many highlights of the event is an exercise entitled "Best Advice" to the new instructor, during which new faculty are invited to avail of the experience of the group through focused dialogue.

"The setting contributes significantly to the effectiveness of the GTS process, and Woody Island can simply be described as ideal," says Sheldon Brown, coordinator of the Learning and Teaching Initiative. "Free from the distractions of the computer, television, the mall and the like, participants are free to engage in both formal and social learning, during which a true sense of community emerges.

Brown adds that participant feedback was

extremely positive.

"It is peer learning at its best; instead of relying on an outside expert, it draws on the collective experience and training of the participants in a supportive, non-threatening environment," says Brown.

"I think the experience builds a community of practice among peers. One of the common benefits expressed was that they actually felt they belonged to a larger organization, not just a campus. Above all, I think they receive affirmation that they do good work."

Blanche Rogers, office administrator for Clarendville, felt the seminar was very beneficial.

"What a week! What a learning experience! I feel connected again, not just to my campus but to the whole college community," says Rogers.

"I came away realizing just how many

dedicated instructors are in our system, concerned with providing the best instruction and learning environment possible to help their students succeed. It is great to have had a chance to share ideas with others and to expand one's own repertoire of teaching techniques through this sharing – and to know that all those human resources are there to draw on. I value the insights gained, the finding of self, the collegiality – and all the while having a fun time in a great setting," she says.

The college hopes to host the seminar regularly. As well, the process upon which the GTS is based can be used with any functional group within the college.

"Hopefully, it will become an annual event," concludes Brown. "Feedback from the participants, without exception, indicates that the seminar has added great value to their personal and professional development."



A number of faculty members recently participated in the Great Teachers' Seminar held on Woody Island in Placentia Bay. Taking part in the seminar were (not in order) Coordinator Sheldon Brown; facilitators Cluny Way, Elvis Pittman, Arlene Sedlickas and Sharon Sjoen; and participants Ken Slaney, Barbara Ryan, Donna Meade, Lorraine Earle, Wade Wheeler, Pierce Bailey, Stephanie Shirran, Winston O'Keefe, Natasha Squires, Sharon Collins, Dulcie Osmond, Wayne Pike, Ray Skinner, Gerard Lahey, Eric Hynes, Blanche Rogers, Adrienne Goodman, Nick Wall, Alison George, Laura Wilkens, Roger Angel, Joanne Greening, Patrick Moore, Beverly Budgell, Dave Hiscock, Alan Gergen and Joyclyn Flight.

Safeguarding nature's resources

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She also has great faith in CNA.

"I believe the college system is an appropriate one because it is aimed at practical skill training right here in the province. In my experience the students coming out of CNA

not only have the appropriate training, but they have a strong desire to remain in the province and apply their skills in meaningful work," says Blanchard.

"I honestly believe the schooling Russell received at CNA combined with work experi-

ence has deepened his commitment to staying in Newfoundland and Labrador and to continuing in an environmental career in his own province."

Bay St. George campus renames dining hall

College of the North Atlantic recognized two outstanding individuals in a very unique way on June 13.

The dining hall at the Bay St. George campus was named after retiree George Baker of St. George's and the late Howard Lee of Port au Port, former cooking demonstrators with the college. Both individuals were recognized for the impact they had on students who passed through the doors of CNA.

Eric King, an instructor for Commercial Cooking, came up with the idea to recognize Lee and Baker.

"I couldn't think of two better fellows who I've ever worked with. We have a team made up of a practical joker and a very serious person. But I've never worked with two better men," says King.

"I was trying to think of something to do to honour them. I came up with this idea and wondered if the college would support me in this – it was the easiest thing I ever did and everybody supported me."

Brian Foley, campus administrator for Bay St. George, says the college was pleased to honour Baker and Lee.

"This isn't something that just happened – it goes to the history of both men who were both great educators. These are two individuals who are great examples of what community college is all about. They connected with individuals, and their families, co-workers and community are very proud of them."

Doug Fowlow, former president of the college, says both are outstanding individuals who gave their time freely.

"These gentlemen were the backbone of the serving service here and of the college itself. They were always the first people to volunteer in assisting with fundraisers and the last to step forward to take a bow for their work. I think that speaks for it all."

Those sentiments were echoed by Chef Barbara Ryan of the Western Newfoundland Chef's Association.

"They were two of the first members of the Chef's Association. They were members for many years and spent countless hours raising money for our organization. We are truly grateful for every hour they spent and their contributions to our association."

Family, friends and former co-workers were on hand to witness the renaming of the dining hall and the unveiling of Lee and Baker's chef jackets.

Baker, along with Lee's daughters, Kelly



George Baker and Kelly Lee and Carol Jesso (on behalf of their father Howard Lee), unveil these chef jackets (background) during the naming of the dining hall at the Bay St. George campus. The hall was named after both men in honour of their contribution to the college during their years of service.

"I would never have guessed all those years ago when I came to work at the college that I would be standing here today being honoured in this way."

Lee and Carol Jesso, unveiled the chef jackets, which will remain in display cases.

"I would never have guessed all those years ago when I came to work at the college that I would be standing here today being honoured in this way," says Baker.

"Just knowing I contributed to the education of so many young minds and helped them develop skills they would need to go out into the world and work at something I have enjoyed doing all my life, is an honour in itself."

He says he feels very proud and humbled to be recognized.

"I see so many old familiar faces that I have worked with, laughed with and been friends with over the years, and am deeply humbled by your presence... You are all a part of what made it easy to get out of bed every morning and come to work smiling."

Kelly Lee, speaking on behalf of her family, described her father as always being cheery.

"Have you ever met someone who was

always cheery, never complained and always had something funny to say? My dad had always been that person. His contagious sense of humour always lifted the occasion," reflects Lee.

"My dad always enjoyed life. His true success in life was people as he understood the joy in lifting other people up, making them smile and leaving them changed in a positive way."

She says there is a specific manner in which Howard Lee lived his life.

"His actions and beliefs resulted from his ideas about the lifestyle he wanted to lead. Each idea was a part of him and it was impossible to make him change," she concludes.

"He would always make everyone feel welcome, no matter what the circumstances. He would never look down on anyone. Finally, a good sense of humour helped him through the difficult and trying times, and increased his happiness during the good times... He would be very humble, yet very proud."

Workplace injuries and incident reporting

You've injured yourself at work and need to submit an incident report. Would you know what to do?

"It's important to fill out an incident report so that the incident is recorded and steps can be taken to minimize the chances of it happening again," says Stephanie Frankland, labour relations officer for CNA.

"These reports ensure that you have done all that you can to prevent the same incident from happening again, make everyone aware of a potential hazard, and protect you in the event that a similar incident happens at a latter date that aggravates the old injury or illness."

In accordance with Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, injured employees are required to get first aid if necessary; report the injury or incident before leaving the workplace (if possible) to human resources and your supervisor; seek timely medical treatment and advise the attending physician you were hurt on the job; bring the physician's report (form 8/10) back to your Human Resources Department as soon as possible; and complete a worker's report of injury (form 6) and submit it to the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission as soon as possible by faxing toll free to 1-800-276-5257 or (709) 778-1302.

Meanwhile, employers are required to transport the injured employee to appropriate medical care; complete an Employer's Report of Injury (form 7) and submit to your Human Resources Department within two days; complete an Accident/Incident Report form, keep a copy at your workplace, and forward the original to the Facilities Manager on the day of the injury; and work with the injured employee to develop an early and safe return-to-work plan and submit to the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission within five days of receiving the Physician's Form 8/10.

For more serious injuries, provincially regulated employers must call the 24-hour Accident Reporting Line at 729-4444.

According to Frankland, the college will investigate all accidents and incidents so that causes can be determined and corrective action can be implemented to prevent a recurrence.

She says that studies show that serious accidents are frequently preceded by a high number of incidents.

"This shows there are many opportunities to identify and control hazards prior to an accident."

To submit an incident report contact one of the following Human Resources Departments:

Headquarters, Port aux Basques, Bay St. George, Corner Brook and St. Anthony
Maude Benoit

Tel: 643-7705 Fax: 643-7806
Email: Maude.Benoit@cna.nl.ca

Baie Verte, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor & Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West
Debbie Tremblett

Tel: 292-5605 Fax: 489-4358
Email: Debbie.Tremblett@cna.nl.ca

Bonavista, Clarenville, Burin, Placentia and Carbonear

Iris Phillips
Tel: 466-0252 Fax: 466-2774
Email: Iris.Phillips@cna.nl.ca

Seal Cove, Ridge Road and Prince Philip Drive

Sharon Warren
Tel: 758-7270 Fax: 758-7300
Email: Sharron.Warren@cna.nl.ca

Facilities Manager

Tel: 643-7736 Fax: 643-7941

Instructor receives nomination

The 22nd annual Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) Awards Show and Gala saw one of College of the North Atlantic's recognized.

Wade Pinhorn, instructor of the Music Industry and Performance program at Bay St. George campus, was one of three finalists in the Arts in Education category along with Korona Brophy and Eric West. Brophy took home the award.

The event was held in Corner Brook – the first time the arts awards have been held outside of St. John's.

While Pinhorn didn't take home the award, he says it was a huge honour to be in such esteemed company.

Congratulations Wade!



Remembering a pioneer of early childhood education

We are all saddened by the recent passing of Dorothy Sharp, in Scotland. She was passionate about providing young children and their families with quality care and education.

Dorothy began her career in education as a preschool teacher in Britain and Malawi. Shortly after her arrival in St. John's in the early 1970s, she established Teach-a-Tot Day Care Centre, which provided the roots of the present Daybreak Parent and Child Centre, an agency that continues to so positively affect the lives of many families in St. John's.

This determination to create quality care for young children was evident in her involvement with many community and provincial committees whose focus was the well being of preschool children. One of these was the YMCA-YWCA, where serving as the Chair of the Y Early Childhood Advisory Committee, Dorothy brought fresh ideas that enhanced their programs for young children. She further helped to strengthen the Y by bringing her beliefs



North Atlantic). This became the basis for the current Early Childhood Education training programs now offered across the province. She taught principles of quality ECE practice at the college until her retirement in 1998. Students

“In 1985, Dorothy coordinated development of the diploma program in Early Childhood Education along with the establishment of a demonstration child care centre at the College of Trades and Technology...”

to the discussion table as a member of the Y Board of Directors.

Dorothy considered the training of educators to be the key to quality child care. Much of her career was dedicated to lobbying for and organizing training opportunities across this province and at the national level. In the early 1980s, she established the first full-time training program for educators of young children at the Early Childhood Training Centre under the auspice of Community Services Council in St. John's. This course offered a one-year certificate in Early Childhood Education (ECE) until the late 1990s.

In 1985, Dorothy coordinated development of the diploma program in Early Childhood Education along with the establishment of a demonstration child care centre at the College of Trades and Technology (now College of the

and colleagues alike were enriched by tales of her travels. Her wit and sense of fun were legendary.

During the 1980s, Dorothy had a national impact as well. She represented Newfoundland on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) for six years. It was because of this significant contribution to the children of Canada, along with her continued support and encouragement to local early childhood educators, that her colleagues recognized her as the first Newfoundland recipient of the prestigious CAYC Friends of Children Award in 1998.

As a woman of tremendous energy, dedication and fortitude, Dorothy always spoke out for what she believed was right.

Dorothy Sharp truly made a difference.

Do you have a college story to tell? Do you know a student, faculty, or staff member that should be recognized for their achievements? CURRENTS is looking for a few good stories about our public college and the people who make it a success. Send us your photos, announcements, and alumni updates. If you have any ideas, suggestions or criticisms, please drop us a line. Please let us know how we can make CURRENTS a better newsletter for you.

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