

CURRENTS

Award winning newsletter

College of the North Atlantic's employee newsletter, Currents, has been recognized with an award of excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators Pinnacle Awards.

While the Marketing and Communications Department has submitted entries to the Pinnacle Awards for several years, this is the first time Currents has been recognized in the provincial competition.

"It feels great to be recognized with this Pinnacle Award," says Tanya Alexander, Currents editor. "The criteria is quite stringent and this is not an easy award to win."

Currents is a core tool for the college and boosts spirit by providing an opportunity for employees to shine. It presents an opportunity to encourage participation in college-wide events and is a forum for the discussion of issues and relay of information that directly affects employees and students.

The newsletter is compiled, designed and published by the Marketing and Communications Department at CNA and the primary goal is to foster a cohesive team atmosphere by keeping all employees informed and connected to the happenings and activities of their work place.

"With regard to this project, in creating this newsletter we are faced with the challenge of representing 17 campuses across the province and Headquarters. This award is validation that we are on the right track. There are challenges, yes, but we also draw great inspiration from the dedication of faculty and staff and of course, students. It was my pleasure to accept this award on behalf of the Marketing and Communications team at College of the North Atlantic," continues Alexander.

In addition, the Marketing and Communications department was a finalist for their planning of the Military Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing and press conference in the Special Events category.

While they didn't take home the award, Marketing and Communications Manager Stephen Lee says it is an honour to be recog-

nized for work completed by the department.

"The signing of the MOU with the Department of Defense was a great event for all involved," says Lee. "There was a tremendous amount of planning and effort that went into making it the success it was, and I'm glad those who put in that effort were recognized in this way."

This year the Pinnacle Awards added a competition for students. Five students from the college's graphic arts programs won in the Creative Student Division. Winners include Becki Peckham, Catherine Schwab, Jennifer Oake, Katlyn Batstone, and Katherine Deborah Hann.

"I want to thank the College of the North Atlantic, more specifically the instructors of the Graphic Design and Graphic Production and Printing programs," says Hann.

"As a mature student, it has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of this program at the college. The instructors have offered nothing but incredible support, amazing guidance and a tremendous amount of patience along this particular learning curve in life."



Winners of the Pinnacle Award in the Creative Student Division were from left, front, Becki Peckham, Catherine Schwab, and back, Jennifer Oake, Katherine Deborah Hann and Katlyn Batstone.



CNA's Marketing and Communications Department was recently honoured with an award of excellence at the IABC Pinnacle Awards held in St. John's on June 5. Currents Editor Tanya Alexander accepted the award on behalf of the department.

More information about the Pinnacle Awards can be found on the International Association of Business Communicators website at www.iabc.nf.ca.

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Registrar's Office launches online training



Back from left, Cynthia Griffin, Placentia; Wanda Flannigan, PPD; Gloria Coady, Gander; Barbara Mayo, PPD; Claudine Quigley, Baie Verte; Judy Park, Headquarters; and Rhonda Whitty, PPD. From left to right front, Romona Keats, Clarenville; Cathy LeRiche, Port Aux Basques; Sherry Dalton, Labrador West; and Lisa Saunders, Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Thirteen registrarial staff from various CNA campuses participated in a pilot project in March – a new online training program developed to support staff's training needs and to provide online access to PeopleSoft training materials. Training modules were developed by Judy Park, Student Administration Training Specialist, with assistance from the Distributed Learning Office. The online training uses Desire2Learn software and regis-

trarial staff access training material using the Distance Learning website.

"We are very excited about this new online training," says Registrar Brenda Doyle.

"Since PeopleSoft has gone live, we've been using email to communicate with staff on updates or changes in processes and procedures. This strategy does not work well and is becoming overwhelming for them. Our team felt online training was necessary and they

wanted to explore the possibility of using in-house resources to develop a program."

Supported by John King, chair of Distributed Learning, registrarial staff provided feedback to the Registrar's Office regarding the content of the material and the tool used to deliver the training. The feedback provided was extremely positive and staff anxiously awaited the roll out of all student administration training modules.

Registrarial staff will now log on to the DLS website and access all training materials for Student Administration for PeopleSoft. It is easily accessible and organized in courses so staff can quickly reference the desired materials.

"This has been a major undertaking over the past year to get all materials up to date and converted to courses," says Doyle.

"We are very excited about the roll out of this program and will continue the program's growth to include all Registrar's Office documentation."

The training program will continue to evolve and will be used to provide training to registrarial staff during the upcoming PeopleSoft upgrade.

The challenge to remain young

College leaders have attempted to promote the retention of a youthful, vigorous, and dynamic approach to life and work within the Newfoundland public college system. This initiative takes on a special significance in an organization consisting of an ageing workforce. It is important to remain healthy, it is important to remain dynamic; we and our students will benefit.

Recognizing that multiple roads may be travelled in pursuit of this worthy goal, a number of senior staff at Burin campus have taken it upon themselves to purchase motorcycles. The lack of restriction, the integration with nature, and above all, the wonderful feeling of freedom and, dare I say it, youth one experiences when slicing through the air astride a motorcycle on a sunny day does much to promote a fresh and healthy disposition towards the world and everything in it.

Not everyone can relate to or even

appreciate this elevated state of consciousness. Imagine dismounting one's marvellous blend of mechanical function and exotic art in conclusion to a refreshing and invigorating ride to work; you can't wait to get at the day, then a co-worker, sporting a pained and puzzled expression, approaches and comments, "Waddaya doing, having a mid life crisis?" Or, "Waddaya trying to do, recapture your youth?" Or better still, "Second childhood eh?" Some of our colleagues don't know what they are missing.

It is all a matter of attitude and perspective. More than one road may be taken on that one-way journey toward retirement and old age. We all have to go there, why not on a motorcycle?

Louis Greene
Instructor, Burin campus



"Add this" widget

The "Add This" widget has been added to our news stories on the website to allow users to easily bookmark and share information with friends through a variety of social networking applications such as Facebook, Myspace, Google and Twitter.

Simply click on the "Add This" icon and you'll be able to send or post an article we've published on site, spreading the word that CNA is "So Much More."

Paramedicine program receives funding

A significant investment by the federal government will enable College of the North Atlantic to expand its training capabilities by offering paramedicine training to students at its Bay St. George campus in Stephenville.

Federal funding of \$565,107 was announced in April by the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

"Our government's continued partnership with College of the North Atlantic allows this institution to further expand its training capabilities and successfully market the school to key clients like the Canadian Forces," said Minister Hearn. "Training in paramedicine complements the culinary and vehicle technician training initiatives that our government announced last December and brings our total investment in College of the North Atlantic

and the Marine Institute to more than \$1 million over the last five months."

"The new equipment purchased with this additional funding means College of the North Atlantic will have the most advanced training centre of this type in all of North America," says Jean Madill, president of the college. "This investment will provide students in our Paramedicine program with access to the latest, most up-to-date medical training aids and technologies available."

The announcement builds on last December's \$125,000 federal investment for the culinary and vehicle technician training for the military at CNA.

ACOA's funding is being provided for the purchase of program-related equipment through the Agency's Innovative Communities Fund (ICF), which focuses on investments that lead to long-term employment and economic capacity building in rural communities.



Paramedicine student Brian Coleman starts an IV.



Atlantic college leaders sign environmental agreement

Leaders from the four public colleges in Atlantic Canada met in St. John's recently to sign an environmental stewardship agreement. Front from left are: Cyril Farrell, executive director for the Atlantic Province Community Colleges Consortium, Jean Madill,

president of College of the North Atlantic. Back, Michael O'Grady, vice-president of Holland College in PEI, Joan McArthur-Blair, president of Nova Scotia Community College, and Jean-Marc Dupuis, president of New Brunswick Community College.

New scholarships announced for CNA

College of the North Atlantic recently announced a number of new scholarships to be awarded in 2008.

TD Bank Scholarships are valued at \$1,000. There are 17 available, one for each CNA campus. TD has made a three-year, \$51,000 commitment for these scholarships. More details will be available in the awards handbook.

In addition, two Peter Kiewit Sons Co. Scholarships valued at \$1,000 per year each will be awarded to second year students enrolled in Civil, Geomatics, Industrial and/or Mechanical Engineering Technology programs.

Finally, each of the two Canadian

Federation of University Women (CFUW) Scholarships is valued at \$1,000 per year. One scholarship is available to a female student enrolled in the second or third year whose studies are leading to a career in a non-traditional working area for women. The other \$1,000 scholarship is available to a female student enrolled in the second year of the Early Childhood Education program.

"These new scholarships are made possible through the cooperation and dedicated effort of the college team and the community," says Corinne Dunne, vice-president of Development and College Advancement. "I would like to

thank the individuals who continue to work with us at the various campuses and especially, Donna Feltham, manager of Student Services and Chair of the Provincial Awards Committee and Tara Pearce, manager of Alumni & Advancement.

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.

2nd annual program development forum a success

The second annual program development forum, entitled IM for Quality, was held in Stephenville in June.

Over 50 people from 18 campuses across this province and Qatar gathered to discuss the information management and communication issues faced by CNA.

Kevin Deveau, chair of program development, says these forums will become annual events for CNA.

“While this forum targeted primarily management and executive, the next forum will involve more faculty and staff. We had 54 people in attendance representing executive, deans, chairs, campus administrators, faculty members, the program development office and three people from Qatar campus.”

He says overall the forum was successful and they were able to address all of their intended objectives.

“We felt there was a real need to identify and discuss challenges around how we share information related to program development and review. It’s not just to identify challenges but to meet with stakeholders to improve on what is working and arrive at solutions that



A number of officials from College of the North Atlantic gathered in Stephenville for the second annual program development forum. The event addressed the issues around how the college manages information.

Deveau says one of the goals was to expose participants to improved processes for development and delivery of courses, programs and curriculum. He says they also wanted to present methodologies for ensuring program quality assurance, examine the college’s core function with respect to program review and

to achieve these goals.”

He says this in itself is a big accomplishment.

“From conversation during and after the forum and a preliminary review of the forum feedback forms, people felt the forum was very positive and it was held at a good time.



Sheldon Brown was one of several presenters at the program development forum.

meet individual needs,” says Deveau.

The forum was held over two-and-a-half days at the Holiday Inn in Stephenville.

“We did discuss how to instill the college’s core values in the work we do, especially from the context of the Learning College initiative and information management, and we explored how we can more efficiently and effectively create, manage, use, share and archive our knowledge, records, curriculum and information through critical reflection on our current practice.”

“We wanted to leave the forum with specific action plans, short- and long-term, each owned by an individual who will lead the charge.”

development, and agree on strategies that can be implemented to better meet learner needs.

“We wanted to leave the forum with specific action plans, short- and long-term, each owned by an individual who will lead the charge. These plans have input from all representative stakeholders and have the backing and support of all involved.”

Deveau says that they looked at the role all college employees play with respect to continuous quality improvement of college programs, and he feels they did get to address all their concerns.

“We didn’t always have concrete answers. However, we did leave with action plans and identified people to work on problems, so over the next weeks and months we will be working

People felt it was overdue to come together to discuss the fundamental ways we communicate, collaborate and manage our information; so overall it was positive.”

Presentations were made in relation to Information Management and Program Development methodologies by college employees including Jean Madill, Kevin Deveau, Sheldon Brown, Pam Davis, Allan Loder, Cyril Organ, and Libby Chaulk. External presenters included Laurie Trepanier from the Canadian Forces, Shelly Smith from the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and Kim Ansty of Prima Computer Solutions.

Finally, a panel discussion was held with panelists representing faculty, CAs, Executive, Deans, Program Developers and IT support.

Instructors participate in IT conference for girls

Two of CNA's IT instructors were among an impressive panel of guest speakers for the Canadian Information Processing Society's (CIPS) Viking Women in Information Technology (WIT) conference held in St. John's on April 23.

Jackie Reid and Amanda Day, IT instructors at Prince Philip Drive campus, were two of 10 presenters at the one-day event, which targeted approximately 250 Grade 9 girls as prospective candidates for IT and technical careers.

The conference was created to help high school girls identify with highly successful women in the IT industry and to envision themselves as successful women in the field. By bringing together participants from different schools, and gathering them at Memorial University, the young women had the opportunity to view themselves and their futures in a new context.

Dr. T.A. Loeffler, professor of Outdoor Recreation at Memorial University, gave the



Instructors Jackie Reid and Amanda Day (pictured) presented participants with CNA gift bags that included college memorabilia such as a Nanuk teddy bear, hat, t-shirt, pens, beach balls, and more.

opening address as Keynote Speaker. Loeffler is an adventurer and high altitude climber who seeks to inspire others to dream big by sharing her life experiences. She has received international and national recognition for her innovative teaching and motivational speaking. For this conference, she illustrated how information technology plays a role in her adventures,

such as the use of satellite communications for her recent Mount Everest climb.

The day's varied activities exposed participants to a wide range of careers with a focus on providing inspiration for their academic plans. Reid and Day gave a presentation entitled *Information Technology: Facebook, Ebay, Hotmail – does this interest you? Come talk to us!* The presentation included a game of Jeopardy that explored students' knowledge of IT and created a fun-filled atmosphere.

"The Women in IT conference was a fantastic opportunity to meet with the youth of our province," says co-presenter Reid, who has been working in the industry for over 20 years.

"Being able to promote Information Technology as a career choice for young women in an informal environment was beneficial to both sides. Most students did not realize that there is a shortage of IT workers and that women in the Information Technology sector are underrepresented."



Women in Skilled Trades

The female Carpenter and Steamfitter/Pipefitter students from Clarenville campus travelled to St. John's on April 22 to attend a networking dinner at the Holiday Inn hosted by the Women in Resource Development Committee (WRDC). Over 60 people attended the event to hear guest speakers the Honourable Dianne Whelan, Minister of Transportation and Works, and Valerie Overend, a Journeyperson Red Seal carpenter from Saskatchewan. Overend spent a week in Newfoundland working with the WRDC and

took an evening to speak at the dinner about her experiences working as a tradeswoman and generally promoting the skilled trades to the young women of this province. Top photo from left, Suzanne Keeping, guidance counselor at Clarenville campus, Adrienne Goodman, instructional coordinator for trades at the campus, and Steamfitter/Pipefitter students Danielle Hickey, Amy Myles and Gail Moulard with Valerie Overend. Bottom photo from left: Carpenter student Katrina Nelson and Valerie Overend.

Interpreter training program launched

Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus piloted an eight-week Innu and Inuit Interpreter Training program in January 2008, as part of a series of service improvements under the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Northern Strategic Plan. The program consisted of six weeks of classroom instruction and two weeks of on-the-job experience. The program focuses on criminal law in preparing Aboriginal interpreters to provide services in the court system. The program has been devel-

oped modelling the Arctic College program and adjusted for local delivery. This project is a collaborative undertaking by the Department of Justice, in conjunction with College of the North Atlantic, the Department of Education, the Linguistics Department of Memorial University, the Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and individual interpreters from Labrador. The pilot project was a huge success and on March 14, 16 students graduated from the program.



Special graduation held at Prince Philip Drive

A special ceremony was held at Prince Philip Drive (PPD) campus on June 6 for graduates of an Oracle 10g certification training program – part of CNA's International Corporate Training services. The unique nature of the event stems from the graduates themselves – a group of six Libyans from six oil companies in the Middle East – and the fact that their families came with them. The training, undertaken through a contract with National Oil Corporation (NOC), saw CNA expanding its capacity to meet the special needs of the group.

"Not only have you learned new skills while studying with us here at CNA," said Chris Turpin, manager of International Business Development, as he addressed the graduates, "but we have also grown from the experience."

Specifically, the certification was in three different areas of IT – Developer, Database Administrator and Application Server Administrator. The trainees had the opportunity to not only gain theoretical knowledge, but also useful hands-on experience and skills that will prepare them for work in the newly diversifying country of Libya.

"You have this world-class certification to take back to your country, where you will be capable of addressing a whole lot of infrastructure needs," continued Turpin. "The skills you now have are on the cutting edge of technology anywhere in the world."

The ceremony was a touching one, with families of the graduates in attendance. It has

been a learning experience for them all. Aside from the training itself, the graduates and their families gained a plethora of skills simply from the experience of living in a foreign country, says Laura Cowan, business development officer at PPD. She helped bring the essential pieces together.

"They arrived in October to an early winter," says Cowan. "They packed up their families and moved away from all familiar support; they had to find suitable accommodations, enroll children in schools, secure bank accounts, find local doctors and dentists, get oriented to the bus systems and find places to shop for foods they liked."

El Mabruk R. M. El Tayeb is one of the graduates. He spoke on behalf of the class.

"We, as a technical team, highly appreciate the right decision that was made by the college to bring Oracle to implement this training program," said El Tayeb. "We know we are from different religions and cultures and during our stay we were shown [respect] for our religion and culture. Thank you."

In fact, Vice-president of Development/College Advancement, Corinne Dunne, said both cultures have many common elements.

"It's not that we're so different but that we have so much in common," shared Dunne. "When I visited Libya, I was struck by how warm the people were and how welcomed I felt... and now we've had the opportunity to show you the same welcome and care."

The language barrier was addressed with

English as a Second Language studies scheduled throughout the 30 weeks of IT training. The certifications gained by the graduates include: Oracle 10g OCA Developer, OCP Developer, OCA Database Administrator, and OCP Database Administrator. Other technical topics covered were Oracle Reports, Java, and Linux. They will also complete by July, Oracle 10g OCA Application Server Administrator and OCP Application Server Administrator. The six companies represented are: NOC, Libyan Petroleum Institute, Harouge Oil Company (formerly VEBA Oil), Sirte Oil Company, ENI Oil Company, and Arab Gulf Oil Company.

Thanks to this cooperative endeavour, CNA now has the capability of offering this training to its corporate clients, says Gail Gosse, PPD campus administrator.

"This international project has brought together our staff and other experts in new ways to create this significant business partnership," she says.

"We continue to grow with such international projects, which will serve to make our training capability even stronger in the future."

Standing from left, Corinne Dunne, VP Development/College Advancement, Marion Cheeks and Keith Davis ESL instructors, Laura Cowan, business development officer, and Sami Sherif, Mabruk Tayeb, Anwer Zaitni, and Nabih Rageai, trainees and Chris Turpin, manager of International Business Development. Don Heale (Oracle instructor), Tiona Corcoran (IBDO), and Gail Gosse. Sitting left, Melissa Skinner, international support, and trainees Yousef Alrtemi and Ahmed Al Tareiki.



Exploring learning outcomes

Alignment for Learning was the theme of a workshop held in St. John's by the School of Business and Information Technology this past May.

The workshop brought together 18 instructors who make up the school's curriculum team for the Office Administration program. A similar workshop was held in November with Business Administration faculty. The workshop was facilitated by Sheldon Brown, professional development coordinator (Teaching and Learning), and Tom Hutchings, program developer (Business).

Mary Vaughan, dean of Business and Information Technology, says the purpose of the workshop was to explore a learning outcomes approach to designing and facilitating learning.

"It provided an opportunity for faculty members to give input into the development of an Outcome Assessment Plan for the school and encouraged discussion on how this links with the requirements for accreditation."

In 2006, the Business program at the Clarenville, Corner Brook, Prince Philip Drive and Qatar campuses received condi-

tional accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The value of the ACBSP accreditation process is to maintain and improve the quality standards of the programs. ACBSP promotes an outcomes assessment process that examines the quality and effectiveness of academic programs through examination of student learning. Assessment of student learning, whether formal or informal, helps faculty evaluate their curriculum, plan improvements, and evaluate the effects of any changes.

"I think we all realized that while we may be separated by distance, we are not so far apart when it comes to what we want for Office Administration students – that is, a strong program that helps produce office professionals capable of making a unique and valuable contribution to their future employers," says Kelly Taylor-Hulan, Distributed Learning instructor.

"I found the workshop to be very interesting and productive," says Diane Holloway, instructor at Corner Brook campus. "It gave the office administration committee a chance to meet face to face and have an opportunity



to discuss some common goals and problems. The focus of the meeting, I think, will enable us to deliver a program that will be consistent throughout the entire college. It was a great exercise."

Participants at the workshop included faculty from Baie Verte, Bay St. George, Bonavista, Burin, Clarenville, Corner Brook, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Grand Falls-Windsor, Prince Philip Drive, Port aux Basques, St. Anthony, and Qatar.

Happy retirement!

Grand Falls-Windsor Campus Administrator Geoff Kelly retired this spring after a long successful history with College of the North Atlantic.

Geoff graduated from Memorial University with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 and completed his Bachelor of Education in 1977 before embarking on a career with the provincial college system in 1978. From 1978 to 1986 Geoff was an academic instructor at St. Anthony campus and taught Basic Literacy, Basic Training for Skill Development, and Trades and Business English. In 1986 he was appointed Supervisor of Instruction at Baie Verte campus and moved to Grand Falls-Windsor in that capacity in 1988. He was appointed Associate District Administrator of Baie Verte campus in 1997 and in 1999 transferred back to Grand Falls-Windsor campus.

He has served on many college committees including Academic Council, Student Services Administration Team, School of Business and IT, School of Academics and Applied Arts, School of Health Sciences, Community and Corporate, and many others.



Geoff continued his pursuit of higher education and in 1987 was awarded a Master of Education degree (Curriculum & Instruction); his thesis was actually written about the move from vocational schools to community colleges.

"Mine is a continuation of George Anderson's thesis, which covered 1940-1970; mine goes from 1970-1987," says Geoff. "Both are available in the Newfoundland section of the MUN library."

Geoff was treated to a retirement party at Grand Falls-Windsor campus. He leaves with no regrets.

"The last 10 years with CNA was probably

my best experience in education in 30 years," Geoff shares. "I've had a wonderful time, working with great people, all kinds of councils and boards."

He says he's happy to be leaving on a high note.

"I don't think I made any enemies," he laughs. "It's been lots of fun... I'd recommend the college to anybody. In fact my two kids went to school there: my son completed the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering program and is now working for an aircraft engineering company in Calgary; my daughter did the College University Transfer Year here and is now working in Edmonton with an IT firm as marketing coordinator. The college was really great for them with accessibility, cost, quality... and fantastic job prospects."

The bottom line of retirement for Geoff? Freedom.

"I've been taking a few months off of everything; I'm soon planning to visit Jamaica for two weeks and then back here for a relaxing summer."

We wish you all the best, Geoff!

Students use clicker technology to help learning

Students at Carbonear campus piloted the use of a Personal Response System, also known as “clickers” in first-year university transfer courses during the winter semester. The clickers are handheld transmitters, about the size of a calculator, that allow individual



students to answer questions posed by the instructor. It is similar to the TV game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, where the contestant polls the audience for the correct answer to a question.

The clicker technology allows all students to answer questions anonymously without the fear of public embarrassment if they get it

wrong. Students provide answers by keying on their clicker. The clickers transmit answers to a receiver that is attached to a computer at the front of the classroom. After all students have responded, the program instantly tallies the responses and presents them on the projection system in the form of a graph for the students and instructor to see. Only the student knows if he/she has gotten the answer correct or not. It gives the instructor real-time feedback on how well students are grasping the material and whether a review of the material is required.

says Dr. Barry Hicks, instructor of university transfer biology and lead instructor on the pilot. “Student satisfaction was very high.”

One student said he found the clicker very effective in that it allowed for individual thought. He said because it was not just one person answering all the questions all the time, the whole student body had the chance to give answers themselves and be evaluated on their own merit.

“No one else knew if someone answered incorrectly or not, so I believe that this gave everyone an equal opportunity to test their

It is similar to the TV game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, where the contestant polls the audience for the correct answer to a question.

While the technology has been around for more than a decade, it has been slow to catch on in Newfoundland and Labrador. Earlier versions of the clickers used infrared technology (similar to your TV remote control) but the recent use of radio frequency technology has allowed these clickers to really take off; they are presently being used extensively in colleges and universities in Canada and the US. The radio frequency transmitters are more versatile than the infrared clickers because they do not require a direct line of sight with the receiver and can accommodate more users and allow for several different types of questions to be asked (multiple choice, true/false type and numerical answers).

“The use of clickers in the university transfer courses was very successful this term,”

own knowledge obtained in class,” he said.

Another student commented with, “The clickers were a good addition to the class because they were easy to use and allowed students to participate in class questions while remaining anonymous. The clickers are a good asset to biology class and use should be continued.”

Carbonear campus is the first to use the clickers in transfer courses within the college. Since there was clear benefit to both instructors and students, their use will continue into the future.

For more information on the use of personal response systems, contact Dr. Barry Hicks, Carbonear campus, barry.hicks@cna.nl.ca.

Skills Canada winner

Carbonear student Terry Layden, left, was presented with an Award of Excellence for achieving a Silver Medal in this year’s Skills Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Post-Secondary Brick Masonry Competition in April. Instructor Frank Snook, right, presented Layden with the award. Instructional Coordinator Joe Mullins says the Bricklayer program has been very successful at the Carbonear campus since 2006. “And it is great to get an opportunity to reward students like Mr. Layden for a job well done,” says Mullins.



Staff receive service pins

Bay St. George campus held the annual Service Recognition Awards ceremony on May 15, honouring employees for years of service. Front from left, Sharon Sjoen, Gina Gabriel, Judy Park, Brenda Doyle, Lilly Squires, Tammy Taylor, Joy St. Croix and Cathy Rose. Back, Bernard Stratton, Glenn Madore, Shawn Tilley, Cathy Ash, Brian Foley, Glenn Kirby, Tony Bryant, Eugene Mercer, Cyril Organ and Brad White.



Nanuk visits Relay for Life

Grand Falls-Windsor campus put together a Cancer Relay For Life team that raised almost \$1,700 for this year's event, which was held at Joe Byrne Stadium on May 31. Many of their family members also took part to support their efforts. In photo, from left front, Mary Lannon, Nanuk/Rob Hillier, Holly Temple, Brittany Hawkins, Valerie Day-Hawkins and Thaddeus Collier. From left back, Sherry-lynn Hillier, Betty Kendall, Jennifer Poole, Jill Temple, Andrea Best, Allison Miller.

HR specialist receives certification

Lavinia Sutton, Recruitment Consultant at Prince Philip Drive, was presented with a Certificate in Human Resource Management from the International Personnel Management Association of Canada in April. In addition to her B.Sc. (Hons) and MBA, she is also working toward her B.Ed. (Post Secondary). "Besides being a top-notch Recruitment Consultant," says Rosanne Doody, manager of HR at PPD, "she's a professional student."



Program opens doors for mini courses

Bay St. George campus held a three-day mini course, inviting middle and high school students from the Bay St. George area for an opportunity to check out various programs at the campus. Students had a fun time with the Visual Arts program, says instructor Gwen Lawson. "They made some great jewelry for such a short time," Lawson says, "and each student went away with at least five pieces... including copper pendants, brass bracelets, and a silver ring!" They learned how to use a jeweler's saw, solder, and the popular buffing machine to polish their work. Mini courses take place each year at the campus during Summer Intersession.

Woman sheds some light on skilled trades

Tammy Flynn's foray into the world of skilled trades began when she lost her job as manager of a restaurant/bar establishment in her hometown of Placentia in 2004.

"Sales were low and my boss said I had two weeks to bring sales up or he'd let me go," says Tammy. "I had just come back early from maternity leave and it was quite a blow."

She was let go 10 days before Christmas. "I was in panic mode and wanted to find

trade would be of interest to her.

"I knew that even if I wasn't interested in the trades, I was coming out with certificates that would help me – such as training in first aid and CPR, boat safety, Forklift Operator, Flagperson, and updates in math and science, resume writing and so on."

She had some experience as a school bus driver and so thought that like many of the males in her family, if she did choose a trade

very nervous... here I was in my 30s starting school again and with many 18 year-olds in my class," Tammy shares. "And they were all guys."

She said at first it was awkward but the work soon took precedence.

"Some of it I really had to work on; there was a lot of math involved. I had to spend my time studying day in and day out," she says. "When it came to tools I was out of the loop... I had to start at the beginning. I was relieved to find out that they start at the beginning."

Today, Tammy is working as an apprentice at the college's Prince Philip Drive (PPD) campus in St. John's for her second work-term. Students must complete several work-terms or blocks to complete the program – and their Journeyman's designation. She was willing to go anywhere in Canada.

"I had about 100 applications in from Newfoundland to BC – I was willing to go anywhere to get my hours and get into the system. So I'm very happy to find work here in the province," Tammy says. "I was nervous starting work, as I didn't know anybody and I was the only female... I didn't know how the guys would react to me but at the end of the first day my fears were gone. They've been great."

Once Tammy finishes this work-term she will return to school for eight weeks, followed by another work block of eight weeks.

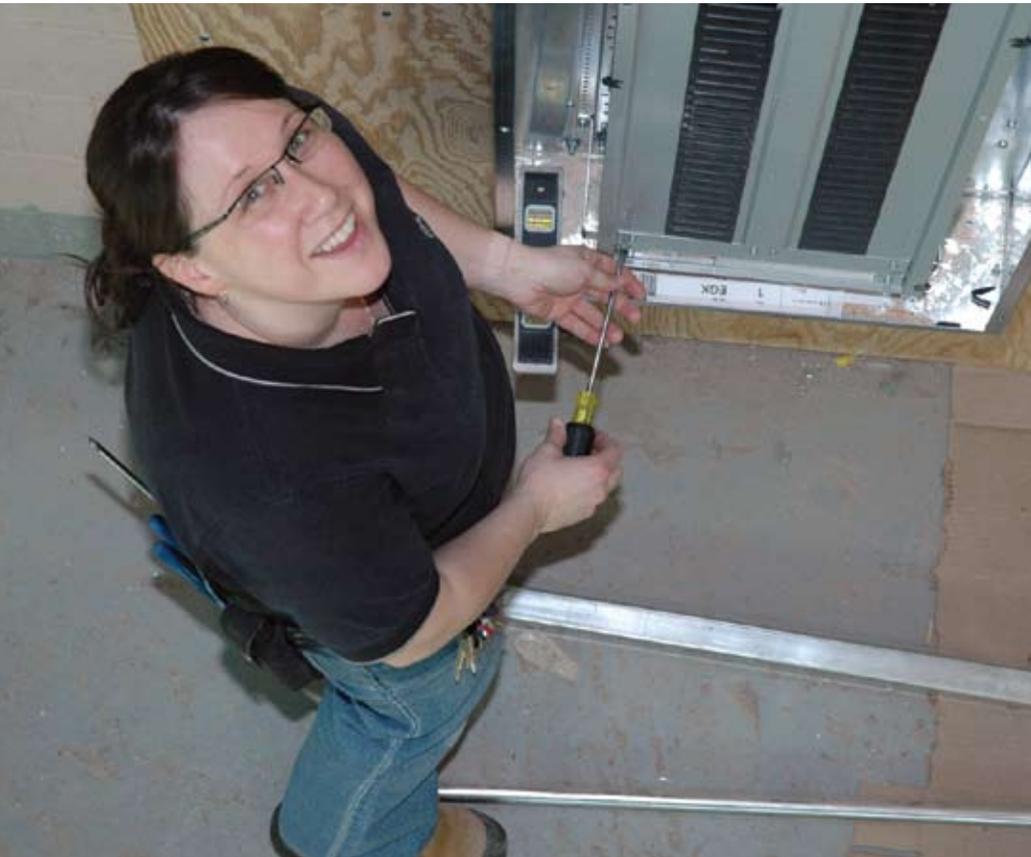
"Once I have my blocks and theory, then I'll write the Journeyman's exam. You have to get a minimum of 70 per cent but have one more chance to repeat it, if you're not successful," says Tammy.

"It's been challenging with kids at home, to study and work... that's been one of the hardest things; I didn't have my nights to put into my studies until they went to bed. But I would say to anybody that they can do it. You take your time and you work at it – there's nothing too difficult that you can't do it."

Robin Walters, campus administrator for Seal Cove campus, says it is a positive thing to see more women enrolling in trades programming.

"We have an increase of women enrolled in our skilled trades programming and would like to see more. Tammy is a great example... she is a hard worker and has been very well-received in the maintenance department at PPD."

To learn more about the OTT program visit www.wrdc.nf.ca and for more information on CNA programs visit www.cna.nl.ca.



some type of employment and that's when I heard about the program at a College of the North Atlantic (CNA) campus in my hometown," she says.

The program is Orientation to Trades and Technology (OTT). This program is designed to give women the opportunity to learn more about careers in non-traditional industries. It provides an arena for women to explore all career options and is a good first step in exploring jobs in mining, forestry, agricultural or petroleum fields.

Tammy had applied not a minute too soon – she filled one of the last available seats that semester (January '05). It came as a god-send to her, as she was approved for funding. Still, she wasn't sure what to expect and whether a

trade would be in heavy equipment.

"That quickly changed on my second day in the course, when they introduced us to electrical trades," reveals Tammy, "and the light went on for me when I realized that at the end of the day I can step back and look at what I accomplished – I can say 'hey, I did that... it actually worked!'"

It was no surprise, then, when Tammy enrolled in the Construction/Industrial Electrician program at Seal Cove campus immediately after finishing the 24-week OTT training. Though equipped with the foundation of what she needed to pursue the training, she was still apprehensive about embarking on this new career path.

"When I started the electrical program I was



Professional development for registrarial staff

CNA's registrarial staff convened at the Holiday Inn in St. John's on March 26, 27 and 28 for the first college-wide Registrarial Professional Development session. The event brought together more than 50 registrarial staff from all campuses across the province.

The session was entitled *Reflecting, Reviewing & Revising*, in reference to the business processes and practices of the Registrar's Office. Since the implementation of PeopleSoft in 2005,

a number of business processes and practices have changed or required adjustments. Some of the challenges over the past couple of

years have been inconsistent practices across campuses. The session provided staff with an opportunity to meet their colleagues from around the province, to review the current processes and practices, and to provide input on business process requirements, says Registrar Brenda Doyle.

"It was a good opportunity for all participants to meet face to face, in many cases for the first time, and to exchange ideas and discuss common concerns," she says.

The three-day event was comprised of presentations, discussions and group participation. The first presentation by Barry Green, instructor at Prince Philip Drive campus, set the tone and energized the group with his unique humor and motivational and inspirational thoughts.

Some of the sessions included: Access to Student Information (General Guidelines), Understanding Databases, Processing in Admissions and Records, System Upgrade – A Look at Version 9.0, Practices and Processes in Adult Basic Education, Online Training for Registrarial Staff – D2L Pilot Project, Student Fees and Collections Processes and Procedures, Business Process Maps, and Operational Workflow for Registrarial Staff.

"It was a good opportunity for all participants to meet face to face, in many cases for the first time, and to exchange ideas and discuss common concerns."

Participants were pleased with the presentation on the D2L training program developed by the Student Administration ERP Team. A pilot project was completed in early March and 13 registrarial staff participated. At the end of the D2L presentation, they were awarded a certificate of participation and a college pen.

The D2L training program is being developed to support the training needs of registrarial staff and to provide easy access to online training materials. The courses are developed using in-house resources and D2L software. Staff from the Distributed Learning Office have been very helpful and supportive in the roll out of this project and continuous support to training officers in finalizing the online training materials. Training materials for the PeopleSoft V 9.0 project for Student

Administration will also be developed using this software and will be available to staff online.

The Student Administration ERP Team worked diligently over the past few months developing and revising business process maps and updating documentation in preparation for the Student Administration PeopleSoft Upgrade. They worked in groups to review and revise these business process maps and

to finalize the workflow documents for Registrarial staff.

The wrap up included comments from staff, which were very positive; there

was overwhelming support for this to become an annual event. Staff appreciated the opportunity to meet and interact with their colleagues across the province.

"It was great to see staff mingling and meeting each other for the first time, putting faces to names, chatting and discussing common issues and concerns, sharing information, providing suggestions and solutions, and feeling motivated, appreciated and supported," says Doyle. "The event was very enjoyable and rewarding."

Bob Dwyer, campus administrator for Gander campus added, "Events like this one are major elements to building a 'one' college atmosphere in our campuses."

Qatar project update

The Qatar Project office in Stephenville has been busy over the last few months looking for new employees for the 2008-09 academic year.

The recruitment office has been taking part in conferences and activities throughout Canada in hopes of enticing future employees to Qatar. Most recently, recruitment efforts expanded to include the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters *International Development Days* (IDD) conference, which was held in Vancouver this past May. The recruit-



CNA-Q's Exhibition Officer, Khaled Mohsen, was on hand to meet with ACCC conference participants in Prince George, BC. The conference marked his first visit to Canada.

ment office presented to national and international conference participants, providing the office with a number of future contacts in the international education and industry sectors.

It was decided that the Qatar Project would take part in the conference after being named a finalist for the 16th Annual Canadian Awards for International Cooperation in the *Improvement of Social Infrastructure and Condition* category. While the office was unsuccessful in taking home the award, all involved were honoured to be in such esteemed company with the other three nominees. The colleges' participation and presentation at the conference received plenty of positive comments while the additional exposure surrounding the award nomination gave our peers a better understanding of what the college has accomplished overseas.

Immediately following the IDD conference was the annual Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) conference hosted by the College of New Caledonia in beautiful Prince George, British Columbia. This year's conference was entitled *Forests of Change*.

Representatives from both CNA-Q and CNA were in attendance, giving conference

participants a first-hand account of the experiences of working at CNA-Q and life outside of Canada. Once again, the recruitment office held a workshop presentation highlighting the benefits associated with working in CNA-Q and current job opportunities to those seeking a new career experience. Hundreds of conference participants dropped by the CNA-Q booth to taste the wild dates brought over by CNA-Q Exhibition Officer, Khaled Mohsen, who attracted even more attention dressed in his traditional thobe with ghutra and igal head-dress.

From July 20-23, the Qatar Project recruitment office will be taking part in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) 74th Annual Educational Conference entitled *Beyond the Horizon*. This will be the first time the conference has been hosted by the Newfoundland branch of the CIPHI and is guaranteed to be a memorable experience to conference participants and presenters.

The campus itself was busy this winter and spring completing the upgrade of its PeopleSoft platform from version 8 to version 9. The IT group at CNA-Q along with Fujitsu Consulting Services began the project in January 2008 and went live on June 7, 2008. All functional areas within CNA-Q participated in the project; staff were trained, and all data was converted from version 8 to version 9 – the latest release of PeopleSoft from Oracle.

This upgrade brings many enhancements to CNA-Q's business operations in student administration, finance, and human resources. Mary Tilley managed the project along with her team in IT – kudos to Mary and her team as well as to management and staff of the college for their excellent cooperation and participation in the project.

Upgrading PeopleSoft to version 9 is complex by nature and required significant investment of human, financial, and technical resources by CNA-Q. The upgrade took place within a five-month timeframe, which is unprecedented in the industry. Further work is expected to proceed at CNA-Q in September 2008 to implement additional PeopleSoft version 9 modules.

If you are considering a career at CNA-Q, please contact the Qatar Project recruitment office at 709.758.7347, by email at qatarjobs@cna.nl.ca or by visiting our webpage at www.cna.nl.ca/qatar. To check out the latest employment opportunities visit the Careers@College link on the CNA homepage.

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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