

# Gander campus receives former air ambulance

Rick Woodford, Minister of Works, Services and Transportation, and Sandra C. Kelly, MHA-Gander, recently announced the retired King Air 100 air ambulance would be donated to the Gander campus of College of the North Atlantic.

A tender was awarded to Standard Aero of Winnipeg who purchased the plane's engines from the province for approximately \$118,000. The company then gave the province two engines which are still considered operational but are not certified for flying. The province donated these engines and the body of the plane to the college for aircraft maintenance training.

"The King Air 100 has served the province's air ambulance needs very well for over 20 years and has played an instrumental part in saving many lives," said Minister



College of the North Atlantic recently accepted this King Air 100 aircraft from the provincial government to use in its Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Technology Program.

Woodford. "Through this arrangement, the King Air 100 will still be useful for training after it is removed from active medivac duty."

Government purchased the King Air 100 in 1973 and the plane was used for multiple purposes until 1982, when it was dedicated solely to air ambulance service. In July of this year, the province replaced the King Air 100 with a King Air 350, which is faster and can fly greater distances without having to refuel, decreasing travel time for patients.

"We have worked very hard to reach an arrangement for the transfer of these engines to the College of the North Atlantic in Gander," said Minister Kelly. "I am extremely pleased that we were able to provide the college with more up-to-date equipment, which will no doubt be a significant addition to the current aircraft maintenance training facilities here in

Gander."

"College of the North Atlantic is delighted to accept the donation of the King Air 100 from the province," said Mac Moss, associate district administrator at the college's Gander campus. "Although the aircraft is reaching the end of its useful life for commercial service, it will provide an extremely valuable training aid for the students enrolled in our Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Technology Program. The engines, airframe and avionics will add considerably to our training capabilities now and well into the future."

The transfer of the aircraft from the Gander airport to the college campus - right through downtown Gander - drew large crowds of spectators. As well, CBC's Land and Sea is shooting a documentary on the plane's history which will air in 2001.

## What's Inside

**Student wins gold at Skills Canada Competition.....2**

**College to open new Automation Lab.....3**

**Music programs hand out scholarships.....5**

**Program helping entrepreneurs.....8**



## Students win medals at Skills Canada Competition

Congratulations to John Herlidan of Lord's Cove on the Burin Peninsula, who has accomplished a first for a Skills Canada student from Newfoundland and Labrador.

He has become the first student from Atlantic Canada to make Team Canada by winning a gold medal in car painting at a Skills Canada run-off competition in Edmonton. He will go on to represent the country in national skills competitions in France next May and at the world trials in Korea next September. John Herlidan attends the college's St. John's campus.

Congratulations also to Travis



Four College of the North Atlantic students took part in this year's Skills Canada competitions. From left are Travis Green, sheet metal, Neil Saunders, network support, Amanda Boland, software, John Herlidan, car painting, and Brian Druken, instructor.

Green of Port Hope Simpson, a College of the North Atlantic student in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. He won a bronze medal in sheet metal at the Edmonton competition.

The Department of Education is one of the sponsors of Skills Canada, a non-profit organization which promotes trades and technology as career options for students.

## Name the newsletter contest winner announced

Linda White of the Grand Falls-Windsor campus is the winner of the *Name the Newsletter* contest with her entry **Currents**. For her efforts, Linda will be awarded a polar fleece jacket valued at \$50.

Linda's was one of many creative entries in the contest (14 in all) and the judges would like to thank everyone who submitted a name.

**Currents** was chosen because it works on several levels. First, the word invokes thoughts of movement and change, of progress. It's an image you can relate to the college.

Secondly, it fits in with the newsletter in that we are trying to provide current news to staff and faculty.

Congratulations Linda!

Before joining the team here at College of the North Atlantic I didn't fully comprehend just how large this institution has become.

I was a student at the Bay St. George Community College long before there was ever a thought of combining the province's five regional colleges, and I thought Bay St. George was a giant amongst them.

Since taking on the roll of Communications Officer I've had the chance to visit several of our campuses outside of Stephenville and was very impressed by what I saw. Each campus is huge. If you could pull together all the 18 campuses and the satellite locations you'd have the makings of a small city!

But we're not pulled together in one location. We are spread out over one of Canada's largest provinces (land mass wise) with the Labrador campuses physically cut off from those on the island. No other college or university that I can think of is as geographically challenged.

Because of our vast size, effective communication is vital. That's one of the reasons for starting this newsletter – to let the entire college community know what is happening, both at their campus and at others.

For instance, before reading this issue of

**Currents**, how many of you knew we were opening what is probably the best automation lab in Canada? Did you know about the college's involvement with the E-Learning Repository? How many of you even knew we had a newsletter?!

Well now that you know about **Currents**, I'm asking your help in making it a success. I'm looking for a few good volunteers to be responsible for submitting material on a regular basis – **Currents** correspondents so to speak.

If you're interested in helping out by submitting articles from your campus please let your DA or ADA know about it and have them pass your name along to me. I'll contact you and provide some helpful hints to make the job easier and more enjoyable.

Until next time.

**Stephen Lee**  
Editor

**Mr. Ed.**



## College's new Automation Lab now open

With the support of Siemens Canada, the global power of innovation has come to College of the North Atlantic with the opening of its new Electrical Automation Lab in St. John's.

Harold Peddle, coordinator of the new lab says the facility – a simulator of equipment used by plants in such industries as paper making, mining and so on – will prepare students to operate automation equipment for companies in these industries.

“Automation products are no longer solitary devices in the industrial environment – the lone on/off buttons on plant equipment. Instead, in order to maintain production and profitability, they must be capable of transmitting information immediately and accurately to company databases. This communication capability is a requirement of every type of automation system used in the world today,” Peddle says.

“It used to be that you would have an on/off switch on the plant floor which would run a motor and perhaps up in a control room there was a pilot light to tell you whether the motor was running or not. Today the entire process is controlled from the automation lab and detailed information about the performance of the motor is instantly relayed to the lab technicians.”

Training students to deal with today's industry requirements is a priority of College of the North Atlantic and now the college has one of the finest and most modern automation training laboratories in Canada.

“It will provide our students



*The college unveiled its new automation lab on Dec. 4. Checking out the new equipment are, from left, John Rood, national training manager for Siemens, Danny Wong, Chair, School of Engineering Technology and Harold Peddle, lab coordinator.*

with the ability to connect, program, test, debug and monitor complex automation circuitry in a controlled, multi-networked environment,” says Danny Wong, Chair of the college's School of Engineering Technology.

“We are leading the education marketplace with regards to this type of technology. You'd have to go a long way to find the equipment we have. I don't know if there's another educational facility in Canada that has it,” adds Peddle.

John Rood, the National Training manager for Siemens, recognizes this faculty as one of the best in Canada.

“This facility will be capable of delivering the broad spectrum in programmable logic controllers, variable speed drivers, human-machine interfaces and data-communication networks,” he says.

Electrical, Electronic, Instrumentation and Mechanical Engineering Technology students

throughout the province will be able to make use of this facility located at the Engineering Technology Centre in St. John's. Other users will include technicians and technologists associated with the offshore, pulp and paper, fishing, mining, local manufacturing and clients of Siemens.

“We recently had a group here from a college in China interested in hooking up to our lab to train their students and we have a college in Peru doing the same thing,” says Peddle. “All they need to connect is the software and a computer terminal. We designed it so it could be used by students anywhere in the province, but that seems to be expanding to include the rest of the world!”

Instructors from Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation will complete four weeks of comprehensive training over the next year (training began November 6). The laboratory held its official opening on December 4, 2000.



## College developing E-Learning modules

Small and medium sized businesses in Newfoundland and Ireland are one step closer to reaching the world thanks to a new “electronic library” being developed in this province.

With technical help from College of the North Atlantic, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the Open Learning and Information Network, the E-Learning Repository for Small Business being developed by Operation Online will feature 15 modules designed to teach entrepreneurs how to become e-business ready.

Kevin Deveau, an instructional designer with College of the North Atlantic’s Distributed Learning Centre in Clarenville, recently put the finishing touches on six of the e-learning modules being created by the college for the project. Those six, along with the remaining nine were handed over to Media Touch Technologies in November. The St. John’s company is responsible for creating the multi-media version of the modules, transferring them to XML and uploading the content to the internet.

The modules will be available on the college’s WebCT site – the tool used by the Distributed Learning Centre to deliver online training.

“The project brings together the Irish experience in mentoring and small and medium-sized enterprise support, the Newfoundland e-business experience, Newfoundland’s experience in distance delivery and already existing Irish and Newfoundland distance programs to develop a new assessment, men-

toring and training program that can be delivered online,” says Janice Cooper, Director of Health and Education Initiatives with Operation Online.

“The repository will focus on training to support companies accelerate the uptake of e-business and enable them to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become e-business ready.”

Each of the 15 modules takes about five hours to complete. And because the modules are media-rich and interactive, there is no need for textbooks or other off-line materials.

“Operation Online approached us to see if we were interested in providing content and instructional design expertise for the repository,” says Deveau.

After an initial meeting, it was agreed the college/DLC would be responsible for providing content for six of the 15 modules with Memorial University’s School of Business and the P.J. Gardiner Institute creating the rest. The college would also play a significant role in the instructional design of all 15 modules along with instructional designers Genevieve Gallant at OLIN and Jennifer Bates at MUN.

There are five instructors from College of the North Atlantic campuses across the island helping develop the six modules the college is responsible for, however Deveau has a role in overseeing them all.

“As the instructional designer, I oversee development of all six modules and work with the content experts to ensure the learning materials they provide can be

organized and presented in an online environment so that the learning needs of all ‘students’ are addressed,” he says.

“This involves creating clear and easy-to-use course structure or navigation, making effective use of the technology, ensuring we address all learning styles and so on.”

Since the modules are being developed by different people in different organizations, Deveau works with the other two instructional designers to ensure consistency and educational quality across all 15 modules.

When Media Touch was finished with the modules they were sent to Ireland for review. Final edits were expected to be made in early December with the pilot project scheduled to run for the month of January. The pilot will be reviewed in February with the official launch of the new E-Learning Repository slated for March.

### We want your news!!

The editors of **Currents** - the official newsletter of College of the North Atlantic - are looking for news from all over the province.

If your campus has something going on that you would like to share please send it along to Stephen Lee, Communications Officer at Headquarters. You can send your news via email, college internal mail or regular snail mail - just send it!

When sending electronically, Microsoft Word files are preferred for text and jpeg files for photos or graphics.

## **PCCA helping college meet labour market needs**

The Public College Consultative Alliance formed last November (jointly funded by the college, NAPE and HRDC) is moving toward its goal of providing College of the North Atlantic with information to help it develop programs and resources needed to meet the demands of the province's labour market.

The membership has been broken down into four sub-committees, each with its own objectives and work-plans.

Sub-committee one's objective is to develop strategies that will enhance the delivery of programs and services. They will do this by recommending strategies for improved industry and community interactions with the college. They will accumulate information about what industries are represented in the province and analyze these industries and the community's perception of the college's role in helping them meet their training requirements.

Sub-committee two will develop human resources strategies which allow for the delivery of high quality programs and services in an effective and efficient manner.

This committee is focused on a number of issues including: identifying challenges to the instructor role, succession planning, recruitment initiatives, skills inventory, faculty/industry linkages, matching human resources and program planning and human resource development.

A profile of retirement dates, an analysis of labour market trends and program planning and completion of an electronic survey in early 2001 (which it is hoped faculty will participate in) will together be used to identify recruitment and human resource

**Con't on page 8...**



*Rick Penney, Director of College Development, presents a scholarship to MIP student Allyson Donnelly during the Music Industry Association's Annual Meeting in St. John's.*

## **Music programs hand out scholarships**

The perimeter of the room is lined with computers, all containing the latest in musical software. The desks are pulled into the centre of the room, huddled together to form U-shapes all the way to the back. At the front there is a small desk – and a piano.

The classroom for Music Industry and Performance is unorthodox to say the least. But then again, so is the program.

"We've tried to create a very non-traditional setting," says Juno Award winner Wade Pinhorn, coordinating instructor.

Together, Music Industry and Performance and the Recording Arts program (coordinated by Neil Bishop) take up most of the west wing of the L.A. Bown building at the college's Bay St. George campus. Besides the classroom, the programs share a large room filled with musical instruments (Pinhorn calls it the play room), and a state-of-the-art recording studio.

"We don't look at them as MIP students and Recording Arts students," says Pinhorn. "We call all of them music students."

There are a lot of similarities between the two programs. In fact, there are enough common courses that a graduate of

either one of the two-year programs can earn a diploma in the other by attending for a third year.

Since the programs were introduced they have had a steady intake of students (the MIP program has an intake each year, while Recording Arts takes in students every two years).

However, interest in the programs will probably be increased even further now that they have some serious scholarship money to offer.

"NewCap, the parent company for many radio stations in the province, gave \$315,000 (\$45,000 a year for seven years) to the Music Industry Association of Newfoundland and Labrador to put back into the industry," says Pinhorn.

"They decided some of that money would be used for scholarships and College of the North Atlantic got \$9,000 a year for the next seven years."

There is a \$3,000 scholarship for first-year students, as well as a \$1,500 scholarship for returning students in each program. For years when Recording Arts has no student intake, there are three \$1,500 scholarships for returning students. The first scholarships were handed out in St. John's on Nov. 18 during the association's annual meeting.



# International Update

## Co-op Students go Global

College of the North Atlantic, through its International Office and in collaboration with its Co-op office, will be taking part in the Learning Through Service Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Co-op Pilot Project. The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is implementing this pilot Co-op project, aimed at young Canadian students within the framework of CIDA's mandate, objectives and policies. It is funded out of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) funds, and placements will take place in ODA eligible countries.

The program's goal is to facilitate access for Canadian students wishing to have a Co-op assignment in the context of international cooperation. The purpose is to enable Co-op beneficiaries to pursue their education and training

through practical overseas work placements focusing on particular issues or problems in international development.

Five students have been selected from both the Environmental Technology Co-op program and Programmer Analyst Co-op program and all placements will coincide within existing international cooperation projects in China, India and the Philippines.

The anticipated results are to:  
Increase Canadian students' exposure to employment opportunities in the international arena;

Enhance individual Co-op student's workplace skills, international competence and employment prospects;

Increase the placement rate of Canadian college and institute students;

Increase Co-op student's international awareness of skills and competencies of Canadian students;

Increase the Co-op student's international expertise resident

within the Canadian youth labour force;

Enhance the Co-op student's job search network both nationally and internationally;

And increase students' awareness of international cooperation issues.

Michael Noble and Gary Glass, both from the Programmer/Analyst Co-op program, will be heading to India to work on our Women's Environmental Program Project in Vallum, Tamil Nadu, India.

Tammy Patey and Jill Miles from the Environmental Technology Co-Op program will travel to Chengdu, China and work on our Energy Management Systems project.

Laura Wareham, also from the Environmental Technology Co-op program, will work out of the Technological University of the Philippines in the Colombo Planned Staff College for Technician Education in Manila.

Departure dates are early January. Bon Voyage!

## Chinese students to study at college

College of the North Atlantic has partnered with Lambton College of Sarnia, Ontario, and Changchun Institute of Posts and Telecommunications (CIPT) in Changchun, China to offer Engineering Communications Technology and Computer Engineering Technology Programs to Chinese students at the Changchun campus. At present, there are over 200 students in their

first and second year preparing to enter technology programs.

Daniel Wong, Chair, School of Engineering Technology and Linda Spurrell, Manager, International Initiatives, recently visited China and met with executive, faculty and students at CIPT. While there, Danny and Linda presented information on the college and Newfoundland and Labrador to approximately 300 students. The interest expressed by the students (*who were requested to ask their questions in English!!*) was quite extraordinary. The students asked

typical questions concerning the college, where they would study and types of courses they would take. There were also a number of questions about weather, lifestyle and family life.

The college looks forward to a large number of these students taking the opportunity to study here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Already there is one student who will transfer to the college in April and it is expected additional students will join her at that time, pending the approval of student visas.

# International Update

Many people may wonder why such a project is important - the main reason is the education system in China is quite different from that in Canada. Due to the population density of China, (1.2 billion people) the education system cannot cope with the number of students wishing for a post secondary education. Therefore, getting into a college or university has become extremely competitive. Statistics quoted by the Canadian Embassy are quite astonishing.

The average level of schooling in China is 5.6 years compared to 12 years in Canada; 45% of junior high students (*i.e. up to Grade 9*) drop out before completion; and only 10% of young people between the ages of 18-25 actually attend any kind of post secondary school. This is because students recognize that educational opportunities just don't exist. However, we quickly found out that students who are registered in post secondary are exemplary. By undertaking

this project the college hopes to expand the opportunities for young Chinese, including the opportunity to study abroad.

College life in the Engineering Technology programs will become energized with the addition of these students. Sharing our culture and learning another culture is an opportunity of a lifetime. Everyone in the college will hopefully give them a warm welcome and help them adjust to their new surroundings.

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## Caines featured in WebCT centre-spread

On November 17, Maisie Caines was introduced to more than 400,000 staff and faculty from colleges and universities all over North America. Caines, a faculty development specialist with the college's Distributed Learning Service, was featured in a two page centre-spread WebCT advertisement in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a weekly educational publication out of Washington, D.C.

She and Dr. David Graf, Executive Director of Technology, Nova Southeastern University, Miami, Florida, were featured for a program they designed to identify and reward WebCT courses deemed "exemplary."

In November of 1999, WebCT funded a \$33,000 U.S. applied research grant proposed by Caines and Graf to research and identify "exemplary" courses based on criteria developed by the team. The project consisted of a multi-stage process beginning with the self-nomination of courses by institu-



tions to be judged against the criteria. After the selection of the "exemplary" nominations, the team visited the institutions where the courses were housed and interviewed the faculty who developed the courses, the support staff who assisted with the development, and students who had taken them.

The results of the study have been presented at several WebCT conferences and the League for Innovations Conference on Information Technology in Anaheim, California. The criteria and the results have been so well received by the educational community, WebCT has announced a second phase of the project which will include international and publisher nominations. This year's research grant is for approximately \$70,000 U.S. The results of the second phase will be presented at

several conferences including those sponsored by WebCT in Adelaide, Australia and Boston, Massachusetts.

This year the research team will be assisted by the WebCT's Institutes - educational institutions committed to creating exceptional web-based and/or web-enhanced instruction with proven track records in hosting WebCT courses, providing faculty development and support, and focusing upon research to advance web-enhanced instruction. In June 2000, College of the North Atlantic was named as one of only six institutes in Canada. Currently, WebCT is used by more than 148,000 faculty to teach 303,000 courses with more than 11 million student accounts at approximately 1,600 colleges and universities in 59 countries.

"This work is particularly exciting for me because our college and our province are being recognized for leadership in distributed learning," says Caines.

# Wood 'n you know it

Linda Alexander knew what she wanted to do in business. Her Wood 'n Tea House, located in Kippens (on the province's west coast), is a unique "restaurant/craft showroom" featuring great food and great handmade furniture.

What Linda wanted help with however, was all the administrative duties that go along with running your own business.

Fortunately, Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador and College of the North Atlantic were in the process of designing a "Small Business Owner/Operator Tourism Management Program."

Alexander was one of seven entrepreneurs in the Bay St. George area to take advantage of the program offered at the W.E. Cormack Centre in Stephenville and one of dozens to participate in the program provincially (it was also offered at Grand Falls-Windsor and St. John's).

The program ran between January and April of this year in each of the three regions. It consisted of four modules and partici-



Mary Evans, HNL's western Newfoundland/Labrador representative, Sylvia Alexander, instructor/facilitator, Linda Alexander, owner, Wood 'n Tea House, and Enid Strickland, Chair, School of Applied Arts, College of the North Atlantic.

pants attended classes three evenings per week.

The course was delivered by college instructor Sylvia Alexander.

As a side note, the cook at the Wood 'n Tea House is a graduate of the college's Commercial Cooking program.

"There are a lot of small businesses in this province related to the tourism sector and most operators are very good at what they do," says Alexander.

"But this program also teaches them marketing, human resources management, business planning and customer service."

Since the completion of the first program the phone at college's programs office has been ringing off the hook with business owners wanting to learn more about the course.

"We will definitely do it again," says Enid Strickland, chair of the School of Applied Arts.

"We have had many calls from people who missed the first one and are really interested in acquiring these skills. And as most of them work full-time at their business, they can't afford to take time off in the day to attend regular classes."

## Retirements

The following is a list of college staff retired since December, 1999. If anyone is missing, we apologize.

- Janice French
- Howard Power
- Joe Plachat
- Tonya Bassler
- Don Heale
- Dick Chaulk
- Pat Power
- Cecil Stein
- Manual Hoskins
- David Sharpe

## Alliance con't from 5...

development needs for the next decade.

The third sub-committee will examine and develop short and long-term planning processes.

This committee has already compiled, collated and analyzed information relevant to the college's planning processes (including policies and procedures, relevant reports and references) and is now developing a summary document to serve as a quick-reference guide.

Sub-committee four will be responsible for developing adjustment strate-

gies that will address change and new challenges.

They propose the analysis of Supply and Demand Indicators influencing a client's course decision and the college's program offerings.

Communication of these indicators would enable the college to better understand the cause and effect between population demographics, Human Resource requirements and economic development initiatives.

If you are interested in having input on any of these objectives or would like a list of sub-committee members, contact Leonard Kostaszek, chair, at (709) 738-1530 or by email at kostaszek@nf.sympatico.ca.