

CURRENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC



Brian Tobin, vice president of Academics and Student Services at CNA introduces forum speakers. Seated from left, Colin Forward, Dean of Industrial Trades; Donna Parsons, vice president, Tecoil and Gas Corporation; Cheryl Knight, executive director and CEO, Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada; Annette Tobin, senior policy analyst, Petroleum Resources Branch Natural Resources Canada; Wes Foote, director of petroleum resources development, Department of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Minister of Education Joan Burke; Kevin Baker, vice president, Qatar Project, CNA; and standing, Brian Tobin.

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Oil and Gas start of long-term investment

College of the North Atlantic (CNA) hosted an Oil and Gas Stakeholder Forum and Strategy Session at the Fairmont Newfoundland Hotel in St. John's on October 11, 2006. The theme of the forum was Training for the Future.

A key objective stemming from a recently established Oil and Gas Steering Committee, the forum brought together senior executives and management personnel from industry and federal and provincial governments for a current assessment of the human resource, education and training requirements of the global petroleum industry. The intent is to utilize resultant data in the development of priorities and strategic directions to enhance and strengthen Newfoundland and Labrador's college program capabilities, facilities and resources in support of the oil and gas sector.

Brian Stacey, East Coast Drilling Manager with Petro Canada, was one of the over 100 delegates who attended the forum. He found the event to be well organized and effective.

"Events like the Oil and Gas Forum hosted by CNA are important," he shares.

"Asking the end user of your service how to

shop it is an insightful part of a strategy."

But the true gauge of its effectiveness remains to be seen, challenges Stacey.

"Asking the end user of your service how to shop it is an insightful part of a strategy."

"You had one third of a man year gathered together in one day with an opportunity to compile manageable results with common themes. The follow-through now is essential."

And this is just what CNA is doing, says Brian Tobin, vice president of Academic and Student Services at CNA and chair of the new steering committee.

"This forum is just the starting point," says Tobin.

"At this stage we are assessing the specific needs of industry and developing new initiatives and infrastructure. Next, we work with

government in its commitment to advance the college as a world-class training centre in the decade ahead."

The committee and the oil and gas forum are integral parts of the program initiative announced by Education Minister, the Honorable Joan Burke, in April of this year. The announced \$1 million is marked specifically to support the development of new programs for meeting the future training needs of the oil and gas sector.

The college will be working from a master plan while moving forward with these initiatives, next meeting with advisory committees, special focus groups and stakeholders involved in the training and development of the oil and gas sector, for more in depth evaluation.

A review of current technology/trades program capability has revealed the need for a greater intake of the Petroleum Engineering Technology program. As a result, the enrollment in this program has been doubled from 24 to 48 seats.

Further evaluation is ongoing, with updates for stakeholders provided through a quarterly E-newsletter.

CNA leads the pack in innovation

College of the North Atlantic is #1 in offering the highest number of technologies available for commercialization across all Canadian community colleges, with three projects in the works and more expected this year.

Flintbox, a Canadian Technology Transfer site (sponsored by the University of British Columbia), is used by all Canadian universities and colleges for posting new inventions

for commercialization. If you check this site, you will notice that CNA is among only three community colleges offering new technologies for licensing (the other two being Red Deer College and Red River College). Among them, CNA leads by offering the highest number of inventions.

CNA is the only college in Atlantic Canada and the only institution provincially with this

capability. The applied research division is not yet three years old, but we have moved swiftly to bridge the gap with our national counterparts. With your support and encouragement, we hope to continue to excel.

To view the Flintbox site and list of participating universities and colleges, please see: www.flintbox.com.

College collaborates with ECMA

The East Coast Music Association (ECMA) is the newest scholarship partner for College of the North Atlantic.

The association has committed \$1,000 annually for five years to each of the Music Industry and Performance (MIP) and Recording Arts (RA) programs at CNA's Bay St. George campus. Awards are based on academic excellence in the first semester of each program and monies go directly toward the second term of tuition.

Bay St. George campus has been striving for a number of years to deliver quality training in support of the music industry, says Wade Pinhorn, MIP coordinating instructor.

"We are feeding the music industry with a new breed of industry-savvy graduates – to the

province in particular, but also the Atlantic region and indeed the rest of the country, as confirmed by the number of students we've enrolled from across Canada," says Pinhorn.

"The acquisition of these ECMA scholarships shows direct industry endorsement and support for our mandate."

The campus has had several years of involvement with the ECMA. College faculty have taken part in the annual conferences, and CNA facilitated the digital capture of ECMA workshops at the last event in St. John's.

"BSG campus would like to sincerely thank Steve Horne, Executive Director of the ECMA, and the ECMA board for their generous donations," says Lorne King, campus administrator.

"Wade is also first vice-chair of the ECMA

and has worked closely with Mr. Horne to ensure mutual benefit from this partnership."

In addition to scholarships, the association has donated several hundred CDs for the programs' music library to the tune of \$4,000.

"We are looking forward to many years of mutual support between CNA and the ECMA," says King.

"It is through working together that both organizations will become stronger and better able to serve this thriving industry."

Winners of the first ECMA scholarships will receive their awards at the Industry Brunch at the ECMA conference in February, 2007, taking place in Halifax.

CNA employee given highest honour for dedication

Bessie Merrigan, Student Success Coordinator at Corner Brook campus, has recently been inducted to the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Order, the highest honour of the province, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excel-

lence and achievement in any field or endeavour benefiting, in an outstanding manner, Newfoundland and Labrador and its residents. Bessie was nominated for her voluntary work with the literacy movement in Newfoundland and Labrador and was invested into the Order

in a special ceremony at Government House on December 8, 2006.

Congratulations Bessie!

Appointment

Brenda Doyle has been appointed to the position of Registrar for College of the North Atlantic (effective January 2007). Brenda succeeds our longstanding Registrar, Linda Dunne, who will be taking up full-time responsibilities on our continuing PeopleSoft development and implementation.

Brenda joined the college system in 1984. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the administration and management

of the Registrar's Office. She has worked as Coordinator for Admissions and Records, IT Training Officer, Assistant Registrar, Associate Registrar and, mostly recently, Registrar at the college's Qatar campus. Brenda previously worked as a Regional Development Coordinator, administering government programs and promoting social and economic development in Eastern Labrador.

Brenda holds a Bachelor of Vocational

Education (Business), a Certificate in Business Administration from Memorial University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Business Information Technology from College of the North Atlantic. She was the recipient of the President's Award for Staff Excellence in 1996 and 2002.

Congratulations to Brenda on her new position with the college!

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Season's Greetings



We in the Marketing and Communications department send you wishes for a warm holiday season and wonderful new year.

As many of you know, the college is now offering Adult Basic Education (ABE) programming at more campuses than ever. As part of the campaign to promote ABE Levels I, II and III, we've included success stories on some notable ABE graduates. We're posting them to our website and sending to media throughout the province to help encourage others to take the leap.

For this holiday issue of Currents we wanted to share some of these stories of triumph with you.

Merry Christmas!

Tanya Alexander

Editor
Tanya Alexander

With education comes freedom

Crystal Sheehan is diminutive in stature but packs a big punch when it comes to determination.

Crystal dropped out of high school at age 15 in 1988 and went straight to Ontario to find work. Two years later she returned home to enroll in the two-year Small Business Entrepreneur program at Bay St. George campus.

"College suited me well; I liked the individuality of it," she says.

"I had a child... a demanding baby, and found myself studying more often than not with him on my hip. The program allowed me to work at my pace – I've found that about a lot of CNA's programs."

And Crystal would know – she has graduated from five of them.

"When I was young I thought I knew everything... thought I wouldn't need a proper education. I have that conversation now, with my 15 year-old," shares Crystal.

"But I didn't realize that as a teenager you cannot get any kind of rewarding job without your education."

Some time after completing the business program, she went on to enroll in the four-month Orientation to Trades and Technology program, then the nine-month Welding program, followed by the six-month Mobile Crane program. At the end of it, she knew she'd have to stay in school for a while longer.

"I knew I'd have to take ABE at the end – your college diplomas aren't recognized without that high school diploma."

Being a female in trades and technology



Crystal Sheehan has graduated from five College of the North Atlantic programs, including ABE.

sector hasn't been easy at times. She's been told she's too little, or that she should find another line of work that isn't so dirty. But the challenges were nothing compared to the life she left behind.

"I was on social services for 10 years. It was hard to give that up... to work and study and still put food in the fridge. But I'm so glad I went back to school," Crystal explains.

"Even if it's not paid for, take a risk... take a loan... it's worth it!"

Today, Crystal lives in the Halifax area and works for Pratt and Whitney, where she inspects turbines. She and her team ensure there are no damages to the blades that comprise an integral part of plane engines. She and her partner have just bought a new house with plenty of land for the two children to enjoy. It's a good life, she says. One that never would have happened if she hadn't made the

leap of faith.

"There is so much opportunity out there, and funding to help. There's no reason in the world why you can't get your grade 12 education," Crystal says, "and so much more!"

It's possible to not be dependant on the system. Education has opened whole new financial world for me – you wouldn't believe the freedom I have now."

Crystal plans to augment her credentials even further. She loves her current work and will soon begin distance business classes with CNA. The busy schedule of working, keeping a home and family and studying is not daunting to this lady.

"When you really want something it's amazing what you can do," she suggests.

She may be small, but Crystal Sheehan has a big future ahead of her.

You can't start from the roof down

Richard Miller's story is a poignant one. Until little over a decade ago, he was one of 22 per cent of Canadians who struggled through life without literacy.

His fate took a turn when his young son had a medical emergency and Richard couldn't locate the doctor's number in the phone book; he couldn't read a word.

"I was so shy and ashamed... I didn't want anybody to find out I couldn't read," he says.

His son nearly lost his finger, and could have lost his life. Richard decided to no longer be a victim, and began learning to read and write "from scratch."

First, the Shoal Harbour native attended two-hour tutoring sessions that gradually lead to a night school course, and then a learning centre program. That's when he felt ready for the ABE program at College of the North Atlantic.

"It was a lot of hard work and lots of adjustment," Richard says.

"Having said that, ABE gives you a perfect foundation. It's like building a house – you can't start from the roof down, can you?"

It was at CNA's Clarenville campus that he began to feel in control while doing ABE. And he began to believe that he could achieve a long-term goal.

"I had previously worked in the Department of Fisheries as a deck hand and doing general duties aboard barges. I wanted to gain an office position, but I never had the education to reach that level... even though I knew the job," he says.

During the three years it took to complete his ABE studies, Richard began to realize he could go even further. His dream was to make good money working on a fishing vessel then perhaps go on to a degree in Biology. Something that had seemed so unattainable for so long was now within his grasp.

While in school his confidence grew and he became active with Clarenville campus' student council. Richard discovered that he was a good public speaker.

"I started visiting ABE classrooms and high schools to encourage students to complete their studies," shares Richard, "using my story to help them understand."

I'm an example of what you can do with your life."

In fact, Richard has travelled throughout the province many times to speak with students of all ages and from all walks of life.



CNA graduate Richard Miller has been an ambassador for literacy since learning to read several years ago. He travels to high schools and colleges to encourage students to stay in school.

He's taken it a step further and now sits on the Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador board, and is the provincial representative on the national literacy board. He has made official trips to the House of Commons – a place he never imagined he'd be.

"...ABE gives you a perfect foundation. It's like building a house – you can't start from the roof down, can you?"

"This is the kind of thing I wouldn't be doing if I hadn't gotten my education... I've had a chance to go to Ottawa twice representing Newfoundland and Labrador," he says.

"I've met a lot of people across the country and my name was mentioned in the House in reference to literacy. Some days I can't believe it."

Today, Richard is enrolled in the Marine Institute's Bridge Watchman program. This six-month certificate training will allow him to embark on his dream. He still doesn't rule out the Biology degree or the many other options he now has in his reach, but after all these years of study, Richard thinks he may be ready to settle down for a while.

"I've had to get adjusted to two lives... leaving my family in Shoal Harbour to study and then coming home and adjusting to that

again," he reveals.

"I may never go further... it's only months down the road to a good paycheck. I feel like I just want to work at my trade after this and support my family after all the support they've shown me."

Richard is now preparing for his first training session at sea – a week-long stint. He'll be aboard a ship as part of a crew of 14; 10 students, an instructor/captain, another captain, an engineering mate and cook.

"Part of my job will be watch keep – on the wheel. There are other aspects to the training as well, like deck hand, upkeep, learning all about the weather and waves, chart work and navigation. I could be in the Gulf of Mexico this time next week!"

He can't wait to get back after the holidays to prepare for a six to eight week work term in February.

"I'm really looking forward to that. I'm used to being on barges for months at a time from my old work."

He looks back at the time he spent at sea before he knew how to read, and thanks his lucky stars he's still here today.

"Think about it... if someone couldn't read these labels and put fuel in the wrong tanks or hit the wrong button, the whole boat could blow in seconds – you wouldn't even have time to get out of your bunk," he says emphatically.

"Knowing what I know now about safety, if someone offered me \$50,000 a year to work on a ship and I didn't know how to read, I wouldn't take it. I'd be taking my life and that of all the others on the ship into my hands."

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...from the roof down

...continued from page 4

Skills gained from the Bridge Watchman program include communications, math, rigging, rope splicing, knot tying and more. Richard says 80 per cent of what they are learning is safety.

"It's all so important, what we're learning... you've got to have that safety background. Years ago you could get by on the buddy system or just by taking crazy chances," he says.

"That doesn't work today. I'd be very surprised to meet anyone on these tankers who couldn't read."

Age just shouldn't be a factor to not learning, he insists. It's never too late. The main factor is encouragement from family and instructors. That's what worked for Richard.

"I want to thank CNA – they have highly educated staff who are able to work with you at your level," says Miller, "and everybody was so supportive – especially my instructor Nick Donovan – he's played a big part in my life from the beginning."

Just as important as his desire to work, is Richard's desire to help others. Once he is established in a new job, he plans to continue

with volunteer work.

"If there's anything related to literacy and ABE I'm there! That's what it's all about, giving back what you've gotten."

Richard is grateful for the opportunities he now has and for the support of his wife and children. His son is now 24 and has made a life in PEI. His little girl is 11 and will have a working dad who brings home a steady paycheck and who can read her bedtime stories.

"Education has changed my life and my heart is there, it will always be there."

Success takes time

There aren't many who go back for a high school diploma after enjoying a successful career for more than a decade. Yet at 45, Carol Skinner did just that.

When Carol dropped out of Grade 10 in Pickering, Ontario in the 70s, work was easy to come by. She found a job in retail and eventually worked her way up through to management. She remained in retail off and on for 15 years, until she and her husband moved to Newfoundland in 1996. It was almost an afterthought that pointed her in the right direction.

"I hadn't been able to find work for a while and was wondering what I'd do. One of my husband's hockey friends suggested I take ABE to make me more employable."

The couple lives in Codroy Valley – a remote scenic area on the southwest coast of the island. Carol's husband travels half an hour each day to his work place in Port aux Basques, which provided her with an opportunity to avail of the ABE program offered at a College of the North Atlantic campus there. But she had her misgivings.

"I said, 'my God, I'm not going back to school, I'll be the only one my age there!'"

Carol overcame her fears, and once there, excelled in the Level III program. She was doing so well, her instructors recommended that she go on to further post-secondary studies. She took their encouragement and advice to heart and enrolled in Tourism Studies at the college's Bay St. George campus.

"I took the Tourism Studies program from 2001-2003 and stayed in residence... now that was an interesting experience at my age!"

Once she conquered her fears, Carol embraced the opportunity. Not only did she

do well in the program, representing her class at the Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador conference in Gander during her second year, but she graduated with honours and was presented with the President's Medal of Excellence for the highest academic standing in her program.



Carol Skinner returned to complete her high school equivalency at 45 years old. Today, she is an instructor at College of the North Atlantic.

Upon graduation, Carol landed a position with the Codroy Valley RV campground, where she worked for two years using her tourism know-how.

"It is a really busy campground. They do a lot of caravan work, with visitors from the US in particular," says Carol.

"I helped them put together visitor information packets, gather tourist information, arrange luncheons, things like that."

One day out of the blue she received a call from CNA's Port aux Basques campus, asking if she'd be interested in teaching the 11-week Frontline Hospitality/Retail Sales program.

Though a little apprehensive at trying something she hadn't done before, Carol jumped at the change to augment her resume with teaching experience.

"It was nerve racking in the beginning but the students and support staff were amazing," shares Carol.

The experience went well and Carol realized she may have found a calling. She went back to CNA's Bay St. George campus as a student and completed a Train the Trainer certificate in Sanitation – certified by the Canadian Restaurant and Food Service Association. This would give her additional skills she could possibly utilize for future teaching or for working.

"A lot of us in that course were planning to work in the tourism industry. Many students have benefited from doing this certificate."

Since then, Carol has taught a 10-week course in Employability Skills at Port aux Basques campus and is preparing to teach the new Career Exploration for Women program being offered at the campus in January.

It has taken her some time to get to this point but Carol says she's enjoyed the ride. And will continue to.

"There are so many things in life to keep you busy... you have to keep plugging," she says.

"I've often said to my students: 'I've been in your position... I am living proof that you can do it.'"

The 52 year old is proud of her age, her son and two grandchildren and her decision to return to school.

"I went back to school at 45 years old. Now with life experiences it's easier the second time around... it's a joy to learn. "

The power of education is forever

"It was either take ABE or stay like this for rest of my life."

This is the realization Loriann Leyte came to after finding herself dependant on social assistance, several years after dropping out of high school.

Loriann was completing her second-last year of high school in New World Island in September '92 when she became a mother. Though she attempted to return for her Grade 12 in '93, she faced child care issues and had to drop out of school.

She came to a crossroads in '97 and decided to enroll in College of the North Atlantic's ABE program through the Open Learning Centre in Twillingate.

"My son Dylon was in school by then and I had the time," says Loriann. "But it was very difficult. I didn't have a vehicle and had to depend on someone else for a ride."

As a single mother she still had to care for her child at home. All the same, it didn't take her long to complete the ABE program. She enrolled in November and completed her high school equivalence by January.

"I wanted to get it done," she says, "I had put my education on hold long enough, so the faster I was able to complete my ABE and move on to higher studies the better."

It worked wonders for her confidence. However, the high school grad didn't continue her studies right away. It took her a couple more years before she went back.

"Right from the get go I knew I wanted to go on and do something else...I knew without an education I was not able to provide for myself or my son the way we deserved to be provided for," she shares.

Loriann still lived in a remote area with no way to get to class everyday for a full-time, long term program. Then in 2000 she moved to Baytona, a little over an hour's drive to Grand Falls-Windsor, and a CNA campus. A couple of friends were attending there so she had the opportunity to car pool.

While attending Grand Falls-Windsor campus she embraced student life and was very involved with the Student Representatives Council.

"This was a very rewarding experience for me. I met so many people and learned so many things," says Loriann.

She recommends to those attending CNA to become involved in student activities if possible.

"It makes your college life easier in regards to the many friends you will develop; at the same time, you get a chance to make college life more enjoyable for your peers as well."



Loriann Leyte-Pedde went from high school drop out to college graduate, university student and career success story.

In 2003, Loriann graduated from the three-year Business Management (Human Resources) program. She didn't stop there – having built up the momentum and confidence to go for a degree in Business. And by this time, she was Student Council President of Grand Falls-Windsor campus.

"Now my new family can live better and are able to do more than we could have if I hadn't continued my education. Once you get that education, no one can ever take it from you."

Because the campus offered the College-University Transfer Year program, Loriann was able to complete the first year of her degree close to home and for much less cost than if she had gone to university in St. John's or Corner Brook. She moved to the town and cut down on costs even further.

She completed her first year of degree study at the CNA campus in 2004 and promptly began studies at Memorial University

via distance. She found the university experience challenging in several ways.

"The thing with college is that most people were my age, many of them mature students," says Loriann.

"But my classmates in university were mostly all 17 and 18 years old!"

However, she says it was valuable to share experiences with that age group.

"To sit back and listen to their points of view is interesting... they aren't realizing that this is the best thing they're ever going to do for themselves. It makes me appreciate my situation even more."

The challenging aspect of continuing her university studies via distance was the self-discipline needed.

"You have to want to do it. There is no instructor that you can interact with on a daily basis," she says.

"But it's so convenient for me because I can finish my degree in business from my own home."

Today Loriann is married and continues her studies while working full-time as a Payroll Benefits Specialist at Grand Falls-Windsor's Help Desk Now call centre. There is room to grow in the company and lots of opportunity beyond.

By the time she finishes her degree in April, Loriann doesn't know what the future will hold. She is only certain that it's limitless. She strongly urges those who dropped out of school to look into ABE, regardless of the obstacles.

"There is assistance there for people who want to further their education, so you know what? Use it. Nothing in this world is impossible," Loriann says encouragingly.

In her case, she availed of student loans.

"It will take me quite a while to pay them back but this is how I look at it: if I didn't have a loan payment I would never have the job I have either. The loans made it possible for me to obtain the education I have."

It's been a long road for Loriann; one that required "sacrifice after sacrifice." Was it worth it?

"Now my new family can live better and are able to do more than we could have if I hadn't continued my education. Once you get that education, no one can ever take it from you," says Loriann.

"It's yours forever."

Instructor appointed president of association

The Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) announced Dr. Wayne Eastman as the newly elected president at its Annual General Meeting in St. John's this past November.

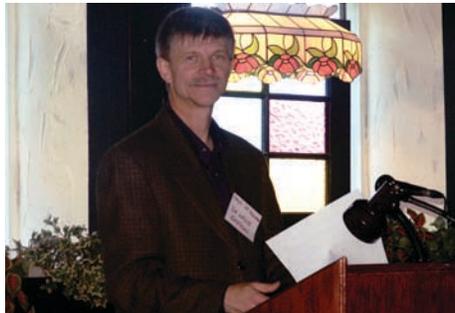
Eastman, the Early Childhood Education coordinating instructor at College of the North Atlantic's Corner Brook campus, is a long time member of CAYC. During his tenure with the association, he has served in many capacities, most recently vice-president/publications chair. He has published extensively in educational and scholarly journals and twice his articles have been selected for publication in the Annual Edition of Early Childhood Education, a compilation of the best early learning years articles published in a particular year. He has presented at national and international conferences and forums in such places as the Czech Republic, Nepal, Greece, New Zealand, Malaysia, Ecuador, Bangladesh, Italy, England, Mexico and Turkey.

Eastman has also served on the editorial review board of such publications as the Canadian Children Journal and is currently co-editor of the Journal of Early Childhood Development, published by Tribhuvan University in Katmandu, Nepal.

Eastman's election to the post of president is a culmination of a ten-year relationship with the association. His primary objective in the position is to support CAYC's mission on

critical issues related to the quality of life of young children and their families.

"During my tenure I hope to further the association's mission statement by endeavouring to influence the direction and quality of policies and programs that affect the development and well-being of all young children in Canada," says Eastman, "as well as to promote the opportunities for effective liaison and collaboration with all those responsible for young children."



Dr. Wayne Eastman accepts the post of president at the Canadian Association for Young Children AGM in November.

Eastman will also concentrate on furthering the growth of the CAYC internationally through the organization's affiliation with the World Forum on Early Care and Education. The forum, held bi-annually in various venues around the world with delegates from over 80 nations, is

dedicated to early childhood professionals who strive to improve the lives and futures of the children of the world. Eastman has presented and has represented the CAYC at the past three world forums. The next will take place in May of 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Eastman, along with a colleague from Tribhuvan University of Katmandu, Nepal, was the 2005 recipient of the World Forum Networking Grant. The money from this project was used to travel to Nepal and develop that country's first journal in early childhood development. While in Nepal, he also explored the possibilities of developing distance learning courses in early learning years education.

The Canadian Association for Young Children, incorporated in 1974, is the only national organization concerned with the well-being of children – birth through age nine – at home, in preschool settings and at school. Members of the multidisciplinary association include parents, teachers, caregivers, administrators, students and all those wishing to share ideas and participate in activities related to the education and welfare of young children. The association recognized Eastman's outstanding contributions to the well-being of young children in 2004 by awarding him the National Friends of Children Award.

Council meets in Stephenville

The Council of Student Executives (CSE) held its first meeting of the academic year October 13-15, in Stephenville.

The CSE is the provincial student governance committee of CNA and is comprised of a student representative from each of our 17 campuses. CSE members, normally the President or President's Executive Designate, are elected members of the local Student Representatives Councils at each campus.

The CSE provides a forum for students to work cooperatively to advance, promote and advocate the common interests of CNA students. The CSE is also responsible for determining CNA province-wide recreational activities and other events.

At the first CSE meeting of each year, the executive is elected and student representatives for the CNA Board of Governors are recommended. The next meeting of the CSE will be in St. John's in January, 2007.



From front right, students Rob Canning, Andrea Milley, Amanda Benoit, Angie Doyle, Terri Rumbolt and Cindi Lee. From left back, Donna Pike, accountant with CNA headquarters, Mary-Ellen Alexander, student health and dental with CNA, students Craig Rogers, Linda Davis, Matt Penney, Susan Hiltz, Josh Ward, and Shirley Woodward, manager of student recruitment and enrollment.

Opportunity for CNA

The Learning Disabilities Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (LDANL) will host the 16th National Conference on Learning Disabilities next year – its first time holding the event in 25 years!

Educators in this province will have the opportunity to hear world renowned experts in the field of learning disabilities at the Delta Hotel and Conference Centre in St. John's from September 27-29, 2007.

Debbie Picco Garland, Executive Director for LDANL, is encouraging College of the North Atlantic to take part.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for educators, parents, students, medical professionals, social workers – the list goes on – to access this kind of expertise," says Picco Garland.

"Our guest speakers are experts, not only on learning disabilities, but strategies that assist in any learning situation in the classroom, at home, or in the workplace," she says.

The two keynote speakers for the conference are Dr. Mel Levine, co-founder of the learning institute All Kinds of Minds and author of *A Mind at a Time*; and Dr. Thomas E. Brown, a leading expert in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and author of *Attention Deficit Disorder: The Unfocused Mind in Children and Adults*.

Other confirmed speakers include: Dr. Robert (Buck) Weaver III, Dr. Maggie Mamen, Mahesh Sharma, Rondalyn Varney Whitney, Maureen Riley, and Nanci Bell (of Lindamood-Bell), among others.

Dan Goodyear, coordinator of disability services at CNA's Prince Philip Drive, sits on the national conference committee. He says this conference is a great opportunity to provide in-servicing and knowledge to employees on learning disabilities.

"The college has implemented an inclusive model of service delivery that encourages all students with disabilities to access college programs," says Goodyear.

"As we move towards becoming a more inclusive learning institution, we must continue to upgrade our skills so that we can grow our capacity to deliver the best possible service to all students."

Goodyear says in order to provide more meaningful and welcoming environments, all employees, including instructors and management, need a greater knowledge of learning disabilities.

"Having a national conference on our doorstep is a great opportunity for us!"

LDANL is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of education, employment, social development, legal rights and general well-being of people with learning disabilities.

The organization is dedicated to helping people with learning disabilities achieve their true potential in school, in the workplace and in society.

For more information on The 16th National Conference on Learning Disabilities, please visit LDANL's website: www.nald.ca/ldanl/ or call 709-753-1445.

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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