

CURRENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

Premier launches education platform at Headquarters

Premier Danny Williams visited College of the North Atlantic (CNA) Headquarters to launch his education platform while he was on the campaign trail in October.

The premier was joined by Education Minister Joan Burke in announcing the platform.

Premier Williams described education as the key to this province's future. He said it gives people the knowledge, skills, experience and self-confidence to harness their potential.

"We want to see our students go on to pursue post-secondary studies so they can bring their knowledge and skills to the level needed to achieve maximum success in their field, and help ensure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are ready to take leadership positions in the industries that we will grow here at home in the decades ahead," Williams said.

Some of the initiatives the Williams government will undertake to promote education and innovation include:

- Extend the tuition freeze at Memorial University and CNA for four years, with an investment of \$56 million.
- Pursue the implementation of Applied Degrees at CNA.
- Further expand the Information, Communication and Learning Technologies project to enable more students to apply the Internet to learning in the classroom.
- Establish five-year literacy and numeracy targets in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Expand distance education opportunities, increase distance education support to

schools and enhance broadband connectivity to rural and remote schools.

- Fully implement the Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology program, which focuses on skilled trades application at the senior high level.
- Provide a \$500 tax rebate to help apprentices purchase new equipment through an investment of \$350,000.
- Continue to implement recommendations

"We want to see our students go on to pursue post-secondary studies so they can bring their knowledge and skills to the level needed to achieve maximum success..."

of the Skills Task Force report to better prepare Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for existing and emerging employment opportunities in skilled trades and professions in the province.

- Continue to work collaboratively to increase the participation of women in skilled trades and professions in Newfoundland and Labrador, and enhance women's work skills and preparedness for trades

identified by the Skills Task Force.

- Establish a Journeyperson Mentorship Program.
- Increase the number of graduates employed in the province's public sector with an investment of \$350,000.
- Complete renovations for CNA's Prince Philip Drive campus in St. John's.
- Continue to invest in adult basic education and lifelong learning initiatives to provide people with the tools they need to expand their opportunities for career advancement, income enhancement and greater self reliance.



Premier Danny Williams speaks to CNA President Jean Madill after his press conference to launch his education platform in October.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Marketing and Communications Awards
- 2 Halloween at St. Anthony Campus
- 3 IT Upgrade
- 3 New TOEFL designation
- 4 Educator of the Year Award
- 5 Mentor of the Year Award
- 5 Donations from Dennis GM
- 6 Employee Appointments
- 7 Crisis Intervention Session
- 8 New Partnerships for College
- 9 Remembering a Colleague
- 10 College Day 2007
- 12 CNA-Qatar Recruitment Program

CNA nabs four international awards

College of the North Atlantic has won four international distinctions from the MarCom Awards for the college's work in marketing and public relations.

The MarCom Awards, administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. Perhaps one of the largest competitions of its kind in the world, over 5,000 entries were submitted throughout the United States and several foreign countries for the 2007 competition.

CNA won awards in four out of seven categories entered.

Two platinum awards were given for the 2006-07 Annual Report, and two editions of the 2007 Currents Newsletter. Meanwhile, the two gold awards were given for the college's branding ad campaign and the Choose CNA Programs and Services Guide.

In addition to certificates, the college is eligible to receive two gold and two platinum MarCom Awards, designed and individually cast by artisans at the same company that crafts

the Oscar, Emmy and MTV Awards.

According to the judges, "The MarCom's prestigious platinum award is presented to those entries judged to be among the most outstanding entries in the competition. Platinum winners are recognized for their excellence in terms of quality, creativity and resourcefulness."

Only 18 per cent of the entrants won the platinum award.

"The gold award is presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry norm. Approximately 18 per cent were gold winners... Being a platinum or gold winner is a tremendous achievement."

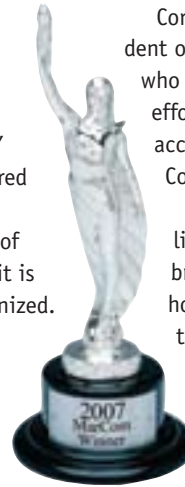
This is the first time CNA has entered and won awards from this competition and Stephen Lee, CNA's manager of Marketing and Communications, says it is an honour for the college to be recognized.

"The team in Marketing and Communications has been producing exceptional work for years, but had rarely entered any of that work in awards competitions," says Lee.

"In the last year or so we entered several competitions and were pleased to have now won awards in two different competitions. Of course, it's a good feeling for those in the department to be recognized like this, but we think this is an achievement that can be celebrated by everyone at College of the North Atlantic. The inspiration for everything we do in our department is influenced by what our faculty and staff do at the campuses every day."

Corinne Dunne, the college's vice-president of Development/College Advancement, who oversees the college's marketing efforts, says she's extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Marketing and Communications department.

"It doesn't take external recognition like this to confirm for me the high calibre of our CNA Mar/Com Team – it does, however, serve as a great reminder for me to recognize wonderful individuals, working as a high performance team producing terrific results! Congratulations to them – I'm proud to be a part of the team!"



College Day a scream for St. Anthony campus

On October 31, St. Anthony held its annual Halloween festivities, but the college spirit was well under way before that. Throughout the school, students worked together to decorate their classrooms for the annual Halloween decorating-contest. They had one classroom that was considered condemned, one turned into a mad hospital, and many turned out to be graveyards. There was some great work done by all, but two classrooms stood out: the Office Administration and the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) classrooms; they took first and second place respectively.

The PCA students turned their classroom into a Mad Halloween Hospital with a number of scary patients. The Office Administration students transformed part of their classroom into a graveyard that seemed to provide a sense of reality and the scare factor that proved to be the winning concept.

Because of the monumental work displayed by the students, it was decided that the classrooms would be left decorated so that the stu-



dents coming in for College Day on November 1, could see the effort put forth. Staff and students wanted to show the high school students that there are many more aspects to college life than books, work and studying, and that they encourage student participation in

all events at the college.

The winning class even donned their costumes again and put on quite a show for the visiting students. Everyone's college spirit showed through and it was well received by all.

Things looking up(graded) in IT

There's been a lot of activity coming out of the IT department in recent months, with several major software upgrades as the main focus.

We are all aware that Microsoft has released a new operating system – Vista. Both Vista and the new Microsoft Office 2007 have been licensed by the college. Staff can request that Vista OS be installed on their current computers; all new computers coming into the college will be equipped with the new operating system and office suite.

Sharepoint is also making a comeback within the college with the new 2007 version. The old Sharepoint system provided much of the functionality that was required to allow collaboration via distance. However, its interface was cumbersome and at times confusing to users. The new version is much more user-friendly and it is expected this new software will be utilized by many cross-departmental or geographically dispersed teams throughout the college, or by faculty wanting to use the application as a teaching aid for students. The

upgrade is now complete, and the college is exploring with Microsoft Canada the potential for a wider application of the product across all college areas. More information regarding the Sharepoint software and how you can develop your own Sharepoint site will be available from the IT department in the near future.

The largest of the upgrades being undertaken is with the PeopleSoft system.

Several advancements have been made within PeopleSoft since the college first acquired this ERP solution, and we recently issued a request for proposals to upgrade the Finance, Student and Human Resources modules to the latest PeopleSoft version – 9.0.

An evaluation team was formed with representation from various technical and functional areas to review the responses from vendors. Vendor presentations took place in November and the submissions were evaluated by the team. However, no award has been made to date.

While this process is ongoing, a plan is being developed to ensure we take full advan-

tage of this investment of finances and human resources, including project goals and objectives, an organizational impact assessment and front-end training for system users, technical and support staffing, and instructional staff. An assessment of the strategic risks and challenges to the project is also being conducted to determine the upgrade path that will provide the best support of college operations with the least amount of impact.

In addition to the software upgrades described above, the college, through the IT department, is deploying new Network Instrument LAN Probe appliances to better track and resolve campus network performance issues. This will significantly improve the IT group's ability to have end-to-end monitoring capability as issues arise.

Finally, the trial of Cisco's Edge Access Control services is for the most part complete. This product will, in future, facilitate greater general access to network services via the college's wireless technology.

RSS feed now available on college web site



Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds are used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries or news headlines. CNA's RSS document, often referred to as a "feed" or "channel", contains recent summaries of content from College News including press releases and feature stories. RSS makes it possible for people to keep up with their favorite web sites in an automated manner that's easier than checking them manually.

RSS content can be read using software called an "RSS reader", "feed reader" or an "aggregator." The user subscribes to a feed by

entering the feed's link into the reader or by clicking an RSS icon in a browser that initiates the subscription process. The reader checks the user's subscribed feeds regularly for new content, downloading any updates that it finds.

Most new web browsers (Internet Explorer 7.0, Netscape 8.0) have RSS readers built into them and do not require downloading of additional applications.

For more information or to subscribe to CNA's RSS feed, click on the RSS feed icon next to College News on College of the North Atlantic's home page.

New designation as test site

Prince Philip Drive (PPD) campus now carries the designation as an official test site for the Internet-based Test of English as a Second Language (TOEFL). This certification essentially means that a person whose first language is not English can have their English language proficiency skills assessed by the designated Test Administrators at the campus in St. John's.

"We are in the process of developing the same practice for Corner Brook campus as well," says David Touchings, Assessment Services Coordinator at PPD. "Since we are an Official Test Site, it means the results of

the testing are recognized and accepted by the vast majority of educational institutions world-wide, including our own."

Most educational institutions require a certain level of English proficiency before they permit students to enroll in regular academic programs. The scores the applicants obtain on the Internet Based Test (IBT) are used to validate this proficiency. A low score on the IBT might mean that the applicant would need to complete our English as a Second Language program. A high score would mean that they could, with other pre-requisites (high school graduation, student visa, etc.), directly enter a

regular program.

"As part of the qualification process, our Information Technology personnel had to do a significant amount of computer lab preparation," reveals Touchings. "Our counsellors had to be specifically trained to administer this test, both from a technical perspective and from a security perspective. While counsellors already have a strong background in testing and the ethics of testing, the owners of TOEFL IBT wished to further emphasize the fact that the integrity of this test should never be compromised."

Educator of the Year: CNA wins national award

College of the North Atlantic has been honoured with the Educator of the Year award from the National Seafood Sector Council (NSSC).

This national award is presented to the educational institution that has delivered the most NSSC training courses.

"The college won the award because 375 students received training in 21 of the NSSC training courses. These courses were delivered from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2007," explains Clara McCue, business development officer for provincial contracts with CNA.

The college delivered the NSSC training courses at its St. Anthony, Corner Brook, Gander, Clarenville, Burin and Placentia campuses.

"It was the dedication of business development officers from each campus and the regional representative for the NSSC that allowed the college to deliver so many courses throughout the province," says McCue.

CNA has been a member of the NSSC for two years and McCue says the college is providing much needed training for this industry.

"The NSSC provides a forum for the seafood processing industry to address human resource development issues. It is a national organization led by seafood industry partners and is staffed by a team of dedicated personnel," says McCue.

"The council assists large and small companies across the country in meeting their training needs. Membership in the council allows us to cost-effectively bring NSSC training courses to fish and food processors throughout the province. These nationally certified courses are of great value to the industry."

CNA has been helping the NSSC deliver a range of course topics such as Quality

Management for Production Workers, Factory Clean-up, Food Safety, etc.

"Our success is due, in no small part, to the great relationship we have developed with the past and the current NSSC regional representative," continues McCue.

"The NSSC records all training courses that take place across Canada. By completing a query on their database, the number of courses and participants taught by each educational partner is easily obtained."

CNA was nominated along with the Marine Institute and Quin-Sea Fisheries for the award.

"The college only recently became a member of the NSSC – we began marketing and delivering NSSC courses just two years ago. The award win is a great result for such a new member. There are sector council representatives and industry partners in all provinces except Saskatchewan," McCue says.

"The membership of NSSC consists of 160 companies, associations, government and training institutes, but we couldn't have done such a good job without the business development officers at various campuses and the persistence of NSSC's regional representative at the time."

McCue, who attended the NSSC annual general meeting and awards ceremony in Halifax in October, accepted the award on behalf of the college.

"It was a great experience and the NSSC were very happy that we were able to be there to accept the award in person. It's good news for the fishing industry – it shows that the sector in this province is active and developing itself."

Johanna Oehling, president of NSSC, says hard work goes into delivering the NSSC courses.



College of the North Atlantic recently won the Educator of the Year award from the National Seafood Sector Council (NSSC). From left are Brian Hicks, past regional NSSC representative for Newfoundland and Labrador; Clara McCue, CNA business development officer for provincial contracts; and Johanna Oehling, president of the NSSC.

"Congratulations to CNA for being nominated and winning the award from NSSC as Educational Trainer of the Year for 2007. Many hours of hard work and commitment from all involved with training for the industry has without a doubt been a great benefit for all," says Oehling. "In addition, I would like to congratulate the other Newfoundland and Labrador nominees; working together to up-skill and educate our industry will benefit Canadian companies and Canadians will prosper."

Finally, Denise Hann-Hicks, NSSC NL regional representative, also congratulated CNA.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity over the last two years working with the college to promote and deliver NSSC courses throughout the province. I appreciate the assistance from the business development officers and look forward to their continued support in the further growth of the college's relationship with NSSC."

Women helping women

The Career Exploration for Women (CEW) group from Seal Cove campus jumped at the chance to show off their leadership skills during Halloween. They organized a campus fundraising event to help the women of Iris Kirby House in St. John's. The CEW group, along with their instructor Bonnie Morgan, put together a Halloween candy stand and successfully raised over \$140 for this worthy cause.



Instructor honoured as Mentor of the Year

Paul Chafe of Grand Falls-Windsor recently received the distinction of Youth Ventures Mentor of the Year.

The provincial award sees Youth Ventures give a plaque and monetary award to the winner. This is the third year that Youth Ventures has recognized the efforts of a mentor, but was the tenth year that the outstanding work of entrepreneurs was recognized.

Chafe, an instructor of College of the North Atlantic's Business Management program, has been involved with Youth Ventures for the past three years. As an instructor with the Small Business Development Centre at CNA, Chafe says he is in a position to help youth in all business aspects.

"This annual award from Youth Ventures recognizes the work a mentor does with a youth in the creation and development of their business or social enterprise," explains Chafe.

He says he originally got involved with the organization to pass on his knowledge to those who could benefit from it.

"I knew Youth Ventures existed and just found a way to let them know I was interested in helping. I believe I have a responsibility to pass on whatever knowledge and skills I have, and this is one avenue to do that."

But he says he gains much from the youth as well.

"Working with youth also keeps me invigorated – I feed off their energy."

Chafe was nominated by Sarah Kelly, the Youth Ventures coordinator for Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) Central in Grand Falls-Windsor, who also attends CNA's Grand Falls-Windsor campus as a business student.

Chafe also received the nomination from the youth he mentored – Scott Oldford – who started Essential Coding Inc., a web development company. Oldford took home both the Technology Award and Venture of the Year Award during the same awards ceremony, which was held in St. John's.

"He's there whenever I need him," says Oldford of Chafe's involvement as mentor. "And he helps with so much that I never knew... and likely would still not know."

Meanwhile, Kelly adds that she nominated Chafe for Mentor of the Year, not only because of his involvement with Oldford but because he acted as mentor to her and other participants to better their experience with Youth Ventures.

"Paul was chosen as Mentor of the Year because of how much assistance he provided to not only the entrepreneur, but also the coordinator, Sara, for CBDC Central," adds Roseanne Leonard, managing director, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of CBDC.

"He helped both learn about the ins and outs of doing business abroad and provided



support to them whenever they needed it."

But Chafe is very humble about the win.

"It feels good to have external acknowledgement that your efforts are successful and appreciated," says Chafe. "But it's not why I do it. I like helping them succeed and I will most definitely continue to be involved with Youth Ventures in the future. I look forward to working with Scott to develop his business even further."

Dennis GM/GM Canada donates more vehicles

Dennis GM and GM Canada have donated two more vehicles to College of the North Atlantic's Automotive Service Technician program at its Bay St. George campus. The vehicles, a 2007 GMC Envoy and a 2007 GMC Cargo Van, are valued at approximately \$80,000. This now brings the total for donations from Dennis GM/GM Canada to the college to an impressive \$880,000! The provision of such vehicles enhances the training provided to students and allows them to learn on current, working, hi-tech vehicles, preparing them for employment in this growing field. The college thanks Dennis GM and GM Canada for their continued support. Taking part in the presentation are, from left, Richard Dennis, president of Dennis



GM; Brian Foley, campus administrator for the college's Bay St. George campus; Rod Gillam, general manager for Dennis GM in Corner

Brook; and Sean Hickey, manager of Dennis GM in Stephenville.



Celebrating Craft Year 2007

In celebration of Craft Year 2007, the Visual Arts program at Bay St. George campus held an exhibition of crafts from the college's permanent collection. Held for three weeks at the Stephenville Arts and Culture Centre, the exhibit showcased the work from past students of the Visual Arts program. Here, viewing the exhibit during the opening ceremonies were Rebecca Pike and Kayla Stride, first year students of the Visual Arts program.

VOCM Cares Scholarship

Danielle Higdon, Baie Verte native and first-year Journalism student at CNA's Bay St. George campus, is one of two people recognized with the first ever VOCM Cares Foundation Memorial Broadcast Scholarship. Also awarded was Jeff Lewis of St. John's, a student of the Atlantic Media Institute in Nova Scotia. The scholarships are in memory of four outstanding broadcasters who left their mark at Newcap Radio – George MacLaren, Paul Magee, Ken Ash and Scott Chafe.

Recent appointments

Chris Turpin has been appointed to the position of Manager of International Business/International Student Recruitment.

To this role, Turpin brings a broad base of experience and expertise.

Most recently, he held the position of Business Development Coordinator with Corporate Training and Continuing Education.

Since joining the college team in 1991, Chris held various positions including: Instructional Coordinator (Business) in Carbonear and Burin, Campus Administrator at both Carbonear and Burin campuses and Director of Corporate Training at CNA-Q.

In addition, he has been very active in various roles in support of social economic development such as Director of the Education Committee with Trinity/Conception Zone and Chairperson of the Trinity Conception Community Employment Corporation.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Education degree from Memorial University as well as certificates in other areas including Vocational Education.

Paul Chafe has been appointed to the role of Campus Administrator for Grand Falls-Windsor campus. Paul graduated from Memorial University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance and Accounting) and, in 1993, earned a Bachelor of Vocational Education from Memorial University. He has undertaken studies in the Masters of Business Administration program at Queen's University.

Paul has been with College of the North Atlantic (and its predecessor institutions) since December 1981 as a Business Management instructor; he has taught at both Grand Falls-Windsor and Prince Philip Drive campuses. Paul has served as instructional coordinator and has sat on numerous college committees.

More recently, Paul has been leading small business development initiatives through the campus at Grand Falls-Windsor and recently received the Mentor of the Year Award from Youth Ventures.

Joanne O'leary has become the new Business Development Coordinator responsible for the eastern Newfoundland region as well as the Labrador Region.

With 21 years of experience with CNA spanning various departments, Joanne has spent many years working with Contract Training & Continuing Education (CT&CE).

In recent years, she has coordinated continuing education programs for the St. John's

campuses and since 2004, has held the provincial role of Product Resource Coordinator for CT&CE.

A graduate of Memorial University's Post-secondary Education degree program, Joanne recently completed the Leadership program with Franklin Covey Canada as well as the Certified Facilitator program with Achieveglobal.

She is a member of a number of college committees including Academic Council, College Teaching and Learning, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Advisory Committee, and the Contract Training, Continuing Education and International Advisory Team.

Brian Hicks has accepted a new position as Business Development Officer (BDO) for Prince Philip Drive campus.

Brian holds a BA and a post-secondary education certificate from Memorial University as well as an Information Technology graduate diploma from PIAT and training in aquaculture from the Marine Institute.

He has been working within the fishery and seafood processing industry sector for many years, including work with Seaforest Plantations and the Marine Institute cod farm in Bay Bulls and Heart's Content. In addition, Brian has taught courses in the Sentinel Fishery program for Marine Institute as well as courses in cod farming and aquaculture in the Harbour Breton region.

More recently, Brian has worked with the National Seafood Sector Council as regional coordinator and with CNA as the provincial essential skills development officer.

Florence Power has accepted a new position as Business Development Officer for Placentia campus.

Florence is a graduate of the Business Administration programs at Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Placentia campuses. More recently she has completed a post-secondary education degree; a vocational education diploma and a Masters degree in post-secondary education from Memorial University.

She has considerable experience working in business as well as teaching business courses at the Placentia campus. In recent years, Florence assumed the role of coordinating instructor for the Orientation to Trades & Technology and Career Exploration for Women programs offered at Placentia campus.

St. Anthony avails of therapeutic crisis intervention session

As a result of an incident of a somewhat potentially violent nature last year, St. Anthony campus recognized a need for training to help them deal with similar situations in the future. They were aware that Labrador Grenfell Health had training of this nature for its own staff and so approached them to request a session.

The two-day in-session, which took place in early November, was slightly modified to fit the college environment (as opposed to the hospital's clinical environment), and consisted of two parts. On day one they learned about the theoretical aspects of aggression, and the varying degrees from frustration to anger to hostility, and how to recognize and properly respond to each level. On day two, they learned techniques that could be used to deal with the physical aspects of aggressive persons – how to protect yourself in the event of an attack, how to physically restrain a person, etc.

See below for a brief description of the workshop:

Rationale

- To provide increased knowledge and skills to help staff prevent and manage aggressive behaviour of clients.

Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants shall be able to:

- Contribute to a safe working environment
- Provide safe, quality care
- Recognize anger as a normal emotional response
- Recognize how fear and loss may lead to aggression
- Understand that issues of control are behind anger and aggression
- Describe three stages of escalating behaviour
- Describe appropriate interventions for each stage
- Recognize the importance of following organizational policies and procedures in caring for the abusive client
- Understand that in dealing with aggression, we use the least restrictive measures first



Rhonda Green, left, facilitator/team leader for Therapeutic Crisis Intervention workshop (and employee of Mental Health and Addictions South) is showing the group how to properly use therapeutic restraints on a patient/client. Gery Ryall, instructor at St. Anthony campus, volunteers to attempt escape from the restraints. When they were not properly used, Gery had no difficulty removing the restraints. When properly used, he could not remove them.

- Understand that the use of seclusion and restraint are safety interventions not treatment interventions, and are used only as a last resort

Cecil Roberts, Business instructor and participant, says everyone responded very positively to the training.

"All participants felt that the workshop was timely and useful. It has helped raise our confidence in dealing with such incidences, and has enhanced our ability to respond effectively to potentially aggressive or violent situations if and when they arise in the future."



From left, Ruby Peyton, clerk typist III, is practicing a choke/strangle hold on Jenny Chaytor, resource facilitator. Jenny is maneuvering out of the hold.



Millennium Award

Christopher Cheeseman, a third-year Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Technician student at CNA's Gander campus, recently won the Millennium Excellence Award valued at \$4,000. Making the presentation to Cheeseman is Kent Aitken (left), student development officer at Gander campus.



From left, Fintan Sheppard, Nicole Pink, and Krystle Sloane.

Cooking Competition

The cooking program at Bay St. George campus recently held a competition for civilian and military students. In addition to spectacular food, the attitude and comradery between both groups of students was described as outstanding. All students performed well, which made for a very tight decision for the judges. The competition was fierce and it took almost an hour and a half for the judges to come to a decision on the winning competitors. Taking first for military entry level cooking was Krystal Sloan while Andrew Bishop took first for civilian entry level cooking. Both Sloan and Bishop will be representing the college at the upcoming provincial competition in St. John's.

College forges several partnerships in Fall semester

Military training

A partnership was formed with the Department of National Defence this summer, reflected by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed this fall between CNA's Bay St. George campus and the Canadian Defence Academy (CDA) to deliver trades training to the Canadian Armed Forces. Some 60 military personnel are now training in existing programs such as culinary arts in Stephenville, automotive mechanics in Stephenville Crossing and fire fighting at the Marine Institute's Safety and Emergency Response Training facility in Stephenville (a concurrent partnership with CNA). Some 15 new jobs were created in the college to accommodate the training needs of the MOU.

Again this fall, CNA and CDA signed an MOU to include training for the Canadian Forces Continuing Education Program (CFCEP). The program's objective is to provide further educational opportunities to Canadian Forces members and their families and to Department of National Defence civilian employees and their families.

Transfer agreements

CNA formally extended an existing MOU with Indiana University Purdue University at

Indianapolis (IUPUI) in November.

The college had successfully negotiated a credit transfer agreement with IUPUI last year, after a thorough review of the Architectural Engineering Technology (AET) program. The agreement allows graduates of the three-year AET program to transfer their academic credits into a two-year program at the Department of Construction Technology (CNT) at IUPUI. Upon successful completion of that two-year program, students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Engineering Management Technology and a Master of Science degree in Technology.

The expansion of the agreement will also allow graduates of the three-year Civil Engineering Technology (CET) program at CNA to transfer their academic credits into the Construction Engineering Management Technology (CEMT) program IUPUI for the same degree designations.

IUPUI is one of the most prestigious universities in the United States, particularly within engineering disciplines.

Cultural facility

In November, CNA also announced the intention to build Atlantic Canada's first centre for cultural tourism training and professional



CNA President Jean Madill addresses the panel of guest speakers as she welcomes them, military students and other invited guests to the Memorandum of Understanding signing between the college and the Department of National Defence.

development, made possible by a combined investment of \$1,107,800 from federal and provincial governments. The centre is called the Bonavista Institute for Cultural Tourism and will be located at Bonavista campus.

With this funding, CNA will develop and deliver an executive-level training program for members of the cultural tourism industry throughout Atlantic Canada. Funds will also be used for various marketing activities and to renovate the existing culinary demonstration facility and purchase new kitchen equipment.

Touching the future through the hearts of children

Chantel is a social worker employed with Child, Youth and Family Services. Teresa is a Social Sciences Assistant with the federal government; she and her husband have just welcomed their first child. Jeff is an employee of the Department of Justice.

Wondering what all these people have in common? They all live in our province and they all spent time in foster care as children. It was through no fault of their own, and for reasons beyond their control, that they were unable to live with their biological parents. For some, the stay in foster care was short; while for others it was long-term.

On any given day there are approximately 700 children in care in Newfoundland and Labrador. These children are cared for by foster families and no matter how long they are in care, the support and nurturing they receive will always be a part of their lives. This is one of the great rewards for foster parents – know-

ing that they have touched the life of a child and helped them along their path to adulthood.

"Every child needs a strong positive role model who believes in their potential. During one of the most difficult times of my life, my foster home provided me the tools that helped lead to many of the successes I have experienced in my life," says Teresa.

Chantel echoes a similar sentiment when she comments, "Foster care provided the stability I needed to reach my potential."

Foster families not only care for children, they also work as part of a team with parents, social workers and others in an effort to achieve the goal of family reunification. Most children who enter foster care return home and many continue to maintain contact with their foster families. Jeff says his life may have been different if he had not entered foster care.

"If it wasn't for the influence of foster care in my life and the positive support I received, I would probably be in jail right now, rather than working within the justice system. Foster care changed the circumstances of my life and started me down a different road," he says.

For those who may be interested in becoming a foster parent, there is no better time than now. The need is great! For further information, contact your local Child, Youth and Family Services office or the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association at: 754-0213 or toll free at: 877-754-0213. You may also visit their web site at www.nlffa.com.

This article was written by Diane Molloy, executive director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Family Association, for Foster Family Week in October 2007

Remembering a colleague

Once again Grand Falls-Windsor campus was struck with the loss of a friend and colleague. Gerry Tobin, chemistry instructor in the Comprehensive Arts and Science College University Transfer program, passed away on October 1, 2007.

Gerry was an intelligent, passionate and complicated individual. His brilliance was only surpassed by his desire for social justice. It was perhaps this passion to right the wrong and seek equality for everyone that wore Gerry down. Often he would come to consult with me on various issues. I remember one such time when he couldn't understand why people didn't care as much as he did. I told him maybe they care enough and you care too much. That comment never made much sense to him but I explained to him that if he didn't stop caring too much it would destroy him. His response was, "Well sister, I guess that's the way it is going to have to be because I'm not going to stop."

Fortunately for many people, Gerry continued to care and took his passion for helping others into his political life. Everyone who knew Gerry knew that no one would have made a better opposition member. Gerry would not let go or give up if he believed in what he was fighting for. But for those who didn't know Gerry, there was a compassionate, kind, and extremely funny side to him. Most of us called that side "Ger." He would make us laugh 'till we cried. We all loved that side of him. Ger took care of my dog when I had to go home to my father's funeral. Ger had a surprise birthday party for me and didn't get mad when I fell asleep at it. Ger loved to play music, cook, and it was Ger who rescued a dog from the SPCA. But then he did something that really surprised us, he bought a more suitable vehicle for his dog. Yes, he gave up his sports car for his new dog, and everyone knew how much Gerry took pride in his car. Gerry was indeed a

complicated and exuberant individual.

Tom Pinsent spent a lot of time with Gerry just prior to his passing. Tom wrote: I knew Gerry as a fellow instructor, union representative, band mate, and political candidate, but most of all, as a friend. As good friends and band mates often do, we had our fair share of disagreement but through it all we remained close. While Sheila has covered Gerry's professional life and his sense of compassion for people and living things, I will concentrate on Gerry as the musician and friend.

Gerry was a fan of the Rolling Stones. His playing was unique to say the least and often resembled his idol Keith Richards. After finishing a gig, the band and friends would head back to Gerry's house for the after-hours festivities of music, fun and the making of special memories. A few songs were written during these hours that may see the light of day on a recording some day.

As his close friends will tell you, Gerry was an excellent cook, which often baffled us because he ate McDonald's on a daily basis. As many of you know, after a meal of McDonald's you don't feel full, just different! One particular weekend my wife decided that she could not handle the lack of shopping in Grand Falls-Windsor any longer and decided to head to St. John's, leaving me to fend for myself. Picture this if you will: I am sleeping in on a Saturday morning when around 9:30 Gerry comes pounding at the door full of fun things to do for the day. After a comment of: "Are you crazy?" which he paid no attention to, it was, "Get dressed brother and let's get on the go."

That day I shared a day in the life of Gerry and it included walking the dog, grocery shopping, visiting M&M Meat Shop, the music store, and a dozen other things that I can't even recall. That evening he prepared a meal to challenge any fine restaurant in the province and topped it off with a night in the pub until



the wee hours of the morning, followed by a band-style after-hours party! Throughout it all, the conversation was about politics and numerous issues of the day. His energy and enthusiasm for life was unbelievable.

As most people now know, he was running in the provincial election as the liberal candidate for Grand Falls-Windsor/Buchans. His knowledge of the issues and boundless energy were winning him votes and support throughout the district. Few people are aware that Gerry was instrumental in the writing of the Liberal Red Book, which contained policies for the Liberal Party. Considering that he was new to the party and they had that much respect for him early on was indicative of things to come!

The biggest testament for Gerry is that his list of friends included politicians, lawyers, doctors, musicians and common Joes. But to Gerry, they were all equal in his eyes. He is dearly missed.

Submitted by Sheila Trask, Instructional Coordinator and Tom Pinsent, Business Instructor at Grand Falls-Windsor campus.

Gander Scholarships

Please join us in congratulating the following scholarship winners at Gander campus:

Katriona Cole (Hairstyling) is the recipient of the \$1,500 **Family Fry Leadership Entrance Scholarship** for students who have been making a difference in their communities and who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership.

Matthew Doyle (second-year Aircraft

Maintenance Engineering) is the recipient of the \$1,000 **CIBC Community Leadership Scholarship** for students who have made a difference in their communities and/or schools and who also demonstrate academic excellence.

Shayla Parsons (Hairstyling) received the \$500 **Scotiabank Scholarship** which is awarded to students who display high levels of academic achievement and financial need.

Lesley Stokes (Hairstyling) received the \$1,000 **Harrison McCain Foundation Entrance Scholarship** awarded to students who achieve a minimum of 75 per cent average and demonstrate financial need.

James Chatman (First-year Engineering Technology) is the recipient of the \$1,000 **North Atlantic Entrance Scholarship** for academic merit in high school and financial need.



COLLEGE



"The numbers were off the scale this year and it was the most successful College Day for us yet!"

College of the North Atlantic held its 4th Annual College Day on November 1. This year, over 3,000 high school students, some 200 visitors from the general public and various interest groups attended the event, which ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The agenda varied from campus to campus,

but most included guided tours, highlighting programs, facilities and services. Some even included hands-on activities for those who signed up early in the day. Other attractions included information booths and displays, refreshments and lunches, prize giveaways and laboratory demonstrations.

Bay St. George campus held their College Day at Appalachia High School in conjunction with a career fair being held by the high school.

"The day consisted of booths and displays of CNA programs in the high school gym," says Chris Cooper, guidance counsellor at Bay St. George campus. "Every program had an instructor offer at least one 45-minute concurrent session in their program area. The parking lot was filled with equipment from the Heavy Equipment, Primary Paramedicine and



DAY 2007



Transport Trailer Technician programs.”

Cooper says this is the third year the college has partnered with Appalachia, and he sees the partnership continuing.

“This event keeps getting better every year,” says Cooper. “The numbers were off the scale this year and it was the most successful College Day for us yet!”

The event’s success, says Shirley Woodward, manager of Student Recruitment and Enrollment Services, was largely due to the tremendous energy and organization of cam-

pus staff, faculty and students. An infusion of funding from the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment also contributed greatly.

“The department funded \$10,000 toward busing students to campuses for College Day,” she says. “Approximately 3,100 students from 61 schools attended our campuses throughout the province. Without this funding, many schools would not have been able to attend; especially those that have the farthest distance to travel,” says Woodward.

The first College Day in 2004 saw some 2,000 students from 39 high schools in attendance.

“I believe the numbers have grown significantly due to the wide promotion and success of this provincial event over the past couple of years and the fact that high schools view College Day as a beneficial event for students who want to explore post-secondary options.”

CNA will next hold its 2nd Annual Partner Recognition Day on Thursday, March 6, 2008.



New employee recruitment program for Qatar campus

College of the North Atlantic's Qatar campus has been an enormous success and as a result, has an ever increasing demand for employees. That's why CNA is proud to announce the launch of a new employee recruitment program that could see employees of CNA earn a cash award of \$1,000 CDN.

Also, if a post-secondary institution or industry related business refers an employee through the Employee Referral Program who is hired to a designated long-term position at College of the North Atlantic-Qatar (CNA-Q), \$1,000 CDN will be awarded. On top of the cash bonus, CNA will pay the college or business a cash award equal to 10 per cent of the employee's prorated base salary each July 30.

"We are currently in year six of a 10-year comprehensive agreement with the State of Qatar," says Kevin Baker, vice-president of the Qatar Project. "Ever since the initial launch of our Qatar campus, we have enjoyed many successes that have led to the expansion of program areas and partnerships. By taking a proactive approach to recruitment, we are ensuring we fulfill those obligations and continue to move forward with our partners and provide quality training to our student body."

Three dollar symbols (\$\$\$) in a job posting will clearly identify those positions that are eligible for the program. All eligible positions are a minimum of two years in duration and

will be designated throughout the year. Job postings will be listed on the CNA website: www.cna.nl.ca and referral program forms are available at www.cna.nl.ca/qatar.

"By having employers involved in the program, we are providing them with an opportunity to benefit," says Baker. "We have many worthwhile experiences for potential employees, and as this project continues to grow, we want diverse and experienced employees contributing to our success and the success of our students."

The campus can accommodate up to 3,000 students and 500 employees. CNA-Q operates from a state-of-the-art campus with 22 newly constructed buildings, housing cutting-edge equipment and facilities including fully-equipped labs and shops, smart classrooms, fully-engaged theatres and an auditorium. It has full recreation facilities including swimming pools, tennis courts and a soccer pitch. In 2005, CNA-Q honoured its first graduates and now has over 400 proud alumni.

CNA-Q offers a comprehensive suite of technician, technologist and post-diploma programs within the Business Studies, Health Sciences, Engineering Technology, Industrial Trades, Information Communications Technology, and Pre-Nursing programs, and will soon expand into other program areas.

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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