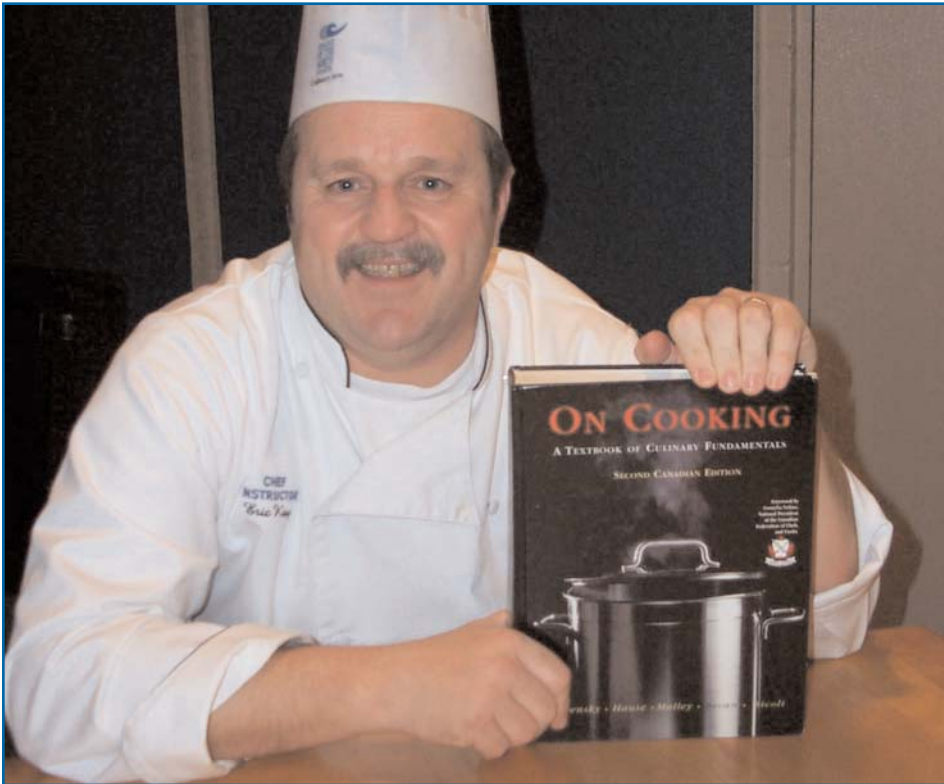


NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

CURRENTS



Instructor has recipe featured in cooking textbook

A recipe for Cream of Mushroom Soup that will appear in the latest edition of *On Cooking* - the standard textbook used in Culinary Arts classrooms all across Canada - will have a special significance for students in commercial cooking at Bay St. George Campus.

That's because the recipe was created by their instructor Chef Eric King.

King was recently contacted by Fred Malley from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology to submit several recipes for consideration to be published in the new text. Malley serves on the advisory board for the book's publisher Prentice Hall and had worked

with King on many occasions in the past.

In addition to his recipe, King's photo and a short biography will be printed.

"I've had recipes published in all sorts of magazines and cook books, but I feel really excited about this one," says King.

"Being a cooking instructor and then being published in the book that we use in our advanced level cooking classes is something special. We jokingly say this is like the Bible of cooking textbooks. It's a great honour."

The new text is being published this winter and is expected to be in use in classrooms starting September.

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Chef Eric King

Born in Buchans, Newfoundland, Eric started cooking at the age of 18 with the Canadian Air Force in Gander. After the completion of his cooking certification, he started his own bakery/restaurant and catering company which he operated until he accepted a teaching position with College of the North Atlantic. He has won several medals in culinary competitions around the world and during a recent competition in Toluca, Mexico he was made an Honorary member of the European Chefs Association.

See you in the New Year!



For my editorial this issue I wanted to keep it simple and just touch on a couple items.

First, some of you have expressed your pleasure with our recently changed editorial direction and some other subtle changes. We're so glad to hear you are pleased! We will continue to strive for an internal newsletter that meets all your needs. To that end, we will be creating a survey for you in the New Year. We want to hear about some specific concerns, needs and wants for Currents. Keep an eye open in January as we send you a reminder to log on to your survey to provide us with your feedback.

Second, we in the Marketing and

Communications department would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Happy Holidays to all!!!

Janyz Alexander

**"God bless us,
everyone!"**

-Tiny Tim - *A Christmas Carol* by
Charles Dickens

"If I had all my time back I probably would have went directly to college and saved myself lots of time, money (and torture)."

Letter to the Editor

College a sound alternative

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your article entitled *Putting your money where your future is* in the last issue of Currents. Not only is it an excellent recruitment tool, but it also hits home for me as well, having had a similar experience as you.

When I graduated from high school it was taken for granted that I'd go to University since both my parents were teachers, I had good marks, and so on. So I went to Acadia, dropped out after two years because I couldn't decide what I wanted to do there, and went to Toronto to work. I quickly realized that I was going nowhere fast up there so after about nine months I returned home to continue with my education. I found myself doing a BSc. Majoring in Psychology and Minorng in Biology.

After that was completed I went looking for a job. However, there were none. At least well-paying ones. So I figured I had a choice: start something completely different like college, or continue on with university. I chose the latter and ended up completing a Masters of Post-Secondary Education at MUN. Now, if I had all my time back I probably would have went directly to college and saved myself lots of time, money (and torture).

That's my story. I just wanted to share it with you and thank you for sharing yours with the entire college system. It is stories like yours that should really be publicized. In fact, I have been printing it off and distributing to students, guidance counsellors and teachers in the schools that I visit for recruitment purposes. Hopefully the other SDO's will be doing the same and we can spread the word that College of the North Atlantic is a great place to go to school as well as to work!

Kent Aitken
Student Development Officer
Gander Campus

2004 Awards of Excellence winners announced

College of the North Atlantic has announced its Awards of Excellence winners for 2004.

In the category of Leadership, the winner was Linda White, Dean of Applied Arts and Business. The Staff winner was Kelly Matheson, librarian at Carbonear Campus. Megan Tucker, a Business Studies student at Prince Philip Drive Campus, is the winner of the Student Leadership award. Elvis Pittman, an instructor at Ridge Road Campus, has been named the Teaching award winner. And lastly, the Program winner was Community Recreation Leadership, offered at Prince Philip Drive Campus.

"We are extremely proud of the winners of our Awards of Excellence competition, and indeed all of the nominees who were selected

by their peers for consideration," says Bob Rideout, Director of Administration.

"All are prime examples of the excellent students, staff, managers, faculty and programs that we have here at College of the North Atlantic."

The five winners will be nominated as the college's entrants into the 2004 Association of Canadian Community College's (ACCC) Awards of Excellence competition. The winners of this competition will be announced at the next ACCC conference taking place in New Brunswick in June, 2005.

Other college nominees included, in the Leadership category, campus administrators Bob Simms at Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Gary Tulk at Ridge Road, and Marilyn Coles-Hayley at Bonavista Campus. In the Staff category,

Lenora Furey, librarian at Baie Verte Campus, Valarie Hart, Community Relations Officer at Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and Dave Walsh, who works in the Physical Operations department at Prince Philip Drive, were all nominated. The other Student nominee was Ibena Russell, who is taking Office Administration at Bonavista. Teaching nominees included Clancy Rideout at Burin Campus, Bessie Merrigan at Corner Brook Campus, and John Sheppard at Gander. The other program nominees were the Heritage and Cultural Tourism Training program at Bonavista, the College-University Transfer Year (via Video Delivery) from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and the Welding Engineering Technician program at Burin.

CareerSearch report shows grads excelling

It's that time again - the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has released its report on post-secondary education in the province - *CareerSearch 2004: Employment Experience and Earnings of 2002 Graduates*.

The latest report shows that 70% of all CNA graduates find full-time employment and over 83% of them are remaining in the province. The report also shows an extremely high rate of student satisfaction in terms of their investment of time for class and study and the cost of their program.

Other indicators that show the programing at College of the North Atlantic is relevant and recognized by industry is the length of job search for students. More than 80% of

graduates from CNA found employment within three months of graduating from their programs, and the majority are working in jobs directly related to their training.

The study also shows College of the North Atlantic graduates are earning high wages and are leaving the college with low debt levels, with less than 40% of CNA graduates availing of the student loan system.

The CareerSearch study can be viewed in full on the government of Newfoundland and Labrador's website: www.gov.nf.ca.

"An important point to note is that our graduates have posted consistently high results for the past four studies."

- Brian Tobin, Director of Academic and Student Services



New Web Master for CNA

Chris Yeo, an Orono, Ontario native, is College of the North Atlantic's new Web Master.

Working from Headquarters' Marketing and Communications Department, Chris will be revamping the college's web site and implementing a new design.

Chris' background is extensive, with an Associate Degree from Lassen Junior College in Susanville, California, a Bachelor of Arts in Print Journalism from Western Kentucky, and a Post Diploma in Applied Information

Technology from the Information Technology Institute in Toronto, Ontario.

Something interesting about Chris - he attended Lassen and Western on baseball scholarships. He moved to Stephenville - his wife Carolyn's hometown - in winter of 2002 and worked for the Corner Brook Minor Baseball Association for two years as Technical Director before joining the CNA team. He and Carolyn have a two-year-old son Nolan.

Welcome, Chris!

Project ICE reaches major milestones

It may be hot in Qatar, but our campus there is on ICE. All components of the new enterprise resource planning system (Project ICE) went live in our Middle East location in October, and the implementation is well underway here at home.

With the exception of the payroll function, the finance system came on-stream in late October, and the human resources component went live earlier this month. The final piece of the finance system, payroll, will go live on December 29. That just leaves the student services system, which is scheduled for go-live by the end of January, 2005.

"I won't say there haven't been challenges associated with this implementation," says Wayne Hann, project leader. "But overall, this has been a relatively smooth process with excellent results."

A number of minor issues have been identified with the new PeopleSoft system, and the project team will be addressing them in the



new year as they are currently focusing on the go-live of the student services system.

"Most issues that have come up are minor in nature - things like not receiving a notification email when there are requisitions waiting for approval, or difficulty seeing the line on requisitions that identifies the account code, but we hope to have that corrected early in the new year when we have everything up and running," says Hann.

Another piece of interesting news was released on Tuesday, December 13, when another ERP solution provider - Oracle - announced it has purchased PeopleSoft for \$10.3 billion. There were early concerns that this merger could take place and that Oracle would eliminate future releases and support for the PeopleSoft product. However, in a press release issued by Oracle, they say they will not only continue to support the product, they will enhance it.

"This merger works because we will have more customers, which increases our ability to invest more in applications development and support," said Oracle Chief Executive Officer Larry Ellison in the release. "We intend to enhance PeopleSoft 8 and develop a PeopleSoft 9 and enhance a JD Edwards 5 and develop a JD Edwards 6. We intend to immediately extend and improve support for existing JD Edwards and PeopleSoft customers worldwide."

Congratulations!

Gary Elliott, Program Development Coordinator at Headquarters, has been named a lifetime member of the Stephenville Kinsmen Club. During his years with the organization, Elliott served a three-year stint, from 1994 to 1997, as president of the local club and has served in all other capacities throughout the years. He has also chaired many projects during his decade and a half with the local club. For more information see our website: www.cna.nl.ca/news.

Terry Hutchings, an instructor at Corner Brook Campus, has been appointed the President of the Certified General Accountants Association (CGA) of Newfoundland and Labrador. The CGA Newfoundland and Labrador has had a long history with the college system in the province with a number of instructors and staff holding the professional designation of CGA.

Bill Kosar, International Business instructor at Burin Campus, has written a study guide for use with the law text entitled Essentials of Canadian Business Law, published by McGraw Hill. He has also been selected by the United

Nation's Development Program to assist in the drafting of a new enterprise law for the Government of Vietnam. For more, see our website: www.cna.nl.ca/news.

Wade Pinhorn, Coordinating Instructor of the Music Industry and Performance program at Bay St. George Campus, has been asked to sit on a national advisory group - through the Cultural Human Resources Council (CHRC) - for the development of a Teacher's Manual for the course "The Art of Managing Your Own Career". The fully developed course deals with career development in the Cultural Industries. Educators from educational institutions across Canada have been appointed to sit on the committee.

Gary Thompson, instructor at Burin Campus has just completed the ISO 9000:2000 and ISO/IEC 17025 Series Auditor/Lead Auditor Training run by Ashrooke QA Ltd. and CAEAL. He has been given the designation of assessor for the Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL), a non-profit organization with the mission to help laboratories achieve and demonstrate the highest

levels of scientific and management excellence through the combined principles of Competency, Consistency, Credibility and Communication. As an assessor for CAEAL he has committed to conduct at least six CAEAL assessments on a volunteer basis over the next three years.



The College has achieved a Gold Level Standard with the federal department of Natural Resources in the area of energy efficiency and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through a voluntary registry. The website: www.vcr-mvr.ca, gives information on how we scored in each area. Congratulations and thanks to **Mike Campbell**, Facilities Manager, and **Ed Hanames**, Manager of Physical Operations, for helping CNA surpass the Voluntary Challenge and Registry's rigorous standards.

Bridging the gap to economic prosperity

It is anticipated that more than 60 unemployed people in this province will go to work after the completion of a 40-week Skills Development/Employment Readiness program being facilitated by College of the North Atlantic (CNA) as part of a Bridging the Gap initiative.

Bridging the Gap: From Education to Employment is an innovative program first designed to address employment and skills development needs of people affected by the closure of the Northern Cod fishery in the early 1990s. Developed by the Random North Development Corporation in Economic Zone 15, the concept has proven to be so successful that it has now become a province-wide initiative, with plans to take the concept national, and perhaps even international.

The program works by identifying up to six small businesses in the province with potential for expansion (the companies apply to be part of the program), and then working with these companies to design a 40-week skills development programs that will provide participants with specific skills needed to work for each business. The training programs may also include the delivery of academic upgrading for the participants as needed.

After successful completion of each program, the participants are hired by the companies and, if past Bridging the Gap programs

are any indication of success, they usually remain with the company after the project has ended.

"We have external evaluations performed on the projects and these show that there are huge benefits, not only for the individual participants and the participating companies, but also for the communities in which they reside," says Michelle Brown, Team Leader for Bridging the Gap with the Random North Development Association.

Part of the Bridging the Gap initiative involves the formation of community teams made up of various local stakeholders to serve as advisors throughout the skills development program. According to Brown, this adds to community capacity by serving as a forum to bring together business people and other community representatives, all with different interests, to work toward one common goal.

Previous and current Bridging the Gap programs have been funded through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and Human Resources Labour & Employment (HRL&E), but the positive economic impacts resulting from this program has caught the attention of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) as well.

Brown says the growth of the Bridging the Gap initiative across the province has meant the program is now too large for the Random

North Development Association to lead by itself, so they have approached College of the North Atlantic to act as a delivery partner.

"The program is now too big for Random North alone," says Brown. "We are in discussions with the college now to develop a new governance structure and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would make the college a full partner. We think it's a logical fit as the college has been developing and facilitating the skills development component of Bridging the Gap for us since the initiative began nearly eight years ago."

Blake Cryderman, the college's Chair of Community, Corporate and International Services, agrees.

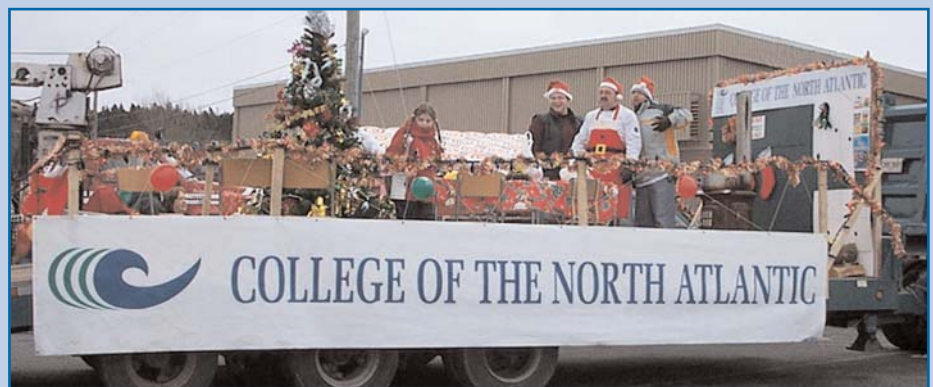
"I believe this workplace training initiative has tremendous benefits for undereducated and underemployed residents of the province and for progressive companies who are planning to expand their workforce and productivity," he says.

"This program has been strongly supported by ACOA, HRSDC and HRL&E. It is the intention of the college to sign an MOU with our partner, the Random North Development Association, to move this training program throughout the province and possibly to national and international environments."

College float wins first place in CBS

Folks at Seal Cove Campus were in the Christmas spirit early this year, as evidenced by their first place showing at the Conception Bay South Annual Christmas Parade.

The Student Council Executive decorated the float on the Friday before the event, and most of them were on the float in the parade on Saturday along with Campus Administrator Robin Walters. The float was complete with a working wood stove - used to keep a pot of moose stew (prepared by cooking student Bruce Day) warm - working lights, a tree, and presents. Bowls of stew were handed out to folks along the parade route.



Happy holidays from the desert!



By Jennifer Sheppard, Manager of Marketing and Public Relations (CNA-Q)

This year Christmas is going to be very different for many of us who are employees of CNA-Q. Some people are heading home, some are heading out on an exotic adventure to some foreign land, some are staying at "home" here in Doha and some are even having family and friends from Canada visit for the holidays.

Even though we are far from home, we certainly can see and feel the holiday spirit throughout Al Jazeera Land. There are lights and decorations on almost every villa. Christmas trees and music set the stage nicely for celebrations. It is a little different to string lights outside next to blooming flowers while wearing shorts, but that is something we can easily get used to.

Christmas gatherings and dinners with all the trimmings including salt meat, peas pudding and dark fruit cake have already begun. Like

home, our social calendars fill up quickly as we near the holiday break. His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah, our Joint Oversight Board Chairman, is even hosting a Christmas dinner for all CNA-Q employees and their families with a visit from Santa and all! As well, the CNA-Q social committee and parents will be hosting a gift giving Christmas party for the children. The party will be a little different from home as it will be around the pool and the sun will be shining. The party will be big this year with 85 children ranging in age from three months to 18 years.

Throughout the city you can see Christmas decorations in all the major hotels, the shopping malls and even in the grocery stores. There are many Christmas events planned throughout the city: a concert, a desert caroling excursion, many different spiritual functions and much more. There is something festive for everyone.

There is no doubt that we all miss our families, friends and traditions from home at this time of year. The statement, "I know people celebrating all around the world", now applies to all of us. Certainly everyone is wished a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, wherever you are, from CNA-Q.

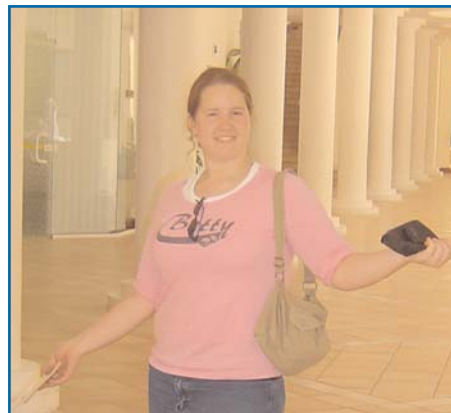
Happy Holidays!

A Newfoundland teenager's life in Qatar

By Jody Beth Lee - daughter of Dave Lee, Procurement Officer at Qatar

I never travelled much in my life. Quite content with safe and secure Newfoundland, I felt much desire to explore, but not enough to leave. Most people are shocked when they discover where I have been living for the past two years and often their initial response is - why? Why is a simple question to answer on the surface.

My father was offered a job in Doha, Qatar, in the Middle East two years ago when I was 15 years old. Now trying to explain why I agreed to go is much more difficult. For those of you who were once teenagers I'm sure you're aware that even the slightest change can upset your entire lifestyle during this time. Now imagine that you've moved to a place where every detail is turned completely upside down, where even your own beliefs are put into question. My answer to the question of why I moved to Doha is impossible to explain. And what I will attempt to explain to you of my new home will never justify the effect of the culture and people on me. My experiences cannot be served justice through a mere photograph or a simple story. I have learned that in order to fully see another world, you must experience it, and to appreciate your own world, you must understand that of others.



The total flying time of our trip was approximately 15 hours, not including airport lounging and luggage dodging. We arrived in an airport on a warm November evening, our passports in one hand and a bundle of forms, printed in Arabic, in the other. Surrounded by yelling police officers pointing us in different directions and speaking a language that sounded much like gibberish, we were beyond confusion. It was a very intimidating moment, and unlike the uncomplicated airport of St. John's where everyone was on the same page, this was for us a very uneasy situation. We were foreigners in a new country surrounded by people I had only understood through my television screen. It was at this moment that something that had confused me for so long now made perfect sense; they were as wary of

us as we were of them. The problem of disputes between cultures is the simple fact that we judge before we see, and now I could see.

The airports and taxis were an immediate sign of the language barrier we were about to face. Although English is widely spoken in Qatar, there is a small population of residents who do not understand the language. It is at this point when hand gestures and facial expressions take a great role in communication between you and your new conversationalist. After a year or so we soon mastered this aspect of our new home, using keywords to speak and understand our new friends.

"Shokran", a word used often that means "Thank you," is one that is universally appreciated, along with "Kaifa Haloka", meaning, "How are you?" Being used to having no trouble in having a simple conversation with my friends back home, a simple joke which was returned by a laugh was a great accomplishment. Even with my own friends from school, who come from all over the world, there are certain borders. Because our group consists of people of different countries: Norway, Holland, Australia and Saudi Arabia, there are some jokes we will never understand from each other. Instead we laugh at our individual differences and listen intently to try and understand, as well as appreciate, each other's world.

My new world was not the rugged terrain I

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

had pictured in my mind. For example the sand dunes, endless miles upon miles of sand mixed and swirled into something only found in Arabian dreams; add an enormous sun to the backdrop, its circular border clearly defined in the brilliant warm coloured sky - this is a sunset in the Middle East. Camels roam the landscape freely, and much like our moose warning signs, camel crossings line the roadways on the outskirts of town. The beauty of the city lies within its architecture - a juxtaposition of the new world and the old Arabic style, thus adding greatly to the character of this newly developed country.

But its natural beauty is not the only sight worth seeing. The souqs are also an entirely different world. These are the markets, where a monkey can be sold for 3,000 riyals and the boldest and most extravagant golden jewellery in the world hangs in the windows. Instead of the latest western fashions, you will see abiyas and thobes, the traditional clothing of the area. A scent unlike any other thrives throughout this area of town. Stands line the streets, where Schwarmas, somewhat like tortilla wraps, can be purchased along with juice or Arabic coffee. Whilst walking, each smell mixes with the next, creating an aroma only found in the souq area of Qatar. The incense and perfume stores which run up and down the alleys are filled with bottles of strong and sweet Arabic perfumes. Then there are my favourite stores, the ones that smell of a mustiness of old, selling Middle Eastern crafts such as secret boxes and carved statues of monkeys and men, and woven rugs and pillows and seats of geometrical reds, greens and blacks.

My favourite aspect of the area is its bright entrepreneurs. You ask the price of a certain item, and then you ask for its "best" price. The value of an item is never definite here, and it is welcomed to barter with the salesman as long as you please, as long as you don't walk away empty handed. It is only here that you can barter for a watch at a starting price of 100 riyals and work your way down to 20 riyals. My first ever experience at the souqs was quite adventurous. I was attempting to barter for a set of bracelets. The starting price - 30 riyals. But unwilling to pay that price, and in a hurry to catch up with my family further down the road, I said no thank you and attempted to leave. The man quickly stopped me, unwrapped the bracelets and smacked them off the ground as hard as he possibly

could, declaring proudly "look, strong, worth money!" I eventually bought the bracelets for 15 riyals, paying mostly for the good laugh I'd received.

The religion, I will never be able to explain, for fear of mixing my own beliefs and ideas into it. However, I can describe to you the devotion that I have seen from the people to their faith that follows them wherever they go. Our first morning in Qatar, the windows of our hotel were open, introducing my ears to their call to prayer. Like the Christian church plays music on Sunday morning, the prayer is echoed throughout the entire city, and is what I can only describe as an eerie peacefulness. A priest chants the beliefs of the Holy Qu'ran while the city falls into a silent spell. No matter what these people are doing, there is always time to stop and pray for the religion on which they base their lives. And unlike, for example, the Christian faith, this ritual is not practiced once a week, but rather five times a day, the first beginning at daybreak. In public places such as malls, schools and restaurants there are designated prayer rooms. The call to prayer does not stop at being amplified out of each mosque, but is also played on the radio, just in case you happen to be driving. The dedication that is served by these people to their religion is overwhelming and I cannot help but feel lost when I see so many who know exactly for what they are praying and living.

The friends I have met during my stay in Qatar will be the ones I meet up with in some 20 years in an exotic place somewhere in the world. I have only known them for a year, yet it feels as though it has been an eternity. I go to an international school, and so I am not only able to meet the locals, but also those from other parts of the globe; such as a girl from Holland, who brought me to her home in Amsterdam during spring break; then there are the Norwegians, and even a girl from Labrador, which hits a little closer to home. A Qatari girl named Fatma Al Khater is a person unlike any I've ever met. The differences in our lives would make anyone think it would do nothing more than drive us apart. The fact is that if you give people a chance, you can have the best conversations of your life; the ones you'll take with you for years to come. Those are the conversations I've had with not only Fatma, but with all of the other people I've met. Moving to a new world opens your eyes, but being introduced to wonderful people from many new worlds opens your curiosity and a need to see the entire world.

It is almost impossible to explain not only the differences, but also the knowledge and emotions that come with each new experience. I have had some great times and look forward to the year ahead and the new people I will meet. Each sunset is a new experience that I will never forget or take for granted.

CNA-Q signs letter with UCCB

College of the North Atlantic-Qatar (CNA-Q) recently signed a letter of acknowledgement signifying the final step in an articulation and transfer arrangement with the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB). The agreement gives students studying at CNA-Q the same degree completion options at UCCB as their CNA counterparts, thereby furthering the international educational opportunities for CNA-Q students.

The original articulation agreements were signed in two broad programming areas - Engineering Technology and Business - to provide CNA diploma graduates with options for degree completion.

In the case of Engineering Technology, the articulation agreement was signed in October 2003 between CNA and UCCB's School of Science and Technology. This agreement provides CNA graduates in eleven

(11) Diploma programs - including Architectural, Civil, Electronic, Electrical, Environmental, Geomatics, Industrial, Mechanical, Manufacturing, Petroleum, and Manufacturing Operations - with degree completion options for UCCB's Bachelor of Technology in Computer Systems Development, Emergency Management, Environmental Health, Environmental Studies, and Petroleum.

In the case of Business, the original articulation agreement was signed between CNA and UCCB's School of Business in July 2002. This agreement provides students graduating from CNA's Business and Information Technology Diploma programs with degree completion options in UCCB's Bachelor of Business Administration and the Bachelor of Technology-Information.

Visiting Artist series benefiting students

The Visual Arts (VA) program at College of the North Atlantic's Bay St. George Campus began the new academic year by hosting internationally renowned sculptor Luben Boykov.

In October, Boykov spent the day with VA students, first giving a slide presentation of his work and in the afternoon, a demonstration of his sculpting techniques.

Sharon Puddister, Coordinating Instructor of the program, says Boykov's visit was a successful one.

"The students really enjoyed the day with him. He is a very dynamic speaker and had a lot to offer them," says Puddister.

There are other practical benefits to the visits as well, she says.

"A Visiting Artist program not only supports and complements our curriculum, but has the added advantage of giving students the opportunity to establish professional contacts and links within the cultural sector at the provincial and national level."

The program will host a total of three guest artists during the 2004-2005 academic year - two from Newfoundland and Labrador and one from outside the province. Each guest artist is asked to give a presentation about their work, to discuss business and professional practice challenges, and to give a technical demonstration in their particular area of expertise to students.

Boykov was born and studied in Bulgaria, but currently lives and works in Logy Bay - a place where he draws great inspiration. During his visit to CNA, the artist showed students alternative ways to create sculpture molds - many of which he uses in his work.

"Some of my sculptures are made from a combination of found natural objects and added-on sculpted elements," says Boykov.

"In others, I sculpt grasses bound with wax. The finished sculpture is cast in bronze using the 'lost wax', or 'lost grass' method. My wooden and stone sculptures are carved, sand blasted and charred in order to attain a state of 'controlled erosion' - a natural condition animated by intelligent will," he states on his website: www.sculpturebyluben.com.

Visual Arts instructor Lorne Bishop says the Visiting Artist series is not a new initiative,



but the approach they are taking this year is new.

"In previous years we collaborated with Grenfell College to apply for a Canada Council grant, but there were several problems associated with that approach. So this year we decided to go it alone and see how that would work out."

By doing so, they were able to invite



artists working in Newfoundland and Labrador, as the Canada Council only sponsors artists from outside the province, says Bishop.

"This way we feel that our program, and hence the college, is making a contribution to the art scene of the province by raising students' awareness of artists working here. And the artist fees stay in the province."

To further broaden the students' artistic horizons, however, one of the three visiting artists is from out of province. Students research an artist and make suggestions as to whom they would like to have visit.

Logan Wood, a second-year VA student,

says she enjoyed Boykov's visit.

"He was very hands-on and kept us engaged. His slide presentation was very interesting and later he taught us something new - a different technique from what we learned in class - a lost wax method for in-bronze casting." Something he allowed several students to try on the spot.

Wood is also extremely pleased with the new approach to the artist series.

"It's important for us to be exposed to other artists," she says, "and great to be able to have a say in who is brought in. We had a chance to hear how someone in the region is making a living at his craft."

Since Boykov, a second artist has visited the campus. Sculptor Reed Weir lives in the area (Robinsons). She is a sculptor who works in clay, primarily figurative work.

During her visit in early November, she talked to the students about the ideas for her work and her creative process, the technical skills needed to model in clay, and her educational background.

There was also a question/answer session with the students about professional practice issues such as operating a studio as a business, exhibition opportunities at the provincial, national and international level, and the challenges of working in a small community and maintaining professional contacts. In the afternoon there was a demonstration session for which she modeled a human figure in clay (a graduate of the VA program posed as a live model). Weir's work can be viewed through the www.canadianclayandglass.ca website connection.

For the last artist, students were given the opportunity to vote on whom they would like to see, revealed Puddister. She says Campus Administrator Cyril Organ had a great suggestion for a process.

"Students were asked to form a committee to research artists in the Atlantic region. They then gave a presentation to their classmates and all voted on their final selection. And of course they had to present a 'case' for their selection to their classmates!"

The artist chosen was Nova Scotia realist painter Alan Bateman, who will visit in February. To view his website see: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/woodside.

Applied Research office holds seminar

The Office of Applied Research (OAR) at College of the North Atlantic held a seminar in December at Prince Philip Drive Campus. Entitled *Applied Research and Innovation: A New Dimension to College Life*, the seminar included a variety of stakeholders from throughout Atlantic Canada.

Speakers and representatives from the Natural Research Council of Canada (NRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Genge Consulting Group, Genesis Group, along with some of our own experts in research and development spoke on such topics as writing proposals, intellectual property, research funding and

commercialization.

The OAR is assigned the role of leading the college's Research and Innovation Network, which seeks to enhance the economic prosperity of the province by coordinating CNA's strengths with that of the private and public sector through partnerships. The Network is enabled and enhanced by the strategic inclusion of departments such as NRC, NSERC, sector associations, universities, and other colleges and industry-based research laboratories. While there have been examples of applied research within the college for a number of years, CNA has solidified its efforts with this formalization of an Office of Applied

Research.

Current research and development projects include petroleum applications of wireless systems at Seal Cove, a wave-powered seawater pumping project in Burin, the geo-spatial research facility in Corner Brook and the agri-foods research centre in Carbonear.

In addition, several new initiatives are being pursued such as blueberry farming in Labrador, the development of improved instrumentation for oil wells, new technology in integrated pest management, faster composting techniques for municipal garbage, rescue systems for off-shore oil rigs, and improved metal extraction methods from nickel ores.

Gander raffle a huge success

The Gander Campus held its Annual Christmas Raffle on Wednesday, December 8, 2004. The raffle has always been a tremendous success and this year was no exception! The Student Representatives Council was instrumental in raising over \$1000, which will be donated to various charities including the VOCCM Happy Tree, the Gander and Area SPCA, the Janeway, and the Gander and Area Food Bank.

Many thanks to all those who donated items for the Raffle and best wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year!



Pictured from left back: Ryan Nicol, Amanda Williams, Peter Cabrol, David Jenkins, Melissa Bull, Justin Coombs. From front left, Brent Peyton, John Menchenton, Bevan Blackie, Stephen Rogers, Philip Woolridge, and Sarah Mackay.

Burin donates to Happy Tree



Paul Herridge Photo

Burin Campus recently held a special Christmas Dinner Celebration served by the staff. A number of donations were made by groups from the campus to the Salvation Army-Marystown Mall-CHCM Happy Tree. Presenting contributions were: from left, Ryan Brushett, Student Council; Les Walters, Staff Social Club; Gary Myles, CHCM; Lillian Scott, Student Entrepreneur All Learning, and Glenda Keating, Jeans Day Committee.

ACDI session held in Port aux Basques

College of the North Atlantic, on behalf of the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium (APCCC), hosted ACDI's Fall Seminar in Port aux Basques, Newfoundland in October, 2004. This seminar, entitled *Enhancing the Community College's Role in Sustaining Rural Communities*, was intended to stimulate dialogue, reflection, debate, collaboration and action between and among community college leaders in Atlantic Canada, in relation to our role in sustaining rural communities. Facilitated by the Centre for Organizational Leadership and Development (COLD), approximately 50 participants interacted with panelists who brought a variety of perspectives to the issue. This was followed by small group sessions where best practices and innovative initiatives, challenges, and issues were shared, analyzed and synthesized.

Participants shared their successes and best practices about how community colleges help sustain rural communities in Atlantic

Canada. Several major themes emerged, including: Partnership Development - a need for community colleges to work closely with community partners and continually nurture that relationship; and Community Leadership - community colleges have a major role in helping individuals move through the various stages of leadership growth through the provision of lifelong learning opportunities as well as facilitating leadership in community organizations.

Participants also shared challenges and issues facing colleges in an effort to sustain communities. One major issue is the challenge of identifying and enhancing skills in the community to improve the quality of life and enhance community empowerment.

The group felt that future efforts must centre around fostering programs that continue to help sustain rural communities by offering people the tools necessary to get the job done. In order to further the symbiotic relationship between the community college

and the community-at-large, bonds need to be established between colleges and external interests. When these bonds are strengthened benefits will occur to better serve the people of rural communities and assist them in adjusting to a rapidly changing world.

"This seminar was an outstanding success by all accounts. In addition to the quality of discussion and high level of networking, it was clearly demonstrated that a small rural community can host a significant learning event," says Sheldon Brown, COLD facilitator.

As a parting note, and as a means of following up on the work that was begun in Port aux Basques, we challenge everyone to engage their respective community partners in strategic dialogue about the role that colleges have in sustaining YOUR rural communities. Keep us all posted!

Submitted by the Centre for Organizational Leadership and Development (COLD)

MOU signed with Francoforum-institut

College of the North Atlantic (CNA) has extended its international reach with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Francoforum-institut de langue of St. Pierre et Miquelon, France.

The partnership provides a framework for development in the areas of workplace language training, trades training and certification, and the establishment of international work terms for business students.

Our students will not only study in a trades or business program,

but would simultaneously learn aspects of the French language particular to the industry for which they are training. They can also study in St. Pierre for European certification to work on international projects, or to gain useful European business experience.

Mike Graham, Campus Administrator at Burin Campus, where the MOU was signed, says they hope to pilot the new agreement with a Welding program. Students from St. Pierre would receive Trades Certification with North American standards as well as the English language training they'll require to work in the industry.

Carbonear introduces Agribusiness program

Carbonear Campus is introducing a new agriculture program - the first of its kind in the province.

The 60-week Agribusiness program, starting in January 2005, is a multi-skill approach to farming - combining business skills with crop production and secondary processing.

Students of this creative new program in agriculture will learn the aspects of farm and greenhouse operations, crop production and such business oriented aspects as marketing, proposal devel-

opment, graphic design, and more.

Graduates of this practical training program will have acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to explore the potential for business development or related opportunities in agriculture.

For more information contact Michelle Yetman, Business Development Officer, or Chris Turpin, Instructor - both at Carbonear Campus.

College quick hits

Campus Administrators meet US President

On December 1, 2004, Campus Administrators Mac Moss, Gander Campus, and Cyril Organ, Bay St. George Campus, were flown to Halifax to hear President George W. Bush speak. Bush thanked the people who provided shelter and comfort to the thousands of Americans stranded at Canadian airports during the 9/11 crisis. More than 50 people representing towns, cities, and organizations from Newfoundland and Labrador arrived in Halifax aboard a Canadian Forces Airbus A310 and were flown back to Gander later that day.

WebCT trainers upgrade

Theresa Pittman, Instructional Design Specialist, and Maisie Caines, Faculty Development Specialist, were recently both approved by WebCT Inc. for renewal as Senior WebCT Campus Edition Certified Trainers.

Kate Szmyt from WebCT Inc. stated "We would like to thank you for all your hard work and success this past year, training and supporting others in their expanded usage of WebCT...congratulations on your continued training success and thank you for your ongoing support of WebCT's value to teaching and learning."

The WebCT Certified Trainer Program is designed for WebCT professionals who are committed to advancing e-learning through training and supporting others in their use of WebCT for maximum educational impact. The program establishes an official set of WebCT-sanctioned trainer performance standards around teaching the pedagogical foundation of WebCT. The program is based on a professional training framework that promotes best practices and core competencies, ensuring that the WebCT user community as a whole has access to the highest quality WebCT training programs.

New Alumni E-Newsletter

The Office of Alumni and Advancement has just released its first issue of a College of the North Atlantic Alumni E-Newsletter. The new alumni office and its initiative of reaching out to graduates aims to keep alumni up to date with news from CNA and includes college announcements, student and alumni achievements, and upcoming events. In the newsletter you'll find brief news items and stories pertaining to the college with links for more detailed information. The first issue has been sent to alumni and friends who have given the alumni office their e-mail address. If you or someone you know would like to receive the CNA alumni newsletter send an email request to alumni@cna.nl.ca.

New Appointment

Mary-Ellen Alexander has been appointed as the Health and Dental Plan Advisor. Mary-Ellen has been working at the college since February 2002 and has since gained experience working in the Programs Division, Student Services, and Human Resources. Most recently Mary-Ellen worked in the Apprenticeship Admissions Office.

Currents Survey

Hello to all Currents readers! There has been some debate about whether Currents should be an employee-focused internal publication – for employees – or one that also includes material on and for students. What do you think?

Please keep your eyes open and as you read this issue, think about what would make this a better publication. Should it be printed? Should it have a wider distribution? Should it be distributed to external stakeholders? Should there be another similar publication that could be geared more for external stakeholders, including students?

So many options! We will soon be developing a survey to ask these very questions, and others, about what you would like to see in Currents. We value your opinion, as this is YOUR publication. We ask that you take the few minutes of time it takes for you to give your input on these and other aspects of our newsletter.

Expect to see the survey in the very near future. We look forward to hearing from you then, and all year 'round!

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