

# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC CURRENTS



*Quacked, a film created by students and instructors of the Digital Animation program, will open the Nickle Independant Film and Video Festival in July.*

## Program shows reel success

By Chad Harnett

CNA's digital animation program will have one of its film projects air opening night at the Nickel Independent Film and Video Festival in St. John's on July 5. The film, titled *Quacked*, is the first-ever digitally animated piece from the program to be aired at an international film festival.

David Gale, art director for the project, says he and his fellow classmates are proud to have had their film chosen by the Nickel.

"It is a great honour to have something you've worked so hard on come to fruition and succeed at a showcase such as this one."

James Grace, program instructor and co-director for the piece, says it's especially meaningful that they have been chosen to air first.

"It is a competitive bill and obviously everybody wants a spot on opening night," says Grace.

Production for the piece began back in early May of 2004. Students worked on

the film as part of the Intersession Digital Animation Production Project which runs for approximately seven weeks and takes the form of a third semester for the program.

The project is of immense benefit to students because it gives them hands-on experience in the field and allows them to further develop the skills they already have.

In addition, the group decided to host its very own film festival at Clancy's Pub in Stephenville on June 15. The festival, called the S.N.A.P! Phestival, featured the successful piece *Quacked* as well as the program's newest project *Object LV 127 and ¾*.

Grace says this local showcase has been held for the past two years on campus and has done so well they decided to make it a formal event this year. It encourages students to work towards a deadline, something they will no doubt experience in their careers.

"I believe we have a good program here," says Grace. "And it's about time we started showing our work to the community."

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## We've got skills!

Students made a strong showing at the 11th Annual Canadian Skills Competition in Edmonton June 3-6.

Thirteen CNA students qualified for the national competition, and three returned with medals.

Winning gold in Graphic Design was Geri Coady of Prince Philip Drive (PPD) campus. Bronze medals were awarded to Andrew Penney, PPD, in the Autobody Repair category, and to James Dillon, also PPD, for Cooking.

This comes after 21 CNA students competed at the Provincial Skills Canada Competitions held in St. John's in May. The group walked away with 23 medals, including 13 Gold.

CNA gold medal winners from the provincials included: Melanie White, Ridge Road-Architectural CADD; Andrew Penney, PPD-Autobody Repair; Gordon Baker, PPD-Automotive Service; Jessica Kenny, PPD-Baking; James Dillon, PPD-Cooking; Kevin Lewis, Ridge Road-Electronics; Geri Coady, PPD-Graphic Design; Mark Connors, Placentia-Industrial Mechanic Millwright; Glen Wilson, Seal Cove-Industrial Wiring; Tony MacLean, PPD-IT and Network Support; Sheila Tulk, PPD-IT Software Applications; Neal Mitchell, Ridge Road-Refrigeration; and Stephen Mills, PPD-Welding.

Congratulations to both provincial and national competitors.

# College launches new website

More and more students are using the Internet and the college's website for information about our institution and the programs and services we offer. CNA's website gets millions of 'hits' per year, and with the number continuing to grow, it is important that our web presence be modern and up to date.

On Monday, June 13, the college launched its new web presence. The new site has a much fresher look, and by all reports thus far is more easily navigated by both student visitors and staff members.

"We approached the design of this site keeping in mind the end user," says Stephen Lee, Manager of Marketing and Communications. "You will notice that the main entrance points from the homepage clearly identify the user, whether that be future or current students, a corporate client, or an alumnus... and of course we have quick access to the more common features such as the program and course descriptions, college contacts and so on."

Lee says the approach taken for the new design was no accident.

"We did a lot of research that helped guide us in our design and of course we had an excellent Website Steering Committee that did a tremendous amount of work around navigation and content. So we knew we were well prepared when we began to actually assemble the site you see today."

There has been a tremendous amount of feedback since the new site was launched, and Lee says his department is encouraging staff to continue to send along comments or alert him and Webmaster Chris Yeo if they see something that requires change.

"It is our view that the site will never be

finished," says Lee. "We will always be improving, updating and changing the site to keep it fresh and accurate. Of course, we have a huge website and we would ask all of our employees to play a role in helping us keep it up to date and as accurate as possible. We've already made several changes based on helpful feedback from staff."

There are still a few sections of the site that need to be redesigned (such as the campus web pages) and Lee says they plan to work with campuses to make these improvements in the near future.

"We wanted to get the main site up and running and make sure there were no bugs to work out before moving forward with the next phase," he says. "Soon we will be rolling out our new content management software that will allow non-technical users to maintain their own sections of the website. It will be similar to the current process, but this new software will provide a lot more flexibility in terms of design and has many built-in features that will allow us to monitor content to ensure it is current and consistent."



## Letter to the Editor

I'm still a little jet-lagged and fuzzy-headed from the trip to Edmonton for Skills Canada's national competition, but I wanted to send out a brief message about the event. It was a wonderful learning experience for me as a first-timer, and of course a wonderful experience for the students as well. The tasks were tough and expectations were high, but the team from Newfoundland and Labrador competed very well. I was proud of each and every one of the competitors, regardless of their standings at the end of the two-day event.

I was particularly thrilled with the gold medal won by our Graphic Arts student, Geri Coady, in the Graphic Design competition. Although a veteran at these events, this was her first competition in Graphic

Design, and she represented the college and the province very well. Geri continues a tradition at the national competition, where we have medaled in each of the past three years. Coming on the heels of a gold, silver, and honourable mention at the recent ICE student competition in Halifax, Nova Scotia, this has been a great month for the college's Graphic Arts program.

I would like to thank the college for their support of Skills events provincially and nationally, and to the Skills organizing committee, who did such a wonderful job of looking after our provincial team. But most importantly, I would like to thank all of our provincial competitors. Their enthusiasm, skill, dedication and determination were an inspiration to us all. In my eyes they are all winners.

Cheers,

John (J) Barry, MFA, Coordinating Instructor Graphic Design

# College working towards accreditation

College of the North Atlantic's Clarenville, Corner Brook, Prince Philip Drive, and Qatar campuses began the self-study phase of accreditation for the School of Business & Information Technology after a visit from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) mentor this past March.

Dr. Gary DeBauche, the ACBSP mentor, visited three college campuses to meet with stakeholders and discuss the process of accreditation. DeBauche wanted to determine the level of readiness of the School to proceed with the accreditation process for the Business Management and Office Administration programs in both Newfoundland and Labrador and Qatar.

The purpose of the self-study is for the school to demonstrate that its programs are indeed in compliance with ACBSP standards. Based on his observations, DeBauche recommended that CNA begin the self-study phase at four of its campuses.

Linda White, Dean of Business and Information Technology, says the faculty will play a significant role in this phase of the process.

"Faculty involvement in the development



From left, Pamela Walsh and Sandy Eaton, Past President, CIPS Newfoundland and Labrador.



From left, Dr. Gary DeBauche, ACBSP Mentor; Linda White, Dean, School of Business & Information Technology; Pamela Walsh, President; and Brian Tobin, Director of Academic & Student Services.

of the self-study will be of paramount importance, in view of the fact that they're directly responsible for the delivery of educational services to our students," she says.

Unlike other program accreditation requirements, this one will not require the development of faculty portfolios, says White.

"It is important, though, that faculty be aware and committed to the process, available for consultation, and able to provide any information requested to meet the documentation requirements," she says.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the College and the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) to start the accreditation process for the Information Technology

programs at the Qatar campus.

CIPS representatives made a pre-site visit to the campus in early June. Dr. Peter King, Director of Accreditation for CIPS and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Manitoba, and Dr. Ken Takagaki, Dean of the School of Computing and Academic Studies at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, visited Qatar to meet with administrators and faculty, see the facility, and discuss the accreditation process and requirements for the Information Technology programs.

There will be an evaluation team visit in October of 2005. The college will then be given a draft report in November on the accreditation findings. The final report will be completed in January of 2006.

## Government launches apprenticeship website

Education Minister Tim Hedderson announced on May 4 that the provincial government will be launching a new Apprenticeship and Certification website. According to the government's website, the site is designed to be a "one-stop information centre for students, apprentices, training institutions, and employees."

It was developed through the Apprenticeship Enhancement Project and funded under the Labour Market Development Agreement. The government's site says it is the latest in a series of departmental apprenticeship initiatives designed to ensure that the apprenticeship system is responding to the needs of students and employers in the province.

A highlight of the website is said to be the Apprenticeship Employment Gateway – a search engine that provides apprentices with employment opportunities posted by Newfoundland and

Labrador employers. Of course, it also does the reverse, allowing employers to post their positions in search of qualified apprentices.

Some of the other things found on the website include information on provincially designated trades, a list of training sites throughout the province and their registered programs, apprenticeship program accreditation information with a list of accredited programs, and information regarding examinations and certification, to name a few.

"With more readily available information, we expect the website will provide a clearer understanding of how the apprenticeship system functions in our province, training and career opportunities available, and ultimately contribute to the increased involvement by all stakeholders," says Barry Roberts, chair of the Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board.

# New frontier for new president of CNA-Q



**H**arald Jorch, the new President of College of the North Atlantic-Qatar, brings a fascinatingly varied background to the Middle East institution.

CNA-Qatar is operated as an overseas campus under a contract between College of the North Atlantic (Newfoundland and Labrador) and the State of Qatar. CNA was selected as the best in its class to offer technical and professional education as part of the State's intense and expansive program of social, cultural and economic development. Dr. Hal, as he's known there, joins the organization at a time of transition, with the first graduation ceremony planned near the end of June, a move to a state-of-the-art, huge new campus in September, and expanded program offerings including nursing, trades, banking, and security in the offing.

Jorch (pronounced York) was born in Germany but grew up in Southern Ontario, Canada. Equipped with a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Guelph, he began his professional career with a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Chalk River Nuclear Labs of Atomic Energy of Canada Research Company in 1981. With years of research at Guelph and Brookhaven National Labs in New York under his belt, working for a research company was a natural move.

"There's continuing stress and time pressure when you're required to publish groundbreaking results in a new field, because there are no rewards for being second," says Jorch.

"But the thrill of that moment of discovery,

when you're seeing a result no one has seen before; that can be quite rewarding."

Though he found the new job challenging, Jorch wanted more. He decided to attempt an academic career path that included teaching. Still continuing with some research activities, he took a position at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, BC as an assistant professor.

After three years, he accepted a position with the Department of Physics and Computing at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, and later became Associate Professor (and Department Chair). The transition to full-time academic was complete.

The greatest transformation of his career was to come eight years later, when he accepted an offer with the Post-secondary Application Service of British Columbia as Director of Operations. It was a fresh challenge for Jorch, as it forced him to leave behind what he knew.

"The organization was connected to education, but involved neither teaching nor research."

He was initially contracted to develop an IT plan for a way to allow applicants to universities and colleges in BC to apply in a paperless, seamless, electronic way on the Internet. After the proposal had been reviewed by the Board, he was asked to take on the challenge

**"I started thinking that my hands-on approach to education might be more in tune with a college environment."**

of making it a reality, and decided to leave tenure behind and move to BC. He loved the challenge of leading the high level IT design, networking with government and institutions throughout the province, and providing the focus for achieving shared objectives among a multitude of stakeholders. And, he found he was quite proficient at it. When the system went live seven months later, it held special significance for him.

"My oldest daughter, who was about to graduate from high school, was the first ever applicant with the service," shares Jorch.

"I turned the system on at midnight and my daughter logged in to apply to the

University of Victoria on the PASBC website."

The system was so effective, it went province-wide in colleges and universities throughout BC, with Jorch running the show. Soon after, his responsibilities were expanded to include implementation of integrated management information systems for the same post-secondary institutions, along with other projects. He found himself with offices in Vancouver, Kamloops, and Victoria and was constantly shuttling between them all. With a wife and four daughters at home, however, Jorch found that after a year of constant travelling, his quality of life was dwindling. The family was losing out, and so was he.

So he harkened back to his university career when a fellow academic mentioned that he was unusually practical in outlook for the university environment.

"I started thinking that my hands-on approach to education might be more in tune with a college environment."

Jorch decided to act on that and left the west coast for Georgian College of Applied Arts & Technology in Barrie, Ontario, where he seemed to find his niche as Academic Director/Dean of Engineering Technology.

"I loved it!" he reveals. "I was challenged right away to forge partnerships and find funding for the development of programs at the school, which we did to the tune of almost \$4 million."

There were challenges, such as his first foray into relationships with the industrial/business sector related to the programs, but the task of enhancing industry relations interested him. And the efforts continued to pay off with increased enrolments, national awards for technology education, and the first-ever grant awarded to a Canadian institution by the US-based Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

"There was a nice underlying pride element there that had been a support for the staff through some tough funding times; I found that we could make positive changes in the way we approached our educational offerings, and grow and expand through industry and government collaborations."

It seemed only natural three years later, for Jorch to combine his skills and take a position as Dean of Science and Technology at the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB), a place that offered new and different challenges and a much broader operation.

"It held much greater responsibility with more possibilities," says Jorch.

"There was a much larger staff and budget along with a broader range of programming, from psychology degrees to welding certification. I had some hugely challenging scenarios."

Obviously not a man to shy away from change and challenge, when his oldest daughter graduated from university and revealed her plans to move to a hot climate, the entire family decided to do the same.

"I had overseas dealings while at Georgian, as well as at UCCB, in setting up partnership, articulation and transfer agreements in countries such as India, Egypt, and China, and felt very comfortable with the idea of living in an exotic locale," says Jorch.

So, when his daughter found a job in the Caribbean, they started looking at the possibilities. Jorch and his wife both found work in the Cayman Islands: he, as Vice President Academic at the University College of the Cayman Islands, and she, teaching at the Cayman International School, where his youngest daughter also enrolled.

Life was wonderful in the Caribbean; then tragedy struck. A hurricane hit the island, ripping trees from their roots, snapping electricity poles in half, sweeping cars and houses away, depositing boats in parking lots and on

top of cars, and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to the island. The family found a dry room in the corner of an abandoned hotel to stay in for some six months, living in the midst of destruction and renovation until they realized the island was no longer such an ideal place for them.

"The aftermath is what gets you, when you're two months without running water or electricity," explained Jorch.

**"...They are creating wonderful things here... striving for the very best."**

"People were bunking up together in whatever apartments and condos had dry rooms. Our apartment ceilings had collapsed and it was raining in regularly, our furniture was destroyed, and there was rubble, dust and dirt everywhere. Then there was the earthquake. We asked ourselves about the conditions we were putting our family in."

When Jorch received a call from a recruiter about the position in Qatar, he was intrigued. And not only has the institution lived up to

his expectations, it has surpassed them.

"It is fabulous here!" he exclaims. "I don't see how you could pick a better opportunity to contribute to the life and future of a country – they are creating wonderful things here... striving for the very best."

Jorch says the attitude at CNA-Qatar is "do it now, do it better."

He says everyone he's talked to is committed to the project, and to making it the best campus in the world. That's how everyone at the campus seems to approach not only their jobs, but their lives.

"I haven't met anyone here that isn't loving the experience and doing a great job. That's the key in an organization's success – the biggest factor that distinguishes between 'ok' and outstanding – the commitment of the people."

His wife and youngest daughter will join the president at their new home later this summer. In the meantime, Jorch is enjoying the warm temperatures and beautiful attributes of the wealthy and progressive country.

"This position is a fantastic, challenging frontier of opportunity, and I will work hard to continue with and expand on the momentum and level of excellence that has thus far been achieved at this extraordinary institution."

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## Alumni Update By Laura Edwards, Manager of Alumni and Advancement



### Four CNA Alumni Chapters Launched

Congratulations to Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus, which launched its chapter on June 12. This marked the fourth chapter launch for the CNA Alumni Association. We now have St. John's, Carbonear, Clarenville and HVGB, and look forward to many more! Thank you for your efforts and contributions to helping grow the CNA Alumni Association.

### *I'm Graduating, Now What?*

Held as a pilot project in St. Anthony and St. John's this year, *I'm Graduating, Now What?* offers a graduation lunch the day before each graduation ceremony, followed by an information session on the benefits of membership with the Alumni Association. In St. John's, it will include career development sessions to help new grads and alumni boost their career finding skills:

- Accessing the Hidden Job Market
- Resume Clinic
- Interview Skills
- Furthering your Education
- Repaying your Student Loan

We have decided to webcast this event so please extend the invitation to all members outside the St. John's area. It will take place from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. June 22 - please join us!

### Special Graduation Alumni Newsletter

To welcome our newest alumni to the Alumni Association, we will dedicate the next issue of the Alumni Newsletter to the Class of 2005. Each campus is invited to submit a short report on their graduation along with a photo. Deadline for entries is June 24. Please submit to [laura.edwards@cna.nl.ca](mailto:laura.edwards@cna.nl.ca)

### Newest benefit of membership with the Alumni Association

CNA Alumni will now receive a 25% discount on purchases at Décor Framing in the Village Mall in St. John's. To be eligible for the discount at time of purchase, simply mention this article. Thank you very much Wayne Evans, owner of Décor Framing.

# CNA assists budding teachers at MUN

By Tanya Alexander

*"If you would truly know anything, teach it to others." ~Tyron Edwards, (1809 - 1894)*

It's something that may not be commonly known, but College of the North Atlantic (CNA) has been helping students of Memorial University's (MUN) post-secondary degree program gain experience as teachers' assistants, so they are able to meet the student teaching requirements of their degree.

Various CNA campuses have been providing this opportunity to MUN's budding teachers for approximately 20 years and continue to do so today. During the Winter 2005 semester, Business, IT and Applied Arts faculty at CNA's St. John's campuses saw a flurry of activity as a group of nine student instructors was accepted – the largest to date. As part of the ED 4700 Student Teaching in Post Secondary Education course, each prospective instructor has to acquire approximately 70 hours of practice teaching/observation spread over the semester. This "mini" internship, worth one credit, is the minimum requirement for a student to meet their qualifications for teaching.

Gail Gosse, CNA campus administrator at Prince Philip Drive, says CNA instructors have been very accommodating in allowing these students to take part in the classroom.

"Faculty uptakes of requests for placements were both swift and passionate," says Gosse.

"Many," she says, "have the attitude that if they can help a budding instructor become better... if they could help to mentor an emerging post-secondary teacher, they would readily step up to the plate."

It all begins with identifying which students from the post-secondary program at MUN would complement a particular CNA instructor's chosen subject matter.

"Students identify what they are interested in and send me something akin to a resume," says Gosse. "They have to have the kind of background that will fit."

This is a powerful, mutually beneficial partnership between CNA and MUN – whose post-secondary program is becoming increasingly popular.

"It's a win-win situation," says Gosse. "The intern first acts as an observer in the classroom, watching our instructor in action. By the end, the roles are reversed."

The intern will take a topic and present it to the class of students, while the instructor looks on and evaluates the intern's performance. With the approval of the instructor, the student teacher will teach a number of such lessons as well as tutor students, assist the instructor, etc.

Dr. Ern Cluett, who teaches the interns at MUN, is floored by the co-operation he's received from the college.

"It's not just this year; we've always gotten superb co-operation from CNA," he says.

Cluett has travelled throughout the province for much of his career supervising interns and student teachers – including those placed at CNA campuses in Grand-Fall Windsor, Gander, Corner Brook, and Carbonear, in the fields of health sciences, trades, tourism, and more. Cluett says almost the entire class of this spring's graduates in the B.Voc.Ed. did their student teaching at CNA.

Though he is retired, Cluett returns each year to continue his involvement with this program. As part of the program, he facilitates a class one night a week and applies several techniques to ready interns for the real world of teaching.

He requires they keep a journal of their

observations in the classroom and of their own experience. Also, each prospective teacher gives a "lesson" during one of the Thursday nights and their fellow classmates analyze their performance. Cluett says they find it very useful. He also videotapes them while they are giving the lecture so they can critique their own work. He observes his students at their assigned colleges and while visiting them, discusses their progress with the assigned instructor.

"If you're willing to be a good teacher, you need to be able to pick apart somebody else's work and analyze it. And of course, your own."

He says though it's a grueling pace, students seem to love the experience.

"They've told me they like the fact that it's practical, not just theoretical. They feel prepared for the classroom."

The internship is worth one credit to the student, who is marked by both Cluett and the participating CNA instructor.

"It's a form of gate keeping, in a way. It's very meaningful – the instructor is able to participate in the education of future college instructors," says Cluett.

Many instructors do want to reciprocate to the profession of teaching, says Gosse. In fact, it is she who is giving back by helping to nurture this internship program. Dr. Cluett was once her student teacher.

"He motivated me in my career and is still a mentor for me today," says Gosse. "You never know what inspiration you've given your students."

## Good news for SET program

Noble Drilling Corporation has recently created a position designed specifically for College of the North Atlantic (CNA) graduates of the Safety Engineering Technology post-diploma program.

The position, called Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Management Professional, includes tasks like managing HSE systems, managing divisional internal audit programs, assisting in budgetary exercises and cost control procedures, managing and developing a team of offshore professionals, managing incident investigation programs, and acting as communicator for functional and operational activities between offshore and onshore personnel.

Representatives from the company flew to St. John's from Calgary in

June to interview potential candidates for the position.

"It shows the high calibre of our graduates, the high level of expectations from employers, and our credibility with employers," says Paul Halleran, an instructor for the Mechanical Engineering program.

Greg Chaytor, Dean of Industrial Trades and Engineering, says "This is an impressive validation of the quality of the program and our graduates."

Noble Drilling Corporation is based in St. John's and offers various oil and gas services with a fleet of over 60 mobile offshore drilling units worldwide.



CNA instructors and students shared in the preparation of several versions of the *Naked Lobster* for Shatford's Restaurant, one of which will be served at the Ten Beaches Awards Gala in June.

Cooking instructor Eric Hynes, left, stands with his students and their presentations of the dish.



## Naked Lobster changes dining experience

By Tanya Alexander

When Cooking instructors Eric Hynes and Gary Callahan went to the Atlantic Provinces Exhibition (APEX) in Halifax with a group of their Cooking and Baking students from CNA's Bay St. George campus in April, they expected to take in more than they would contribute. But they received a challenge to create a unique new presentation for a local restaurant's signature dish - one that has been chosen for a special gala dinner for Nova Scotia's Premier, John Hamm, taking place in June.

The "Naked Lobster" presentation was created by Hynes and Callahan during the class field trip in April when the group visited Shatford's Restaurant in Hubbard's, a community 30 minutes outside of Halifax.

"We went to show the students the unique kitchen of a superior establishment," says Callahan.

"They serve smoked salmon, haddock and other seafood and steak, but they steam and

charbroil everything. No fat frying," he says.

"It was a nice opportunity for the students to experience the workings of a different kitchen."

While they were there, the group was asked if they would be interested in showing some different plating designs in creating a signature dish for the restaurant. Callahan and Hynes took the challenge and enlisted the assistance of their 12 students in preparing the dish with appetizers.

The presentation begins with a delicate process of removing the lobster from the shell so that the pieces remain whole. The "naked" lobster is then reassembled in its natural position and scallops, shrimp and vegetables are placed decoratively with the lobster.

Restaurant owner Joy Callahan says many people won't eat lobster at restaurants because of the challenge of opening it, and the inevitable mess. Most will buy them and cook them at home.

"People out for a night of fine dining in their suits and gowns don't want to attempt the lobster," says the restaurant owner. "The meal often ends up on them or their neighbours."

When she solicited her seafood retail market representative Bobby Langille for ideas, he suggested shelling the creature in advance for the customer. All they needed was an attractive way to present it. The visit by CNA staff and students presented an opportunity for input.

"They prepared wonderful appetizers and the final presentation of the Naked Lobster was just beautiful!" exclaimed Callahan.

Over 250 are expected to attend the Ten Beaches Awards fundraising gala, which launches the First Annual Community Service Awards for the area. The dish will be served publicly for the first time to Premier Hamm and guests at the event, after which Shatford's will add the dish to their menu.

# International internships help build careers

By Andrea King, CNA/CIDA intern

College of the North Atlantic has been hosting international internships for several years. The internship I participated in was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) International Youth Internship Program. This program gives Canadian graduates under 30 the chance to live and work in countries all over the world.

The point of these internships is to offer graduates an opportunity to gain useful international work experience to prepare them for future careers. However, these internships offer much more than just work experience. Living in a different country provides students with necessary life skills that will help them progress in any field.

I lived in Pune, India for five months and worked on a CIDA-funded project which focused on linking Indian industries with technical institutions. Of course, like most jobs, I improved my communication and time management skills, research and writing skills, and learned about cross-cultural working environments.

I'm now working at the World Bank's private sector arm; the International Finance Corporation in Washington DC and it is no secret that my job in India was one of the big factors in my being hired. Competition in the job market is fierce for recent graduates and as more and more people obtain multiple educational qualifications, it becomes a necessity to separate oneself from the rest of the applicants.

Having international work experience on a resume says a great deal about a person and gives employers an idea of what type of person they are. Usually people that are interested in living abroad are adventurous, extroverted, open-minded and independent, all of which are attractive personality traits for employers. Even more important than the work experience itself are the life skills gained during the six months abroad. Because interns move away to take these jobs and are forced to deal with a great deal of changes while being removed from their typical support network, they gain the following skills almost by default:

**Perseverance:** As with any new situation, things go wrong or you don't always get what you want, and these sentiments are magnified when you are living in new surroundings within a culture that is not your own and with rules you are unfamiliar with. It is only when



Andrea King feels her time in India was the deciding factor in securing a position with the World Bank, which will bring her to China in September. King, left, met fellow Canadian Rachel Parker, who was in Pune working with Girl Guides at one of their international centres.

you are tested that you can learn whether you have the drive and ambition to try, remain focused and achieve what you set out to do.

**" Having international work experience on a resume says a great deal about a person and gives employers an idea of what type of person they are."**

**Independence/self-reliance:** Living without the support network you are accustomed to at home can be difficult. You have to become self-reliant, particularly for remaining optimistic and positive.

**Flexibility:** Again, because every single thing around you is different, you have to be open-minded and ready to adjust.

**Improved communication skills:** Every country has different communication styles and to fully incorporate yourself into the culture; you have to adopt or at least understand how people communicate with each other. For

example, in India people tend to say 'yes' to most questions. In some cases this is because they didn't understand the question and sometimes because they feel that a negative response is not polite. This is a difficult thing, especially when trying to conduct business. You have to be more cautious and clearer when living abroad.

**Tolerance for stress:** There's no doubt about it, a new environment, a new job, a new culture and the lack of your support network and normal comforts is stressful. But knowing you are able to handle each of those aspects of living abroad will give you confidence in your abilities and help you learn how to work effectively in stressful situations.

**Self-knowledge:** All of the above mentioned character building experiences lead to self-knowledge. Through knowing yourself, your strengths and weakness, your goals and ambitions, it will be easier to focus on your career path. It's much easier to reach your goals if you know what they are.

I had an amazing time in India, but there is no doubt that it was difficult at times. It was definitely worth it, since I'm now working in the job of my dreams. I would strongly encourage and recommend these internships to anyone.



# Instructor published in international journal

By Chad Harnett



**D**r. Aaruun Arunachalam, a College University Transfer Year (CUTY) Physics instructor at the college's Burin campus, has recently been selected to have one of his research works published in an international journal.

The work, titled *Application of Dimensional Analysis to Estimation of Ice-induced Pressures on Rigid Vertical Structures*, is set to be published this October in the Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering.

The research aims to estimate the magnitude of the force on a given structure, based

upon the characteristics of the structure and the materials and properties of floating ice as it moves and interacts with the structure.

Arunachalam says this type of research has been going on for approximately 25 years, but the ability to accurately predict ice interaction forces on structures is still not easily possible for researchers and engineers. This paper looks at past laboratory experimental data and attempts to go in the direction of estimating the force on structures due to ice interaction. The work can be very valuable to engineers when designing structures that are exposed to contact from the ocean waves and ice flows says Arunachalam.

Arunachalam's ongoing plans are to extend the current results and develop empirical equations that would accurately predict ice-induced forces. For that he plans to use laboratory experimental data. Then, use the predictive empirical equation for estimating ice-induced forces for field conditions and compare the effectiveness of the accuracy of the predictive equation.

Before coming to Canada, Arunachalam studied in Madras, India. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Madras, specializing in civil engineering. He then went on to complete his Ph.D. in Engineering Mechanics at the India Institute of Technology, Madras. In 1980, he moved to Canada to do a post-doctoral fellowship at Memorial University of Newfoundland with Dr.

D. B. Muggeridge.

Arunachalam says he became interested in doing research with ice as soon as he came to Canada.

"I'd only ever seen ice in two places before coming to Canada," he chuckles. "The first was in my refrigerator, and the second was in my cocktail glass."

Initially, Arunachalam tried to mix his expertise in wave mechanics with the research of ice and worked with his research group to publish a couple of papers using this combination. From there, he did research on iceberg motion, at which point he discovered the opportunity to do the current paper, and has been working on it since 1997. He says it has been a long journey, but he is pleased to see his work finally come together.

"I am happy that one of the long outstanding works I have planned for myself is now successfully completed," says Arunachalam. "It was a work that deserved attention and completion."

Arunachalam says the work gives the research community a different perspective to estimate ice forces on structures and would perhaps settle the issue on what the force would be in a given ice-structure interaction scenario. He also believes it benefits the college.

"Obviously it showcases the capability of the college and hopefully it will give it some research profile in the next little while."

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## Employees make learning a priority

**T**welve support staff from campuses across the province attended the Atlantic Colleges' Development Institute (ACDI) this past April at the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Aptly titled *Designing the Learning College*, the event focused on how employees can, in their respective functional areas, create a learning-centred environment for all of the college community. This was, in fact, the third event in a series based on this theme. The previous two were designed for managers and faculty respectively.

Participants were introduced to the idea that learning is a "do it yourself" project. They were shown best practices being used at other colleges to determine how the concept

could be implemented in their own workplaces. They also engaged in large group dialogue, small group discussions, experiential learning, and developing individual learning and action plans.

"We came out of it feeling energized and inspired," says Lori Humphries, Clerk Typist at Bay St. George campus.

In addition to facilitating participant learning, the ACDI adds value by creating a network amongst the four public college systems in Atlantic Canada. This interactivity and peer learning creates a synergy that has been the

mainstay of ACDI since its inception 15 years ago.

"The commitment to being a learning-centred college is embedded in our strategic plan," says Sheldon Brown, Professional Development Coordinator at Headquarters in Stephenville. "Our



next step is to develop a strategy to grow this concept throughout the college system. Participants from all three institutes will be actively engaged in this process."

## Congratulations

**W**ade Pinhorn, co-ordinating instructor for the Music Industry and Performance program at Bay St. George campus, has been elected Vice Chair of the East Coast Music Association (ECMA).

In 2003, Pinhorn accepted a one-year appointment to the ECMA Board of Directors to serve as Chair of Education. The following year, he was elected for a two-year term as Second Vice Chair and continued as Education Chair. At the recent Annual General Meeting, however, Pinhorn moved a step up the rung before his current term was completed, when he was elected as Vice Chair of the board.

Pinhorn will work closely with newly elected ECMA Chair Marc Chuinard and long standing Executive Director Steve Horne, in order to plan short- and long-term strategies for the coming years. Pinhorn also continues in his role with the Education component of the ECMA.

"I am very excited and honoured to be elected as Vice Chair of this association, and to continue with ECMA activities at the executive level," says Pinhorn.

"I see a bright future for the association and look forward to committing long-term to their on-going strategic plan."

**G**erry Crewe, Commercial Cooking (Advanced) instructor at St. John's campus, attended the Canadian Culinary Convention and Competition in Edmonton on June 9, taking second place in the Canadian Chef of the Year category.

The Chef of the Year competition is comprised of the winners from each of the four regional branches, which include Atlantic, Eastern (including Quebec), Ontario, and Western. The entrants are subject to a vote by all branches in Canada and the winner is chosen based not only on competition performance, but also for the charitable work and extracurricular activities conducted by the entrant throughout the year.

This comes after Crewe was recognized not once, but twice at the Atlantic Culinary Conference and Competition held in St. John's this spring. He won Chef of the Year in both the provincial and regional selections.

**J**oe Bouzanne, Business Accounting instructor at Grand Falls-Windsor campus and president of the Human Resources Professionals of Newfoundland and Labrador (HRPNL), was awarded the *Excellence in Human Resources Award* at the Atlantic Canada Human Resources Awards in Halifax in June.

The award is given to the recipient who demonstrates an outstanding record of contribution to human resources and who embodies the best that human resources can offer.

Joe's commitment to the promotion and advancement of the profession in Newfoundland and Labrador, along with his many other personal and professional achievements, have proven that he is a leader both in our province and in his field.

Congratulations to all!

**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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