

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

CURRENTS

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College Board Chair Moya Cahill points to a map of Newfoundland created at the Geospatial Research Facility, during a tour of Corner Brook Campus for JOB members.

Qatari delegation meets on West Coast

Several members of Qatar's Royal Family were in Corner Brook in February to attend meetings of the Joint Oversight Board (JOB).

His Excellencies Sheikh Abdulaziz Jassim Al Thani, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabor Al Thani, Sheikh Abdulla Bin Mohamed Bin Saud Al Thani, and a host of other JOB members from the Middle East and Europe attended the meetings – the first time they were held in this part of the province, and the first time in winter.

For some of our visitors, it was their first time seeing snow – and did they enjoy it! The morning of the delegation's departure was reserved for a snowmobile tour. The weather cooperated with blue skies, sunshine, and a

crisp -6 degrees Celsius. Some had never been on snowmobile before, and the trip did not go without incident, but all made it around the 70 km trail safely.

The next JOB meeting is scheduled for June in Qatar.

The college is in the fourth year of a 10-year partnership with Qatar to develop a comprehensive technical college in that country. College of the North Atlantic-Qatar will see its first students graduate this June.

The JOB meets three times per year, with one of those meetings taking place in this province and the other two being held in Qatar. The JOB consists of representatives from College of the North Atlantic in

Newfoundland and Labrador, and representatives from the State of Qatar.

College of the North Atlantic and the State of Qatar enjoy a very successful association that has opened up many opportunities for teaching and staff positions with the college in Qatar for residents of Newfoundland and Labrador. In fact, the college is currently recruiting some 40 new staff and faculty for the project, with plans to recruit more as the Qatar campus continues to grow and expand. For more information on job opportunities with College of the North Atlantic in Qatar, visit www.cna.nl.ca or call 709-758-7347.



Above: CNA-Qatar's Jennifer Sheppard, Manager of Marketing and Public Relations, and Aisha Al-Ali, Marketing Assistant, visited the Marketing and Communications department in Stephenville on their way to the JOB meeting in Corner Brook.

Left: The JOB were invited guests of the Minister of Education Tom Hedderson (second from right) for a dinner and reception at Gitanos' Restaurant in Corner Brook.



Editor's Note

In the last issue of Currents we told you we were developing a survey that would help define the needs and wants of CNA employees for your internal newsletter.

I've sent an All College email with a link to the survey – thank you to those who have participated. We are getting a great response!

For those who haven't had a chance to do so, there still is time. Please click on this link and take a look at the

survey – it will literally take three or four minutes <http://www.cna.nl.ca/surveys/Currents/Currents.htm>.

Thanks so much for your participation and for helping to make Currents a better publication!

Tanya Alexander

CNA offers value-added education

Athabasca University (AU) and College of the North Atlantic (CNA) have signed several new Transfer Credit Articulation Statements.

We reported in the last issue of Currents that some 28 programs at CNA were accepted for block transfer to AU towards bachelor degree programs at the university. Now, with the diligence of Marian Andrews, Associate Director of Academics and Linda Dunne, Registrar, more programs have been added and others re-approved. Credits from dozens of CNA's programs will now be accepted at AU toward their Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Professional Arts, and Bachelor of Management programs, among others.

CNA has enhanced the educational opportunities for students for years by facilitating transfer agreements with other institutions such as Memorial University of Newfoundland, Lakehead University in Ontario, Cape Breton University (formally UCCB), and most recently, Athabasca

University in Alberta.

In addition to increasing accessibility and transfer options for students in North America, we also have a number of overseas educational initiatives. A new partnership with Pei Zheng Commercial College in China provides the opportunity for students there to graduate with a CNA Business diploma. We also have several hundred Chinese students studying our Engineering Technology programs at two universities in China, with some of these students completing their studies in Newfoundland.

For more information about the new articulation agreements with Athabasca, please see their website: http://www.athabascau.ca/cgi-bin/credit_transfer.pl, and our provincial On-Line Transfer Guide: www.gov.nl.ca/youth/che.htm.

CNA is profiled in national publication

The college – in particular our external work with refinery training and our work in Vietnam – is currently profiled in the Spring 2005 issue of *The Canadian Learning Journal*.

The article, entitled *Newfoundland and Labrador: Making Connections Across Space and Time – Creative e-Learning Solutions for Canada and Beyond*, spoke of CNA's mandate to provide quality distributed learning services to domestic and international clients.

"If recent projects are any indication, the college will have no trouble meeting and surpassing that mandate," says author Sandra Mingail.

In the article she interviews our own John King, Chair of DLS and Learning Technology, about our services. She concludes that CNA is leading the way in the evolving world of education.

"It seems that forward-thinking educators

in Newfoundland and Labrador are not only working within their own borders but are taking very successful strides beyond those borders. What better way to reach out to distant learners than to harness the knowledge and skills applied to solve the challenges of space and time in your own back yard."

The article, written by Sandra Mingail, vice president of New Media, can be viewed at: <http://www.cstd.ca/networks/cljs059-12.pdf>

Accreditation for Engineering programs

On February 9, 2005 an informal ceremony was held at Ridge Road campus to acknowledge the accreditation/re-accreditation of several engineering programs.

Mr. Derek Button, co-chair of accreditation for the Association of Engineering Technicians and Technologists of Newfoundland and Labrador (AETTNL), and Mr. Austin Sheppard, registrar with AETTNL, were on hand to present the certificates to the Instructional Coordinators, Mr. John O'Leary and Mr. Blair Wilkie.

The programs accredited are Mechanical Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology (Biomedical), Electronics Engineering Technology (Computers & IT), Electronics Engineering Technology (Communications), and Electronics Engineering Technology (Power & Controls).

The Canadian Technology Accreditation Board (CTAB) is a standing committee of the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT), created in 1982 from CCTT's national standards committee. CTAB strives to provide a national accreditation program that enables educational agencies offering applied science and engineering technician and technologist programs to meet the challenges presented by technological change.

With this in mind College of the North Atlantic is dedicated to the national accreditation process by improving the current programs and developing new ones. Graduates of successful programs are eligible for certification by CCTT's provincial constituent members after several years of relevant work experience.

Austrian Trade Commissioner visits Burin

The General Counsel and Trade Commissioner of Austria to Canada visited Burin campus on March 17 to give a presentation to International Business students.

Dr. Christoph Grabmayr held a class with the students in Burin and, by video conference, with students and faculty in St. Anthony. Following an interview with CBC radio and after a campus tour, Dr. Grabmayr also met with the Business Department faculty and staff.

That meeting was quickly followed by a delicious meal of Newfoundland delicacies prepared by the cooking class. In the afternoon, a group of 13 people accompanied Dr. Grabmayr on a tour of the "boot" of the Burin Peninsula. Some 35 people, representing municipal governments, various agencies and businesses, had the opportunity at the reception to meet and informally chat with the commissioner at a reception that evening.



Left: Dr. Christoph Grabmayr enjoyed a lunch of Newfoundland cuisine with the leadership team.

Above: Dr. Grabmayr, General Counsel and Trade Commissioner of Austria, is given a tour of Burin campus. Here, Grabmayr, left, talks with Keith Howse, metal fabrication instructor (IC-Trades), and Robert Rideout, Director of Administration.

The visit was deemed to be a success by all. Topics of discussion included marketing of tourism and educational services in Europe, trade in agrifoods, manufacturing technology, and the possibility of student exchange for work terms. Most importantly, relationships were built on which we can grow greater things in the future. Grabmayr stated that he

was very pleased with his visit and is looking forward to returning.

"I had an excellent time. If I had more days like today, I would consider working for free!"

CNA-Qatar – Our first graduates



In June, CNA-Q will have its first graduates. Currently we have approximately 50-60 potential graduates from Business, Information Technology and Engineering programs.

Some 75 percent of these students are sponsored by companies and will be returning to their employees upon graduation. They are all very excited and proud to be our first graduates and their employers are anxious to have them back into their company, displaying their new skills and professional training.

The graduation ceremony is currently being planned for late June and is sure to be a remarkable event. It will be hosted at a local hotel and will be attended by high State authorities and international dignitaries from the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) and abroad.

We are sure to make an impression with this event as it is a great

milestone for CNA-Qatar and an example of great accomplishment through hard work and dedication. Both our students and staff feel very proud of the hard work which is being recognized for the students' learning and the institution's growth and development.

The next milestone to celebrate will be the move to our permanent campus for the start of the September semester. This will be a huge move and is anxiously awaited by everyone. We will be moving into world-class technology-abundant buildings with plenty of room for further growth and expansion. This will be reflected in students' numbers as well as new programs.

As usual, developments and exciting firsts at CNA-Qatar never seem to slow down, and that is just the way we like it!

Jennifer Sheppard
Manager of Marketing and Public Relations
College of the North Atlantic-Qatar

Visitors from Libya

College of the North Atlantic's Bay St. George campus is currently hosting seven trainees from Libya – employees of Sirte Oil Company (SOC).

Fakri A. M. Elshafei, Tariq B. H. Taha, Farag O. Salem, and Hussin M. S. Swead are enrolled in Modern Vehicle Maintenance for Technicians, while Marwan M. El. Shebani, Abdulkarim R.

Akil, and Abdulbaset M. A. Omar are taking Heavy Equipment Maintenance for Technicians.

Originally established in 1981, SOC operates the Raguba field in the central part of the Sirte Basin. The field is connected by pipeline to the main line between the Nasser field, one of the largest in Libya, and Marsa el-Brega. Besides Nasser, SOC is in charge of two other

gas fields -- Attahadi and Assumud -- plus the Marsa el-Brega liquefied natural gas plant.

Some of the trainees are married and have brought their families with them. We welcome them to College of the North Atlantic and to Newfoundland and Labrador!

Celebrating the Chinese New Year... in China

The Lunar New Year is the most celebrated event by the Chinese. This means that during the past week, about one fifth of the world's population sparked up incense sticks, feasted on dumplings and cheerily shouted "Xin Yun Quai Le!"

I'm in China, working with College of the North Atlantic on a six month CIDA internship, positioned at Southern Yangtze University in a small city called Wuxi. The coming of the New Year meant that I had a vacation from work. Pleasantly surprised, I used the opportunity to take a week long trip to Beijing where I would say goodbye to the year of the Monkey and hello to the Year of the Rooster. I made plans with another intern positioned in China from Newfoundland named Melissa. We had never met each other before but had been put in contact through email. I was excited to spend a week in Beijing and also to spend it with a fellow Newfoundlander! We met at a KFC across the street from the Beijing Railway Station and spent the week doing everything that should be done during spring festival in Beijing. This included shouting "Happy New Year" in Chinese at anyone and everyone.

Like the rest of China's residents we indulged in seven days of relaxation. The term "relaxation," however, is to China what rush hour is to Canada. The holiday brought respite from the daily routine, but with it came a form of chaos unique only to China. The clatter of chopsticks and teapots, firecrackers, bells and gongs, and street vendors yelling "yao,

bu yao?" rose to a crescendo on February 9th. Melissa and I joined in the havoc and the line-ups. We burned incense at the Lama Temple and watched on as millions offered the smoke to their ancestors.

"This temple is very old," said a Beijing man on the steps of the Lama Temple. He was dressed in a fur lined hat and long coat. His gloved hand held his daughter's who was looking up swishing her ponytails back and forth between her dad and us.

"It is a Tibetan Buddhist temple," he added. He was eager to share some of his culture with us, and we were eager to hear it. We asked about the Lunar calendar and Year of the Rooster, and he explained.

According to legend, before Buddha departed earth, he summoned all animals before him. Only twelve animals came to bid him farewell so he rewarded each of them with a year. The Rooster is the symbol of the 10th year in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese lunar calendar. All the years in the Chinese cycle are represented, in sequence, by the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

"The New Year truly begins with the new moon," he said. "It is now 4703, the Rooster's year." I exclaimed, "4703! In Canada it is only 2005." He laughed and said, "no." His daughter smiled.

[Continued on following page>>](#)



Shelly Hobbs, the "American-Chinese teacher" has gotten to know this group more than others. They are the highest level first-year EFL class, many of whom want to study abroad.

Building renamed in honour of educator

At a ceremony attended by several Ministers of Cabinet, Bay St. George campus' Stephenville Crossing building was named the Martin Gallant Building – in honour of the institution's longest serving principal.

Gallant began as a Carpentry instructor at the building, which first opened as a vocational school in 1963, and by 1966 was appointed Principal of the institution. He served in this capacity until 1977, when vocational schools in the Bay St. George area were combined to create one community college, at which time Gallant was appointed Assistant Director. He remained with the institution until 1981, when he retired as Vice President of Administration and Operations.

The ceremony was attended by government's Social Policy Committee of Cabinet including members John Ottenheimer, Minister

of Health and Community Services, Tom Marshall, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Tom Osborne, Environment and Conservation Minister, Jack Byrne, Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, Dianne Whalen, Government Services Minister, Joan Burke, Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, and Tom Hedderson, Minister of Education. Hedderson and Burke each spoke of Martin Gallant's commitment to the post-secondary system in the province, as did former faculty Rosemary Finn, Robert Rideout, Director of Administration, Michael Tobin, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, and Gallant's daughter Laura.

It was an eventful evening – well attended and exceptionally catered by Bay St. George's culinary arts students.



The Minister of Education, Tom Hedderson (right) presents Martin Gallant with a commemorative plaque.

<<Chinese New Year from previous page

Melissa and I followed along with the crowds to the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and to park after breathtaking park. We ended the day at Beihai Park, a park dominated by a huge lake dug by Kublai Khan in the 12th century. There we found a happy group of people skating around in ice skates, their regular walking shoes, or... chairs! We paid 20 Chinese RMB and rented a two-seater. We moved about the lake by pushing along with our poles, (strips of metal duct-taped to screwdrivers). At first we were pretty clumsy, but after a bit of practice we were paddling in sync to the beat of "mush...mush...mush!" All across the lake rosy-cheeked children, adults and elders were whizzing around, some playing a Chinese chair-skating version of bumper cars. Others were running about with sparklers. It was whole-hearted fun, but finally our arms were exhausted and our cameras were out of memory space. It was time to call it a day.

We hadn't planned to stay awake the entire night as is Chinese tradition on the New Year, but the steady bang of fireworks kept us up

anyway. Fireworks displays are banned in Beijing because of the fire hazard it represents to an ancient city with hundreds of wooden temples. This law didn't stop the happy hearted and celebratory citizens during spring festival. One section of the sky would colorfully come to life and return to blackness as quickly as if nothing at all had happened. As quickly as that section went dark another lit up making the Beijing skyline a patchwork of brilliant reds and yellows.

There was only one thing left to do before we left China's great capital: the Great Wall! We were up at daybreak and navigated our way by metro line, long distance bus and mini van to a section of the wall called *Simitai*. Since the temperature was an icy -10 degrees Celsius and New Year celebrations continued throughout the city, the wall was nearly deserted. Besides the two of us Newfoundland ladies, there were only a few *Simitai* farmers. Climbing the wall was a test of physical endurance. Instead of walking the entire 19-kilometre, incredibly steep section of *Simitai*, we hiked as far as we could in three hours. It was the most



In China they celebrate the New Year by gathering together outdoors to light up incense and firecrackers.

exhilarating and awe inspiring three-hour walk of my life!

We stood on top of one of *Simitai's* 135 watchtowers eating granola bars and staring out at endless mountain peaks and mist. It was a fitting end to our seven-day Beijing trip and a great way to start a new year.

Xin Yun Quai Le!

Shelly Hobbs, CIDA Intern

Project ICE Update

The college has reached the final milestone in the implementation of PeopleSoft. On February 21st, the Student Administration component of PeopleSoft was implemented. This culminates a series of implementation milestones which began with the deployment of PeopleSoft Student Administration, Finance, and HR systems in Doha on October 3 and the Finance and HR/Payroll systems in Newfoundland and Labrador in October-December, 2004.

On February 22, 2005 the college held a Project ICE wrap up session at Headquarters. Deloitte and CNA functional and technical resources met and conducted workshops to plan the future development of PeopleSoft within the organization.

This completes phase I of the PeopleSoft implement at the college where Deloitte and CNA worked closely together to deploy this functionality. College functional and technical personnel climbed a very significant learning curve during this project. Many people worked

long and late days and nights to get the job done. The college is therefore well poised to begin the next phase of the project which will result in the deployment of significant new functionality in Student Administration, Finance, and HR/Payroll. Over the next several months, the IT group in consultation with

"Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the project team and many others, the project was completed on time and on budget."

functional departments, will concentrate on deploying web self-service functionality in various functional departments. For example, efforts will be underway shortly to provide EPAY functionality in HR whereby employees will be able to view their pay advice on-line. Many other similar E-Service modules will be explored in other functional areas.

"Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the project team and many others, the project

was completed on time and on budget. The implementation partners from Deloitte say we set a new record for the quickest implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning solution, with the process completed in just 10 months. This is particularly significant given the fact that implementation involved another

country on the other side of the globe," says Robert Rideout, Director of Administration.

"This project has laid a significant foundation in the college on which we can build," says Wayne

Hann, Project Leader.

"With this foundation, many administrative and academic areas will see increased functionality over the next months and even years. It will ultimately culminate in improved service to our most valued client, the student. I congratulate college personnel for a job well-done!"

Alumni Update



By Laura Edwards
Manager of Alumni and Advancement

College Hosts Provincial Alumni Association Launch

Thursday, February 3rd saw the provincial launch of the College's Alumni Association from the Prince Philip Drive campus in St. John's. Alumni and special guests gathered for the celebration hosted by alumnus and editor of *The Independent*, Ryan Cleary (he replaced Sabrina Whyatt, who was originally scheduled to host, but was recovering from

the flu). Thank you Ryan!

The event was a success and included an ice-breaker with Barry Green, fabulous food prepared by our culinary arts students at Prince Philip Drive, entertainment by alumnus Darrin Martin, and the announcement of the winner of our Free Gas For a Year contest, Tammy Dillon, Dip. Computer Studies MIS, 1999.

The Alumni Association was officially launched with a cake cutting by President Pamela Walsh, student representative Vickie Linegar and alumnus Ryan Cleary.

We were pleased to distribute official alumni pins to those present and will have these available at all future alumni events province-wide. In addition, we will present pins to graduates as they officially become alumni on graduation day.

Thanks to all staff and volunteers who helped in the planning and thanks to alumni and friends who attended. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Lucky graduate wins free gas for a year

As mentioned above Tammy Dillon of Paradise was the winner of our Free Gas For a Year contest, with our alumni partner North Atlantic Petroleum. The promotion ran until December 31, 2004 where all alumni

who registered with the association before the end of the year were entered in the draw. Rod Dunne, Sales Manager with North Atlantic, was on hand to give out the prize. The prize consisted of numerous \$25 and \$50 vouchers totaling \$2,000 redeemable for gas or products from North Atlantic Petroleum and home heating stores.

A great prize! Congratulations Tammy and thanks again to North Atlantic Petroleum and those who entered.

Graduation 2005

Graduation season will soon be upon us and we wish our newest group of CNA alumni luck with final exams. To all faculty and staff, we hope you will encourage the Class of 2005 to stay in touch after graduation and please let them know the Alumni Association is a great way to stay connected with the college and one another. They will become automatic members upon graduation, and to update their contact information they can visit www.cna.nl.ca/alumni or email alumni@cna.nl.ca.

The college is delighted to offer these services to the Class of 2005 and to all alumni:

- Official College of the North Atlantic Alumni pins that will be presented to each graduate at graduation;
- Beautiful College of the North Atlantic diploma frames available for order on our website www.cna.nl.ca/alumni or at the PPD bookstore;
- Bi-monthly e-newsletters filled with college news and events – with a special graduation issue in June;
- Access to career services and invitations to attend career information sessions when recruiters visit campuses;
- Opportunities to return as ambassadors, student recruiters, guest speakers, volunteers and mentors;
- Free lifetime access to the college's libraries; and
- Free membership in the College of the North Atlantic Alumni Association.

As always, your comments and feedback are welcome. We can be reached at 709-758-7515 or email alumni@cna.nl.ca. Thanks!

North Atlantic Refinery donates equipment

Shortly after starting work at Burin campus in September 2004, Tom Eastman, instructor for the new Industrial Instrumentation Mechanic program, made contact with various industries throughout the province looking for used instrumentation that he might be able to obtain for his program.

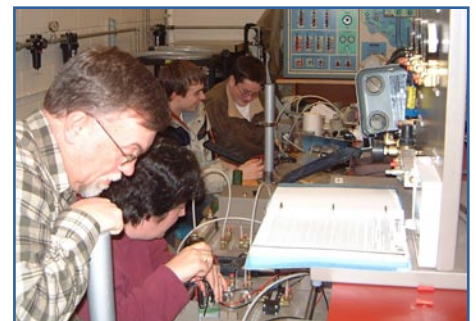
He was invited to visit the North Atlantic Refinery in Come By Chance in December. He was expecting to receive some broken equipment that he could use in his class. He did – a non-functional flue gas analyzer, various bits of tubing, manual valves and so on. He was also given a wide array of operational pneumatic and electronic control valves, and pressure, temperature, and flow transmitters. Although this equipment has reached the end

of its reliable working life in industry, it all appears to be operational.

Some of it is "old style" mechanical and pneumatic sensors, but there was a significant number of modern, expensive "smart transmitters." In one visit, Tom has been able to equip his shop with industrial sensors that reflect the kinds of equipment our graduates will encounter when they begin their careers. He estimates that, if bought new, the college would have had to spend about \$40,000 to get the same equipment. Tom has happily spent the time between Christmas and New Year's cleaning, checking, and refurbishing the donated equipment.

CNA is indebted to North Atlantic Refinery – this will be a big boost to the program. Tom

also deserves kudos for having the enthusiasm and drive to make the initial contacts and chase down this opportunity. Thank you Tom and a big thank you to North Atlantic Refinery – this has been a wonderful Christmas gift!



Instrumentation Mechanic students at Burin work with equipment donated from North Atlantic Refinery.

Staff receive recognition and publication

Congratulations!

Wade Parsons, Mathematics instructor at Ridge Road Campus, along with co-author R.E. Baddour from the Institute for Ocean Technology, has had his paper accepted for the Offshore International Conference on Offshore Mechanics and Arctic Engineering, taking place in Halkidiki, Greece in June. The paper is entitled *Studies in the Stability of a Numerical Wave Tank Model for the Generation and Propagation of Steep Nonlinear Long-crested Surface Waves*.

Congratulations Wade!

Instructor showcased in national publication

Sharon Puddester, Visual Arts instructor at Bay St. George campus, is one of several artists whose work is included in *The Power of Place*, a national touring exhibition of art created at St. Michael's Printshop. St. Michael's is an artists' graphics workshop in St. John's that has attracted hundreds of Canadian and international artists for some 30 years and continues to thrive.

Puddester is also showcased in *The Power of Place – St. Michael's Printshop and 30 Years of Printmaking in Newfoundland*. The catalogue was created to accompany the tour and profiles the 13 artists whose work was chosen for the event.

Patricia Grattan, exhibition curator, notes in the book's introduction that "St. Michael's has changed the nature of artmaking in Newfoundland by attracting and retaining artists; by enabling them to make prints of the highest quality; by connecting them with artists elsewhere..."

Puddester's biography is found on page 12 of the book and two pieces of her work – *The Weaver's Nest – Golden Eggs for David and Amelia* and *The Swimmers* (a triptych) are profiled on pages 38 and 39.

As an artist who availed of the shop early in her career, and as former coordinator of the facility, Puddester says she is thrilled to be

included.

"It's an honor to be a part of it," she says.

Instructor recognized by international journal

Wayne Eastman, Coordinator of Applied Arts, Access and Early Childhood Education at Corner Brook Campus, has recently been made co-editor of the *Journal of Early Childhood Development*. The international journal is published by Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The other co-editor is Dr. Kishor Shrestha, Tribhuvan University. The publication is unique in that it is Nepal's first and only publication dealing with the academics of early childhood development, and contains articles from authors of many different countries.

The publication is the direct outcome of the World Forum Networking Project Research Grant between Dr. Shrestha who works in the Research Center for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID), Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal and Dr. Eastman. Dr. Eastman visited CERID under the World Forum Networking Project in 2002 and was instrumental in getting the journal off the ground.

In the preface of the journal's recently published Volume II, Professor Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya, Executive Director of the CERID at Tribhuvan University writes: "The publication of the Journal of Early Childhood Development is the direct outcome of the World Forum Networking Research Grant between Dr. Kishor Shrestha of this centre and Dr. Wayne Eastman of the College of the North Atlantic, Canada.

"His visit was highly beneficial for continuation of the publication of the Journal and development of the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre at CERID," states Bajracharya.

As a direct result of one of the papers in the journal, Eastman has been invited to present at an international conference in Prague, Czech Republic at the end of June.

Cultivating a successful agriculture industry

The first 'crop' of students in the new AgriBusiness program is knee-deep into the first semester.

The 60-week program, launched January 17 at Carbonear campus, is a first for the province. The program combines crop production and secondary processing with business development to provide a practical curriculum based on classroom and hands-on training.

Chris Turpin, coordinating instructor for the program, explains that while students are actively developing a business plan, doing market research and acquiring skills necessary to operate a self-sustainable agribusiness, they will be gaining practical, hands-on training at Spruce Hill Experimental Farm in Heart's Content.

"The 'classroom' for the agribusiness program consists of a state-of-the-art greenhouse facility attached to St. Francis School

in Harbour Grace, acres of farmland at Spruce Hills Experimental Farms in Trinity Bay, a federally inspected secondary processing plant located at Carbonear campus, and a fully functional Internet enabled classroom," he says.

"Students are naturally anxious to begin actual production and get their hands dirty. The greenhouse module is scheduled to begin in a couple of weeks, and production will be geared around the spring planting at Spruce Hills Experimental Farms."

Turpin says that approximately three acres will be under production at the farm, and students are able to investigate the business and science around this activity as well as the secondary processing opportunities that may have potential after the harvest in the fall.

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) is providing \$236,735 to the college for this new program under its Business

Development Program. An additional \$77,000 in federal and provincial funding is being provided under the Canada-Newfoundland Agricultural Policy Framework (APF).



One of the 'classrooms' for the agribusiness program is of state-of-the-art greenhouse facility attached to St. Francis School in Harbour Grace.

Program helps youth take STEPS for the future

By Melissa O'Quinn

Much to the satisfaction of parents and teachers alike, selected students at one St. John's high school seem to be 'stepping' in the right direction.

STEP - Student Transition to Educational Programs - is a Co-op program that provides Level III (Grade 12) high school students with an in-depth experience of first-year college/university life.

It allows them to take real post-secondary courses such as marketing and biology; it also enables them to participate in experiential learning through work placements at either an outside business or within the college or university.

It was introduced by Gonzaga High School in September of 2003, in collaboration with College of the North Atlantic (CNA), Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN), and the Department of Education.

John Hennebury, facilitator of STEP, has been involved with the program since it began and says it is great because it ensures that students are making more effective transitions to post-secondary educational opportunities.

"It really is a no-brainer," said Hennebury. "We should have been doing this 30 years ago."

The program actually comes in two steps, the first being the selection of post-secondary courses to be completed by students during either their current academic school year or through the summer. The courses chosen by the students are usually ones of personal interest that will help guide them towards a

specific career path.

The second step involves a work placement that's related to their career interests. The placement usually takes place in the college/university environment, but it may also take place in the wider community. During the placement, students often complete a variety of projects and help with research initiatives at the post-secondary level.

In addition to these benefits, STEP offers another bonus: the choice between two recognized, creditable educational facilities - CNA or MUN. Depending on what type of career path they want to take, students can choose which school offers the best educational choices for their decision.

According to Len White, principal of Gonzaga High School, 73 per cent of STEP students achieved a mark of 80 per cent or higher on their completed post-secondary courses while only half way through their final year of high school. The overall average attained by all students involved in the STEP program was 79 per cent.

This past year, Gonzaga students Katrina Hanlon and Chris Smith both chose College of the North Atlantic as their desired learning facilitator.

Hanlon worked with CNA's Cooperative Education office, and Smith completed his work-term with CNA's Civil Engineering Technology program, under the supervision of instructor Harold Miles. Both say they couldn't be happier with their decisions to do the program.

"I think cooperative education is a necessary step in the curriculum of high schools,"

said Smith. "If more students were to get involved, general awareness and the overall success of finding a job would increase."

Miles agrees.

"The STEP program is a good concept for the student who has an idea of what he or she wants to do after high school. It provides an opportunity to see if the actual program which the student is considering is similar to the idea the student has in his or her head," said Miles.

Even the students' parents have been singing the STEP program's praises. Katrina Hanlon's mother, Martina, feels it's an excellent way to plan for the future.

"It really gives students a chance to test their time management, responsibility, communication and adaptation skills, and I believe it gives them some knowledge of what it will be like once they attend post-secondary school," said Hanlon.

While the program is only offered at Gonzaga High School right now, Hennebury hopes other schools will eventually get involved, as the need for skill development is infinite.

He says the program could, and should, be adapted to other regions throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, given this province has the highest youth unemployment rate in the country. However, Hennebury says that a collaborative effort by all stakeholders must take place.

"Our Department of Education must see merit in the program and be willing to support its enhancement and expansion throughout the province."

C³ holds conference in St. John's

College Chemistry Canada (C³) is holding its 32nd conference in St. John's, June 16-19, 2005.

C³ is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the teaching of chemistry at the senior high school, college and first and second year university levels.

The organizers are currently soliciting papers and posters to be presented at the conference. The theme of the conference is "Chemistry on the Rock" and they are looking for presentations related to any aspect of chemistry in Newfoundland and Labrador. A keynote presentation will be given by a representative from INCO on the hydromet process. Other presentations will be given by the president of Memorial University and representatives from local industry as well as from the academic community.

As mentioned above, presentations on any chemistry topic relevant to our province are welcomed, for example, neutraceuticals and bio-

chemicals from plants or from fish waste. As well, chemistry-related topics of general interest (such as water and sewage treatment, air and water pollution chemistry, etc.) and topics related to chemistry teaching will be welcomed.

For further information or to submit a tentative title of your presentation, please contact Ian McMaster at CNA (mcmaster_ian@yahoo.ca). For a general overview of C³, please visit the websites: www.c3.douglas.bc.ca and www.mun.ca/c3.

Members of C3 Planning Committee:

Ian McMaster (Chairperson)	College of the North Atlantic
Chris Flinn (Vice-Chair)	Chemistry, MUN
Fred Smith (Treasurer)	Science, MUN
Ed Durnford	Marine Institute, MUN
Peter Fisher	Marine Institute, MUN
Mike Mackey	Chemistry, MUN



Students create winning sculptures at PPD

Prince Philip Drive held its winter carnival in February. Architectural Engineering Technology III took first place with their sculpture of a boat in water, and Civil Engineering Technology III and Civil Engineering Technology II tied for second place. Very inventive!



Appointments

Congratulations to **Robert Dwyer**, who has accepted a temporary assignment as Campus Administrator for Gander campus.

Bob has been with the college since 1990, when he accepted a faculty position with the AME program at Gander campus. In 1998 he was appointed as Chief Instructor of Aircraft Programs and then in 2002 became the Manager of Aviation Programs. In addition to these duties Bob was recently instrumental in the founding of the Aerospace and Defense Industry Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and he represents the college as a director with this association.

Deidre Dunne has been seconded as Associate Director of Human Resources until December 31, 2005. In this capacity she will report to the president and will assume overall responsibility for the Division

of Human Resources.

Deidre has been the College's Labour Relations Officer at Headquarters since April, 2003. Prior to that she worked as Human Resources Advisor with Fairfax County School Board in Virginia, as Human Resources Manager for the Viking Trail Tourism Association and as Human Resources Coordinator for the 1999 Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook.

During this secondment, Jennine McDonald will be seconded as Labour Relations Officer. Jennine is the Human Resources Manager for the St. John's campuses, and has also held the position of Human Resources Manager for the Bonavista, Clarenville, Burin, Placentia and Carbonear campuses.

Bay St. George campus makes special gesture for sick kids

The Student Services department at the BSG Campus meets a couple times a year to plan social activities for staff, among other things. When the group met last November they realized that November 20th was International Children's Day. They decided that instead of

spending money on preparing dishes for a pot-luck or some other meal, they would donate the funds to the Bay St. George Sick Children's Foundation. Jack Cook, representative for the foundation came into the campus in December to accept the \$75 donation.



Kids sculpt in Corner Brook Winter Carnival

Every year the children at Corner Brook campus' daycare centre participate in the Winter Carnival Snow Sculpture Contest. The children love outside play so building a snow sculpture adds to the excitement of winter fun.

This year the children wanted to build a dinosaur which took approximately three weeks with small hands assisting with piling snow, carving, and painting.

The dinosaur in the picture, 10 feet long and 5 feet high, was entered in Corner Brook's Winter Carnival Snow Sculpture Contest 2005 – and won! The prize was \$50 and a plaque. The children at the centre are very excited and planned a pizza party to celebrate!



Corner Brook campus gives generously

Corner Brook campus raised \$1,080 for the Firemen's Toy Drive and collected another \$370 for the local Food Bank at the annual Campus Christmas Dinner in December.

Each year for the past four years, Office 209 and friends have contributed money to

the Toy Drive in a variety of ways. They collect money all year round and especially every January and donate it to a worthwhile cause.

This year the Office Administration II class and instructors decided they would donate toys to the Firemen and their drive. Also, staff

who attended the Campus Christmas Dinner were asked to donate at least a toonie for the pleasure of enjoying a turkey dinner.

It is hoped that families in the Corner Brook area had a merrier Christmas because of the generosity of the campus.

Orientation to Trades and Technology

By Melissa O'Quinn

Trades in the natural resources sector are only for men. Women aren't usually handy with tools and things. The pay in male-dominated trades and technology jobs is not really that much better than jobs traditionally done by women.

These are common misconceptions related to women working in the natural resources sector of the province, according to the Women in Resource Development Committee (WRDC) website.

And though these statements reflect the norm for an earlier time, thanks to programs like Orientation to Trades and Technology (OTT), women today are building successful careers in non-traditional industries.

The program, offered through several College of the North Atlantic (CNA) campuses, was established to prove to women that challenging, high-paying jobs in natural resource industries are available and attainable to them.

The 24-week program, most recently offered at CNA's Seal Cove campus, is designed to give women practical experience in natural resource-based industries, and was established to foster an environment that will increase the participation of women in trades and technology sectors in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"I think that as long as our natural resources sector is being developed and employed by less than five per cent women, we must have programs like OTT," said Anne Marie Anonsen, coordinator of the OTT program.

According to WRDC, only 12 per cent of women work in jobs unique to Newfoundland and Labrador's primary industry. And in these jobs, women make less money.

In 1997, the average salary for all occupations in Newfoundland and Labrador was \$21,167 for women and \$33,185 for men.

In other words, a woman earns less than 70 cents for every dollar earned by a man in the same job.

Deborah Newhook, campus administrator at CNA's Prince Philip Drive campus, says women need to be exploring all career options, reminding themselves that non-traditional careers pay far more than the traditional careers for women. She believes the OTT program is a good first step towards getting jobs in the fishing, mining, forestry, agricultural or petroleum fields.

"The program itself is an exploration program, so when women are finished, it's recommended they go on to a post-secondary institution to start their actual training," said Newhook. "Once the OTT program is completed, they should be able to make realistic



and achievable decisions about what kind of career they're ultimately after."

Anonsen believes women would bring a different perspective to the natural resources sector as a whole.

"Women have strong communication and people skills, and are very good at conflict resolution, which would be an asset to the industry."

Practicing what you preach: Instructor helps produce award-winning film

By Melissa O'Quinn

Some people believe that everything happens for a reason. Glenn Curry is one of those people.

Curry, a digital animation instructor, joined College of the North Atlantic's Bay St. George campus in September of 2001, and has been teaching his students everything he knows about animation ever since.

Curry didn't realize the college would provide a world of opportunities for his own personal passion of animation.

"I am very lucky to have an employer that supports my efforts to not only enrich the program, but to stay current with my personal career as an animator," says Curry.

Prior to his current job at CNA, Curry worked in some interesting places doing some interesting things, all in the name of animation. He's been a concept designer, a T-shirt artist, an illustrator and a storyboard artist. He's worked on several television broadcasts – *Star Hunter*, *Last Call* and the intro to the Rugby National Championships on Rogers Television – and numerous video games for children and adults.

Added to this list are two films: *Frozen with Fear*, and his most recent work, *Pen Pals*, which won an award for Best Short Family Film at the Sarasota Film Festival in Florida, U.S, January 28 – February 6.

Curry says he and his cousin Art Curry, who wrote and directed the film, had always talked about working on something original together and this film gave them the perfect opportunity.

"I wanted to contribute as much quality to the project as I knew Art would demand of himself," says Curry. "That meant it would involve a great deal of effort, but that's all part of the fun."

Pen Pals is a lighthearted story about an animator's pencil, a graphic pen, and their desire to impress a female pencil. The pencil has to 'fight' with the pen in order to win the girl. To do this, they attempt to literally outdraw each other in a good versus evil approach – from a shoot-out between a cowboy and a gunslinger to a duel between a knight and a dragon.

Curry says some of his students helped with the film. He appreciates the fact that they get to apply their learned knowledge; it's also rewarding that he's the one who taught them many of the concepts used.

Curry's students, however, feel they are the lucky ones.

"Glenn has a real impressive understanding of animation," says student, Dave Gale, who helped with *Pen Pals*. "He also has a lot of love and enthusiasm for it."

The Sarasota Film Festival is the largest festival in the south eastern United States – an annual event that attracts the best filmmakers, the hottest stars, distinguished industry guests, and thousands of film



enthusiasts from around the world.

According to their website, the film festival's mission is to present unique, high-quality cinema in a festival atmosphere for the purpose of education, and stimulating and entertaining audiences in an environment that encourages filmmakers. It also supplies essential networking opportunities and open dialogue with creative, intelligent and inquisitive consumers of film.

Curry believes such events are appreciated by filmmakers because of the opportunities they present – showcasing one's work at such a big event is truly an accomplishment. He says he'll always remain dedicated to helping others access these types of opportunities.

"I don't think I'll ever stop looking for new projects," says Curry. "But it's also very rewarding to see students get excited about the work they are producing. I'm fortunate to benefit from both."

Curry, along with his cousin, Art, is pleased the film has done so well. It's already being distributed to different venues around the world for use on television, the Internet or DVD, and once the showcasing is complete, the film will be broadcast from Art Curry's website (www.artcurry.com).

Art believes his cousin's contribution to the film made all the difference.

"I really depended on Glenn's experience to carry the project along, and even though we didn't always see eye to eye, there was always a level of trust there between us," he says. "I'm not sure what the future holds, but I know we will work together again."

The animation industry is an exciting and challenging field and Curry, the instructor, hopes to meet these challenges in the future, both professionally and personally.

"Artistically I'd like to work on some bigger projects as a creator," says Curry.

"Hopefully I'll be able to collaborate with some of my graduates to do just that. I often find I'm learning from the students too, so that's a real plus."



Culinary Arts students of Bay St. George Campus. Photo courtesy of Denise Dunne.

Culinary Arts programs offer a taste of excellence

Last fall Christa Wright, General Manager of the Chicken Marketing Board, and photographer Denise Dunne visited Bay St. George campus to solicit the expertise of Chefs Eric King and Barb Ryan and their team of students in the Baking and Cooking programs. The intention was to create the first edition of a recipe magazine – a collection of original chicken recipes, each one developed and prepared by King and Ryan and their students.

The project was a great success and the publication will debut at the Agrifood and Garden Show in Corner Brook at the Pepsi Centre, April 29th – May 1st.

Wright was excited with the concept at the onset, and once things were rolling at the campus, she realized the great potential for the project.

“I am so excited to present a collection of fabulous chicken recipes from our province’s culinary students. We have collected some healthy, versatile, quick recipes,” says Wright.

“Thanks to College of the North Atlantic for providing us with a week long adventure, knowledge, professionalism and of course, good eating!”

The college, and in particular these programs, were also profiled in *Enjoy!* magazine’s Winter 2005 edition – published by the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation and distributed from all of their locations throughout the province.

Congratulations to instructors and students for a job well done!

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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