

# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

# CURRENTS

## College instructor exhibits original works

Sharon Puddester, Visual Arts instructor at the Bay St. George campus of College of the North Atlantic (CNA), is one of 13 artists whose works are being shown in *The Power of Place*, an exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of St. Michael's Printshop.

The 50-piece exhibition represents three decades of production at St. Michael's – a print production workshop based in downtown St. John's. It is being presented at the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador (AGNL) in St. John's from March 14 to April 27. Organizers expect it to tour several other Canadian venues and Ireland through 2005.

Puddester has been an instructor in the Visual Arts program at Bay St. George campus since 2000 teaching painting, printmaking, and art history. A St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador native, she studied art at Capilano College in Vancouver, BC, and earned a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Education, and a Masters in Philosophy from Memorial University.

Puddester held the first solo exhibition of her prints and paintings entitled "A Part of the Landscape, A Part of the Energy" at the AGNL in 1995. In 2000 her prints were included in an exhibition at the AGNL entitled "Wood: A Sculptural Investigation," which later toured Ireland. Her work is in the permanent collection of The Canada Council, the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Her experience as an artist assists her in teaching students in the arts program at CNA, says Puddester.

"As a visual arts instructor at the college, I think that my exhibition experiences help students to know that they can develop their own professional art practice upon completion of their studies."

The fact that she's had several of her



pieces shown internationally also encourages her students to do the same, says Puddester.

"Aside from the sheer enjoyment of working in the print medium to create their art, students are drawn to the fact that the market for and circulation of original print exhibitions in commercial and public galleries is well established at the international level."

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Right: *The Weaver's Call*, intaglio, 24"x40", 1993.

Left: *The Weaver's Nest (detail)*, intaglio, 24"x40", 1993

# CNA signs new agreement with UCCB

College of the North Atlantic has expanded its transfer or articulation agreement with the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) to include several new programs.

The college's Business Management three-year diploma programs (Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Marketing options) will be accepted under a global transfer agreement, whereby graduates will be eligible to complete a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA) degree within one calendar year at UCCB.

Also, students of UCCB who do not choose to or are unable to complete their requirements for a Bachelor of Business Administration at UCCB may be accepted with advanced standing to relevant CNA programs.

This five-year agreement opens the doors to the exploration of opportunities for both institutions, and gives students a fresh scope of educational choices, says Linda White, Chair of the School of Applied Arts & Business at CNA.

"The new agreement between CNA and UCCB is an example of how we can support graduates to easily move on to enhance their education," says White.

"The fact that graduates of CNA's three-year Business Management diploma programs will be able to complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Business Administration at UCCB in one calendar year is a unique opportunity."

**"We are taking steps to ensure that our graduates have opportunities to pursue further education that best suits their academic interests and career goals."**

Many aspects of CNA and UCCB's current services to students will be incorporated, such as recognition for relevant learning through Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) and challenge for credit, whereby past experience or documented skills, training, or other relevant study may be applied toward a diploma or degree.

College of the North Atlantic has an existing articulation agreement with UCCB through which CNA's two-year Environmental Technology program is accepted as the equivalent of two of the three years in UCCB's Environmental Technology degree program. Another block transfer exists between the two institutions with CNA's Diploma of Applied Arts in Community Studies and Diploma of Applied Arts in Journalism, either of which may be accepted as one year of a three year Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies at UCCB. Additional credits may be awarded on a case by case basis.

Articulation agreements such as these forge partnerships between institutions, says CNA President Pamela Walsh, and create a multitude of options for students.

"We are taking steps to ensure that our graduates have opportunities to pursue further education that best suits their academic interests and career goals," says Walsh.

For more information on CNA articulation agreements and transfer of credits, see the Newfoundland and Labrador Transfer Guide online at: [www.edugov.nf.ca/council](http://www.edugov.nf.ca/council)

# Staff support victims of Badger flood

Employees of College of the North Atlantic are known as a generous lot, so it came as no surprise when they raised in excess of \$5,000 in aid of the Badger Relief Fund.

The money was raised all across the college's campuses as staff held various events in support of the relief fund. Several campuses sent in reports on what they collected.

Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus, after just making a significant donation to the Janeway, pulled together and donated more than \$800 (\$400 from the Local, \$175 from the Rigolet Learning Centre, and \$235 from campus staff).

In Grand Falls-Windsor, staff and students collected \$920 through donations and a 50/50 draw.

Staff and students at Port aux Basques campus collected \$535, with the instructors' Local kicking in another \$100 for a total of \$635.

Baie Verte campus raised \$768 from the faculty Local, student council and staff donations. The campus also acted as a drop off centre for people wishing to send non-perishable goods and personal care products to Badger residents.

In Corner Brook, another \$665 was collected, while the St. John's campuses collected a total of \$2,170 through donations and profits from a pizza sale.

Staff at the WE Cormack Centre in Stephenville donated \$100, and there were countless other individual donations made by staff members of the college to the Red Cross's Badger Relief Fund.

In February, the approximately 1,000 residents of Badger had to be evacuated from the town after water overflowed the banks of the Exploits River and flooded the community.



*Water levels rose more than one metre in a matter of hours, flooding Badger residents out of their homes.*

# President selected for national committee

Pamela Walsh, President of College of the North Atlantic, has been appointed to Industry Canada's National Selection Committee for the Broadband for Rural and Northern Development pilot program.

The panel, including Walsh and 23 other members, was selected by Industry Minister Allan Rock in December 2002 to make recommendations for the development of a sustainable broadband service to First Nation, northern, rural, and remote communities in Canada.

The main focus of the panel will be to review business plans for deployment of services to these areas, and using a competitive process, determine successful applicants. Priority will be given to remote communities with no current internet access.

President Walsh says she is delighted to be a member of the panel, having served on the Federal Government Broadband Task Force in 2000/01. She is pleased to see a major initiative arise out of the Task Force.

"These services will serve to empower communities, encourage business growth, and promote good health care," she says.

**"This program will help address the 'digital divide' between those who have and have not."**

With internet service, remote communities can gain access to video conferencing for medical diagnosis, especially where specialists are needed.

Other opportunities will arise for communities with this service. Businesses in remote locales will have an opportunity to promote their enterprise globally, thus strengthening the economy in that area.

Communities' unique attributes will serve to strengthen their places in the global market.

Learning opportunities will also be fully accessible to these remote areas, as distance education grows through the World Wide Web.

"College of the North Atlantic's Distributed Learning Service (DLS) is a good example of how distance education is growing," says Walsh.

"DLS enrollment is growing at a rate of about 50 per cent each year. But unless you have that connectivity, you cannot participate."

The benefits are endless, says Walsh. Remote areas will be connected to the rest of the world, and will still maintain their unique identity.

"This program will help address the 'digital divide' between those who have and have not," she says.

## The 'ICE' Project – cool

The college has recruited Fujitsu Consulting (formerly known as DMR Consulting) to assist in the development of a request for proposals (RFP) for an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

A contest was established and a vigorous competition ensued to name the project. The winner was Gary Comeau who came up with the name of the 'ICE' project where 'ICE' is an acronym for "International College Environment."

A Steering Committee has been established with membership as follows: Bob Rideout and Brian Tobin, college sponsors; Wayne Hann,

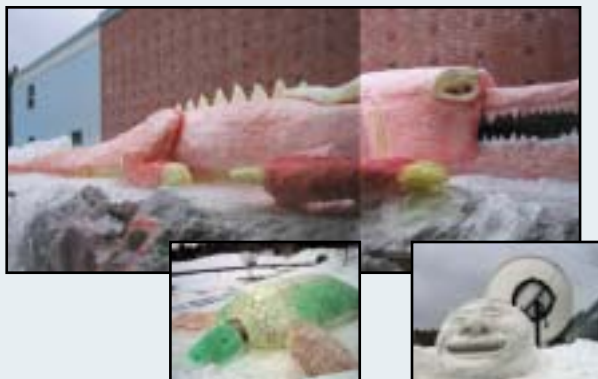
project lead; Marian Andrews and Jim Davis, team leads – Programs; Linda Dunne, team lead – Student Services; Stephen Lee, team lead – Communications; Jennine McDonald, team lead – Human Resources; Annette Morey, team lead – Finance; Brenda Reid, team lead – Campus Operations; Keith Windsor, manager of Budgets and Audits; Dean Batten, Comptroller; Gary Comeau, manager of Information Technology; and Larry Reid, project director, CNA-Qatar.

Fujitsu Consulting members include Ron Singer, project lead, Tania Davies, management consultant, and Paul Sehmbe,

systems architect.

The RFP was released March 27th. It will close by the end of April. The successful software vendor and implementation firm will be selected in early June.

Negotiations will then begin to develop a contract regarding implementation with the successful firm. One of the central themes of the project is that all applicable student services, finance, and HR functions will be web-based in nature with self-service as a requirement. The system will facilitate web-based services such as online registration, drop and add of courses, payment of fees, etc.



## Dragon sighting in Clarendville

Snow sculptures created by students at the Clarendville campus during that area's winter carnival reached new proportions this year with the construction of a 60 foot dragon! The dragon won first place in the contest with a turtle sculpture coming in second and the animated ogre Shrek taking third.



# HEA opens International Student Centre

The Humber Education Alliance (HEA) held the official opening of its International Student Centre in Corner Brook in January.

The centre, located in the Millbrook Mall, offers international students studying in Corner Brook a place to go for information and support.

On hand for the official opening were the Honourable Gerry Byrne, MP for Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte and Minister of State for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA); the Honourable Sandra Kelly, provincial Minister of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education; Corner Brook Mayor Priscilla Boucher; Adrian Fowler, chairperson of the HEA; and Gary Gale, chairperson of the Humber Economic Development Board.

The HEA was developed through the Humber Economic Development Board's education program in 1998. It was formed to recruit international students to educational institutions in western Newfoundland. Partners include School District 3, Academy Canada, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and College of the North Atlantic.

"We are pleased with the response we are getting from international students. Applications to our programs are coming in and we expect students from other countries to arrive on the west coast in September," said Fowler.

The Humber Education Alliance partners have worked together to develop a market study, which identifies target countries and

educational products to attract students from other countries. This study, funded by ACOA, was published in 1999 and is the basis for the program now in operation. In addition, \$278,020 in funding was provided through ACOA last year for the HEA to implement its international student recruitment strategy.

The first recruitment mission through the HEA took place last November in Mexico and Central America. It was extremely successful with some 300 students expressing interest in the western Newfoundland institutions. Six students completed applications and one student is now in place at College of the North Atlantic studying Business at the Bay St. George campus.



Above: Linda Hawkins and Leanne McCarthy – the faces of the Humber Education Alliance.

Below: The opening ceremony for the International Student Centre in the Millbrook Mall, Corner Brook.



## How low can you go?

During a recent professional development session on Process Mapping, facilitator Cy Chaney had participants do a teamwork test. The group each put two fingers on a tent pole held above their heads. The point of the exercise was for the team to lower the pole to the ground while keeping it level. Sounds easy enough... and after about 15 minutes and a lot of laughter, the team was able to get the pole to the floor.

## Appointments

Ed Lundrigan has been appointed as the HR Specialist for District 5. Ed previously worked at Clarenville campus as a Community Relations Officer.

Bob Hearn has been appointed to the position of Associate District Administrator at the Grand Falls-Windsor campus for the period of February 3, 2003 to February 2004. Bob has completed B.A, B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees and has been employed in the college system since 1975 as an instructor, instructional coordinator, and supervisor of instruction. Bob has served as a participant and team facilitator at the ACMDI/ACDI, coordinator at the ACDI, provincial coordinator of the Access to Training and Careers initiative, and has served on the provincial Steering Committee for both the Access to Training and Careers and the Access for Success projects.

# College employee receives national recognition

by Tanya Alexander

Jim Davis of Stephenville has been awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation. Davis and 24 other Canadians made up the first group to be honoured with this newly created national commendation at the fifth annual Ceremony of Remembrance in Ottawa on November 7, 2002.

The commendation was created in 2002 to recognize those citizens who have "made such exemplary contributions through selfless service as a distinguished representative of Canadian veterans, and by generously sharing their legacy of sacrifice with fellow citizens, especially Canada's youth, so that the memory of those who fought and died for our peace might never dim."

Davis is a Program Development Coordinator at College of the North Atlantic Headquarters, and the only recipient of the commendation from Newfoundland and Labrador. He has devoted 32 years to working with youth through the Air Cadet League of Canada, and has worked tirelessly with the Royal Canadian Legion for some 30 years in a variety of volunteer roles ranging from local branch president, provincial president, and as a member of the Legion's national body known as the Dominion Executive Council. After 30 years, he is still involved, and has come full circle to the local branch in Stephenville.

This was the second prestigious award that Davis received in 2002. In May, he was presented with an honorary life membership award for his devotion to adult education in the province by The Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Adult Education (NLAAE) at its Annual General Meeting and Conference in Gander.

He began his service with the Legion after completing a tour with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1968, his Commanding Officer role with the 708 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron in 1975, and his Administration

Officer function as a founding officer with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment's militia unit, C COY.

"Because of my military connection, I wanted to do what I could to stress the importance of remembrance," says Davis.

"Remembrance is the key cornerstone of the Legion's mandate and programs."

The Royal Canadian Legion was originally founded in 1926 to respond to the needs of returning servicemen from WWI. It quickly became an advocate for the welfare of returning soldiers and sailors, as well as a support group providing solidarity for the survivors of the war. When Davis became involved, times were a little different than they are now.

"The Legion was originally made up of veterans of World War I, II, and the Korean War. We actually had approximately 15 World War I veterans here in Stephenville when I was Branch President in the mid 80s," he says.

"Now there aren't many 'traditional' vets left. Instead we are seeing a new breed of veterans who are actively serving their country in different types of military action."

With time, the scope of The Royal Canadian Legion broadened to include issues of remembrance, veteran welfare, senior welfare, and youth and community involvement. This is where Davis has made a major contribution. He developed and had several College of the North Atlantic students help design the Royal Canadian Legion Provincial Command Website. It includes a tribute to the 1916 battle of Beaumont Hamel in France, with historical information, photos, and personal diaries of some who fought in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment. He is also working to take this tribute a step further.

There exists in Beaumont Hamel, an Interpretation Centre which exhibits memorabilia pertaining to the battle. Davis, who is a founding member of "The Friends of



*Davis (right) receives his Commendation from Veterans Affairs Minister Dr. Rey Pagtakhan.*

Beaumont Hamel Society," is hoping to have a replica of the centre established in Newfoundland.

"There is a uniform in the exhibit which was worn by George Hicks – a Captain in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment – who fought and was wounded in the battle," says Davis.

"The uniform will obviously stay in France, but perhaps detailed photos of it and other digital versions of the items there could be incorporated into an exhibit here."

Some suggested sites for the exhibit are Bowring Park, Memorial University, or the Pleasantville training grounds for the regiment – all in St. John's – from where the regiment departed for the war.

Davis is among some 700 Canadians who were initially nominated for their devotion to Canadian Veterans. To be one of the 25 chosen for the newly created award is very special, he says.

"This national commendation is a unique award and it was a humbling experience to sit on the floor of the Senate in the nation's capital among such illustrious people – many of whom fought in these wars."

Lest we forget.



## Instructor selected for national board

At the first meeting of the Board of the Canadian Association of Practical Nurse Educators (CAPNE) on February 5, 2003, Lorraine Brake, LPN program Co-ordinator at Corner Brook campus was selected as the association's first Chairperson. The CAPNE was first formed a year ago in Winnipeg.



The Qatari people in particular, and the Muslim population in general, have been kind, supportive and open. Newfoundlanders are world-renowned for their hospitality and friendliness, but the people here in Qatar could give us a run for our money!

# Letters

**S**orry I haven't written sooner, however time here seems to go quicker than at home. I guess with the beautiful weather we enjoy here, we spend less time behind our computers and more out and around, shopping, sight seeing or just enjoying the sun.

Life here in Qatar has become somewhat tenuous through the news media and our friends and families at home, however nothing has happened here yet to my family or I to justify any fears or insecurity. We have seen military flights here from the first day we arrived and lately they have intensified, but nothing to overly alarm us. A couple of isolated incidents have occurred which would not be anything different from what I was told about prior to coming to the Middle East. I was told that driving here would be a challenge and certainly it does have its moments, but nothing that I have experienced

thus far would make me fear for my life. I've seen some pretty bad car accidents, but none of our staff have been injured to date.

My family and I have traveled all over this state from top to bottom. We have never yet been turned away from any property nor have any local residents indicated to me or my family that we weren't welcome here. We have driven out of the city to the desert many times and have met Bedouins with their herds of goats or camels. They were always friendly and quite willing to pose for us to take their picture. We have attended both state sponsored and industry sponsored events in the desert where we were made very welcome. We also bought a tent and camped out for New Year's night and have gone out in the gulf fishing after which we had a community fish and chips supper at our apartment.

We no less have had our challenges such as what trying to get something done "tomorrow" really means and have taken quite some time to get used to the different lifestyle and of living in this type of arid, dusty, and hot environment. The food is good, the people are friendly, the number of restaurants available is great and the shopping is as good as you'll find anywhere. The resort areas are beautiful and with a vehicle here, my family and I can go about our business and enjoy the good weather considering the alternative of a cold, snowy winter in Newfoundland. I'm sure I'll be proud of the snow once this experience is over, but for now we'll take the palm trees and year around barbecues!

Sincerely,  
Leyon Williams and Family





*Left: Several of the Williams children on a wharf in Qatar.  
Centre: The Williams family meet some Bedouins and their camels.  
Above: A mosque in Chris's neighbourhood.  
Opposite page: The Williams family and friends making a holiday on New Year's day.*

# from Qatar

**W**e've been in Doha since late July of last year. As with moving to any new culture, we went through an adjustment period where we learned the customs and nuances of living in the Middle East in a Muslim society. We found that the Qatari people are extremely friendly and hospitable. We have come to be very fond of our students and are very happy here.

Since the US announced its intention to put Iraq on notice, and even now that the war has started, very little has physically changed. There has been an increase in military supply plane traffic and media coverage of events, but life in Doha proceeds pretty much as it always has.

During the first days of the war, I was nervous and tense, as I assume everyone in the world was. But as time has gone on, I have become less apprehensive and I think, in

part, it is because of what I know about the people I have encountered and befriended since I've been here. The Qatari people in particular, and the Muslim population in general, have been kind, supportive and open. Newfoundlanders are world-renowned for their hospitality and friendliness, but the people here in Qatar could give us a run for our money!

In times of strife, one cannot deny the extra stress and tension that people feel and in an effort to put my Qatari friends more at ease I have become more cognoscente of cultural sensitivities and taboos and am conducting myself with that in mind. The notices from the Canadian Embassy have recommended that we keep a low profile and avoid situations that may place us in a setting that could be conducive to conflict and I've been taking that advice. However, I

still feel safe here and my desire to stay far outweighs my desire to leave.

Chris

With this issue of CURRENTS we were fortunate to have, not one, but two letters from Qatar.

Leyon Williams is a Engineering Technology instructor with our Qatar campus. With him in Qatar is his wife Cathy and his children Kendra-Lee, Stephanie, Vanessa, and Daniel.

Chris Gash is an Information Communications Technology instructor in Qatar. With him is his wife Melanie.

# Mission to Mexico

Delegates from College of the North Atlantic (CNA) and other educational stakeholders in Newfoundland and Labrador attended a career fair in Mexico in February for the purpose of recruiting international students to the province.

The EduCanada Fair included 100 educational institutions from all over Canada, with some 7,700 Mexican students in attendance during the two-day event. Cyril Organ, Associate District Administrator for Bay St. George campus, attended the fair. He says the event was quite different from those he had experienced in Canada.

"Unlike many student-oriented events in Canada, this was an optional activity for Mexican youth," says Organ.

"This means that every one of the 7,700 students in attendance chose to be there."

He stresses that this is no simple feat.

"You have to understand the sheer effort it takes to move about in Mexico – transportation is a nightmare and it takes hours to get to a destination that it would take us only minutes to reach here," says Organ.

"The fact that we had so many show up is an extraordinary occurrence. There was even one particular student who came with her parents and traveled back again the next day; and there were others like her."

The numbers were extremely encouraging, says Organ, and he feels that the effort put forth by the college to attend was worth it.

"Any way you put it, this was a great success. We had hundreds of reply cards filled out with interest in all campuses, with particular interest in many creative arts programs such as Graphic Design, Music Industry and Performance, and Film and Video Production."

**"One of the reasons we had such a high response at our booth was because of the pictures of our living and study environment – clean, safe and beautiful... These are key selling features."**

The career fair was only a portion of the trip's purpose, says Brent Howell, Associate District Administrator for Corner Brook campus. He attended with Organ and four others from the province.

"It was the intention to make contact with a number of secondary schools and government agencies to start the process of recruiting students from Mexico," he says.

"We visited a number of K-12 schools, all of which have a history of students leaving to

study in Canada."

Howell says that the logical follow up is for the college to return to give presentations for these students.

"Nothing is set right now, but it's going to be a necessity to visit again. For now we've started the process of identifying who we need to communicate with and ways to promote and recruit international students to our college."

Six people in all traveled from Newfoundland and Labrador – Organ and Howell from College of the North Atlantic; Leanne McCarthy of the Humber Education Alliance; Patricia Hooper of District 3 School Board; Adrian Fowler, Principal of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College; and Arch Hutchings, Director of International Services, Department of Youth Services and Post Secondary Education.

The group also visited other post-secondary institutions in Mexico, such as Monterrey Tech. Tuition at this technical university costs approximately US \$7,000 per semester. It has 33 campuses with some 150,000 students at any given time. It was great just to get a sense of how things work there, said Howell.

"We realized that the community college system is a relatively unknown commodity there, so we'll have to work a bit harder to make them aware of a system such as ours," he says.

[Continued on next page>>](#)



## Essay Contest

The college recently sponsored a high school essay contest in conjunction with the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters' Newfoundland and Labrador Division (CME-NL). The contest was held in approximately 140 high schools throughout the province. The first place winner was Janine Brophy from St. Kevin's High School in the Goulds. Second place went to Sara Dewling from Herdman Collegiate in Corner Brook. The winners won \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. Taking part in the first place cheque presentation are, from left, Wayne Predham and Don Emberley from Academy Canada, Brophy, Sean McCarthy, vice-president of CME-NL, and Donna Feltham, College of the North Atlantic.



Continued from previous page

"We need to make them aware of the continuum – that is, the possibility for moving to degree programs with transfer of credit from CNA."

Howell says there was a great interest in post diploma programs and particularly English as a Second Language (ESL) for university students looking to improve their English after they graduate.

"They were enthralled by our Adventure ESL program. One of the reasons we had such a high response at our booth was because of the pictures of our living and study environment – clean, safe and beautiful," he says.

"These are key selling features."

A unique opportunity also presented itself to Organ during the visit. When the September 11th tragedy occurred in 2001, many passengers of American and Mexican-bound destinations were rerouted to Stephenville and were hosted by College of the North Atlantic for several days. While

securing accommodations, food and care for these waylaid travelers at his campus, he forged several friendships – some were Mexicans.

While on the career fair mission, Organ had the opportunity to reunite with one couple in particular – something he never thought he'd get to do.

"It was amazing to touch base with some of those former stranded passengers – Paul Birbil, a visual artist and his wife Tinui, a prima ballerina. We had kept in touch, but I never really thought I'd see them again."

As a result, Organ has prepared a proposal to host a visiting artists' tour for the couple, who are established artists in their home country and abroad.

Another unique opportunity arose when the group was invited to Centro Culinario Ambrosia – a culinary institution in Mexico where some of CNA's Commercial Cooking students are currently studying. Three of CNA's students assisted with the dinner for 20, developing the menu and helping to serve the nine-course meal. The hospitality, says Organ,

was extraordinary.

"It was a rare opportunity to see some of our students in action during an exchange program."

Organ says challenges exist for students wanting to go to Mexico for exchange, and for those students wanting to come here.

"Transportation was difficult. Just the time it took to go from the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador through to major centres within Canada alone was a real nuisance," he says.

The other challenge will be the adjustment for students when visiting such a different culture. Canadians need to be sure they have all shots required for international travel.

But challenges aside, he says all those he encountered in Mexico were extremely keen on relationship-building and a future of exchange and training with CNA.

"Overall, my experience with this trip reinforced my belief that Mexicans are more like Newfoundlanders than any foreign folk I've met. They are as rich in tradition and hospitality as we are."

## Instructor donates proceeds to scholarship

One business management student got a surprise scholarship this year thanks to the generosity of faculty member Sean Burke.

Burke recently proof read a text book being published by Nelson Thompson Learning and for his efforts was given a \$500 honorarium. Instead of taking the money however, Burke asked that it be put toward a scholarship for a student in the Business Management (Human Resources) program.

The provincial awards committee, chaired by Donna Feltham, selected as the recipient for this award Shannon George, a second-year student studying at Grand Falls-Windsor campus. She was chosen based on academic merit and has the highest weighted average in her program.

In a letter to Burke, Feltham said deferring the honorarium toward a scholarship is quite admirable.

"We sincerely appreciate it, and I am sure it will

be appreciated by the recipient. Student debt load is quite high as you know, and any effort to ease that burden for our students is certainly appreciated," she said.

Student Services Director Brian Tobin echoed those sentiments.

"This is a very noble act and speaks volumes to Sean's commitment to our students," he said. "I'm sure it will be very much appreciated by Shannon."



## Many thanks for the donations!

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Chefs and Cooks, St. John's Branch, recently donated a dessert show case, a Pannini machine and a refrigerator cooler to the Culinary Arts programs at Prince Philip Drive campus. From left, Patricia Dooley, Chef instructor, entry level Culinary Arts program and Education Chairperson, Chefs Association; Deborah Newhook, Associate District Administrator, PPD; Vince DeNillo, Executive Chef, Battery Hotel and Suites, and Treasurer, Chefs Association; and Gerry Crewe, Chef instructor, advanced level Culinary Arts program, and President, Chefs Association.

# Weight loss group growing while they shrink

Several issues ago we told you about the New Employee Wellness Centre at Clarenville campus. Well, the centre is being well used by employees at the campus and some have even formed a weight loss group and are having great success.

Iris Phillips, one of the founders of the group, says the 13 active members of the group had lost a collective 118 pounds as of the end of January!

"I am a member of the Wellness Centre Committee, and I was looking for things to do to get the staff here using the centre on a regular basis," says Phillips. "The HR department suggested the idea of a weight loss group, which would include regular exercise. We sent an e-mail to the staff and had our first meeting and weigh-in on September 3."

The group originally began with nine members. Several dropped out for various reasons, but since Christmas they had three new members sign up. Phillips says they are growing while they shrink!

"We are all sort of experimenting with various diet/healthy eating plans and trying to see what works for us individually. We have people with different medical conditions that require certain dietary needs. We are still on a learning curve here; what works for me may not work for someone else," she says.

The group has two mandatory exercise days per week and they can choose to exercise with the group or alone. As least one of the two days is spent using the equipment at the Wellness Centre.



Members of the weight loss group include: front from left, Mona Martin, Judy Cole, Holly Morris. Back, Sylvia Belbin, Bev Janes, Adrienne Goodman, Shawn Reid, Iris Phillips, and Dana Feltham. Missing are Nicholas Donovan, Dulcie Drodge, Mavis Penney, and Lee Warren.

"We have some in the group who like to do various work-out tapes, others like to go for a walk outside, still others like to use the exercise equipment each day. The main thing to remember is that we have to do activities that we enjoy, otherwise it becomes a chore and we lose the desire to continue."

The group holds a weekly weigh-in on Friday mornings. They each bring a piece of fruit or other healthy snack to contribute to a basket. Once everyone weighs in, they determine who has lost the most weight for the week, and that person gets to take the fruit home. At this time they also discuss the various things they did during the week to lose weight and decide if those things worked or not.

"The group members will support someone if they haven't lost any weight that week, and likewise, they will cheer the ones who have lost," Phillips says. "We have set up a payment system for anyone who wants to participate. If you gained during the week, the fee is 25 cents per pound. This is an entirely optional part of the process. Some of our members need this type of discipline to help them get back on track."

Ultimately, Phillips says the goal is to learn to eat healthy and live healthy.

"I think that is the biggest motivator for the group as a whole. For me, personally, I look at my age, my family history, and my weight, and I don't like the look of where I'm headed; so I'm trying to change that."



## Gary Bourne Award

College of the North Atlantic employee A. Guy Penney has been awarded the 2002 Gary Bourne Award.

The award was created in honour of the late Gary Bourne, CGA, a past president and dedicated member of the Certified General Accountants Association (CGA). The CGA of Newfoundland and Labrador established the Gary Bourne Award in 1998 to recognize members of CGA Newfoundland and Labrador who have provided significant contributions to the association at the committee, chapter and/or board levels.

Penney (pictured left) received the award at the CGA's Admission to Membership and Presentation of Awards Ceremony on November 16, 2002. The award was presented by Andrea Bourne, daughter of the late Gary Bourne.

# Ridge Road a busy spot

While there is no such thing as a college campus that isn't busy, Ridge Road, being the Centre of Excellence for Engineering Technology, is usually involved in interesting international projects.

For instance, Bruce Barbour and Raj Jani, engineering technology faculty from the campus, recently returned from Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, India where they provided DACCUM training to industry. The trip was in conjunction with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the Canadian International Development Agency. Educational clients were sponsored by the Canadian India Institute Linkage Project.

Also, Bob Kenny, program development coordinator, is doing a project with Nina Naumenko of Cambrian College, also in Pollachi, India to develop a module to be integrated into the Environmental Technician diploma program for the Nachimuthu Polytechnic there.

Presently Ridge Road campus is hosting two faculty members – Dengke Tian, Computers and IT and JianPei Lu, Telecommunications – who are from Southern Yangtze University, Wuxi, China. They will be in St. John's for the next three to four months to observe the college's teaching methods.

And in January, the campus was represented by Gary Tulk, Jan Cowan, Elvis

Pittman and Wayne Burton at the Skills Canada Workshop to prepare for the upcoming Provincial Skills Canada Competition. The provincial competition will take place on Friday, May 2 at the Prince Philip Drive campus. The national competition will take place in Waterloo, Ontario from May 29 to June 1. The World's takes place this year in Switzerland from June 11-26.

All faculty and administrators are anticipating much success with this competition and are looking forward to our students participating at the Nationals in Waterloo, Ontario, and hopefully the world competition in Europe.

# First year of programs under review

The first meeting of a committee formed to conduct a review of the first year of the engineering technology programs was held in Stephenville in February.

Formal reviews of college programs provide for continuous quality improvement and ensure they meet the changing needs of the labour market.

A major outcome of the first meeting was the formation of a number of working teams to lead various aspects of the review. These areas include: Data Collection; Research; Communication/Consultation Protocols; Curriculum Review; and Preparatory Processes.

The team began a formal consultation process in mid-March to seek input from the various external and internal individuals and agencies involved.

It is expected that the committee's report should be submitted by December 2003 with possible implementation next September.

Members of the review team include: Cyril Farrell, Director of Programs; Greg Chaytor, Chair, School of Engineering and Information Technology; Robert Kenny, Program Development Coordinator; Linda Dunne, Registrar; Everett Fancy, ADA Ridge Road (RR) campus; Gary Tulk, Coordinating

Instructor, RR; Roger Angel, Coordinating Instructor, RR; Chris Brown, Academic Instructor, RR; Laurie Tulk, Guidance Councilor, Prince Philip Drive campus; Jim Manning, Coordinating Instructor, Burin campus; Jane Hogan, Coordinating Instructor, Corner Brook campus; Jennifer Langdon, Finance; David Hiscock, Academic Instructor, Gander; Chad Simms, FYET Instructor, St. Anthony; Robin Walters, ADA Labrador West; and Cyril McCarthy, Employer Representative, Department of Municipal Affairs.

# Programs receive accreditation

The last two Engineering Technology programs at Ridge Road campus received accreditation last month.

On February 12, Barry Tucker, vice president of the Association of Engineering Technicians and Technologists of Newfoundland, in conjunction with the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, presented the accreditation certificates for Electronics Engineering Technology (Instrumentation) and Mechanical (Manufacturing) Engineering Technology to campus officials.

Congratulations are extended to the administration, faculty, staff and students at Ridge Road.



Left: Electronics Engineering Technology (Instrumentation) instructor Paul Dawson, AETT President Barry Tucker.



Right: Mechanical (Manufacturing) Engineering Technology instructor Steve Hicks, AETT President Barry Tucker.



# DL students have enhanced access to library resources

Students enrolled in Distributed Learning courses though the college can now get access to a number of college library services resources through their course web sites.

Each DL course web site currently provides students (and faculty) with direct links to the college's OPAC (iLink), Electric Library Canada, Bigchalk Library Canada, the Canadian Business Resource (formerly the Bluebook of Canadian Business), and CBCA Fulltext Reference. ELC, BLC, and CBR could already be accessed directly from any college computer, but students using a non-college computer required a username and password.

The access to CBCA FR was even more restrictive, as students wanting to use this database had to go in-person to a subscribing campus library and be logged on by a staff member. As the DL course sites are already password-protected, the different vendors have no problem with providing direct access from these sites to their databases. As a result, DL students have gone from having very limited access to library services resources to, in some respects, having better access than on-campus students.

It is hoped to eventually use a password-protected login through iLink to provide all College of the North Atlantic students and staff with this same, enhanced access to library services resources.

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 such 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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Prince Philip Drive

Publisher Division of College  
Development

