

Techsploration Program teaches girls about trades occupations

A new program called Techsploration, being offered in eight schools within the Avalon East School Board, will provide girls in Grade 9 with opportunities to explore trades, technical, and technology-related occupations.

Launched today from the Prince Philip Drive campus of College of the North Atlantic, Techsploration is a project of the Women in Resource Development Committee (WRDC) in partnership with the Avalon East School Board and the college.

“This program is intended to be inclusive of all girls, including those from various levels of academic achievement, from diverse cultural backgrounds, and girls with special needs,” says Jan Foley, Education Coordinator with the WRDC.

“It will provide these girls with the opportunities to explore trades and technology-related jobs, while creating an awareness about the critical role of work in their lives. It will also help them understand the significance of high school math and science to their future careers.”

The Techsploration program will run until June at Stella



Going for gold!

The team of Barb Ryan, Eric Hynes and Jay Stuckless (missing), representing the Bay St. George campus, won the top prize in the senior division of the Provincial Culinary Competition held at the college's Prince Philip Drive campus Feb. 9. The Bay St. George team was the only team from outside the St. John's area to take part in the competition. The team received tremendous support from the community and businesses, receiving supplies from Nestle Canada, two sets of Grohmann knives (an \$800 value) from the Grohmann company, and financial assistance from the Newfoundland Chefs Association to help cover the expenses of airfare and accommodations.

Maris in Trepassey, Mobile Central High in Mobile, Frank Roberts Junior High in Foxtrap, Mount Pearl Intermediate in Mount Pearl, St. John Bosco in Shea Heights, St. Michael's High in Bell Island, and Holy Cross Junior High and Brother Rice Junior High in St. John's.

The program will be run in teams with each team including

six girls, a teacher and a female role model. Each student will be assigned a trades or technology occupation to research and will be introduced to a career planning model they can continue to use for the rest of their lives. The research component includes an interview with a

Certified Information Technology Programmers hold graduation ceremony

The Corner Brook Campus, College of the North Atlantic celebrated the graduation of the Certified Information Technology Programmers on Friday January 11, 2002. Eleven students were awarded diplomas. This is the second group of students to graduate from this program. The first group graduated in July, 2001.

This program was initiated through a partnership with Advanced Training & Services Inc. from New Brunswick and College of the North Atlantic. Advanced Training & Services (ATS) NFLD Inc. is a leading

computer consulting and training company which is new to the province and presently operates an office in Corner Brook. ATS has a need for fifty industry certified IT specialists. The company specializes in providing computer training, application development and support to clients operating in the Microsoft NT4 environment. These graduates of the Certified Information Technology Program who have obtained industry certification will commence work with ATS NFLD Inc. on Monday.

Glenn Dicks, District Administrator presented the diplomas. Also, in attendance were Instructor Paul Carter, Sharon Mclennon of NATI, and Denise Baker and Des Whelan representing ATS.

Graduates from the program include: Stephen Christopher, Ian Graham, Stacie Gregory, Velma Hicks, Colin Humber, Shannon March, Christopher Noseworthy, Susan Rumbolt, Shannon Warren, Mary Whelan and Judy Woolridge.

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female role model and a work-site tour. Role models include a marine safety specialist, a toxicologist, an avionics technician, an IT configuration manager, a HVAC specialist, as well as structural and mechanical engineers.

Funding for the project is being provided by ExxonMobil. Participating companies include Hibernia Management Development Corporation, Xwave, Jaques Whitford Environment Ltd., Cougar Helicopters Inc., Controls and Equipment Ltd., BAE-Newplan Group Ltd., and The Offshore Safety and Survival Centre of the Marine Institute.



Techsploration, a new program to introduce high school girls to non-traditional careers, was launched from the Prince Philip Drive campus of College of the North Atlantic on Thursday, January 17, 2002. ExxonMobil sponsored the program to the tune of \$85,000. Taking part in the cheque presentation are, from left, Allison Dancey, Petroleum Industry Outreach Coordinator, Women in Resource Development Committee (WRDC), Joyce Hancock, Board Co-Chair, WRDC, and Jessica Shinkle, ExxonMobil.

New appointments

Melaine Jarvis and Tony Howell have been permanently appointed to Business Administration instructor positions at the Burin campus. Both Melaine and Tony were previously in temporary positions.

Morris Lynch, Academic instructor at the Burin campus has transferred to the Placentia campus as an Academic instructor.

Dulcie Osmond, temporary Academic instructor at the St. Anthony campus has been appointed to a permanent Academic instructor position at the Burin campus.

Dennis Walsh is the successful candidate in the competition for the ADA position in Burin. Dennis has been a participant in the ADA Internship program and was in the Internship role at the time of the competition.

George Anderson has been appointed to the full-time position of Chair, Industrial Trades at Headquarters. George has been Associate District Administrator of the Port aux Basques campus and part-time Chair, Industrial Trades. He will maintain the dual role until the appointment of a new ADA for Port aux Basques.

Sharon Collins has been with the college on a temporary basis teaching in the Office Administration program for a number of years and has been awarded the permanent position through competition.

Janet Burry is a WPEO I in the Mail Room at the Bay St. George campus. She was employed there on a temporary basis, and has changed status through competition.

Cecil Roberts is a Business Administration instructor in St. Anthony. He was employed there on a temporary basis, and has changed status through competition.

Greg Wood has been appointed as ADA in Corner Brook on a temporary basis, replacing Brent Howell, who is on leave. Greg is an instructor in the Adventure Tourism program in Corner Brook.

Greg Chaytor has been appointed as Chair of the School of Engineering and Information Technology at Headquarters. Greg was ADA in St. Anthony prior to accepting this appointment.

Frederick Russell has been appointed as ADA in St. Anthony. Fred is leaving his position as CEO with the Viking Trail Tourism Association to join the college. He replaces Greg Chaytor.

College of the North Atlantic students remember victims of the Montreal Massacre

On December 6, 2001, several campuses of College of the North Atlantic participated in activities to commemorate the 12th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre in which 14 women were tragically killed by a gunman at École Polytechnique in Montreal.

Candlelight vigils were held at the Clarendville, Baie Verte and Grand Falls-Windsor campuses, while students at the St. Anthony campus participated in a silent march and service. As well, a simultaneous log-on to the Montreal Massacre website by a group of students at Prince Philip Drive was another way in which students of College of the North Atlantic remembered and showed respect for the women who were killed.

“As students of College of the North Atlantic, we are grateful for the opportunity to participate in a ceremony which commemorates the lives of the students lost on that very tragic December day at École Polytechnique in Montreal,” says Neil Norman, CSE president.

“As we are the future - so were they. Regrettably, on December 6, 1989, a part of the future was lost.”

First students graduate under Sun Initiative

The college, in partnership with Sun Microsystems, has produced its first graduates under the Sun Academic Initiative (SAI). Four faculty and staff and 19 graduating ABIT students have successfully completed the Sun-approved course SL-275 (Java Programming Language). This course uses the same curriculum and materials as that offered by Sun Educational Services. However, the course was delivered by a college faculty member who is also a Sun-authorized instructor. Students were also able to take advantage of a new, full-networked, computing laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art Sun Ultra-10 workstations running under Solaris 8 which were provided to the college under an arrangement with Sun and PNI Corp.

All in all, students were very pleased with their educational experience. A post-class survey conducted for Sun indicated that the vast majority of these students judged that the materials, facilities, learning environment and quality of instruction either "exceeded" or "greatly exceeded" their expectations. Of those surveyed, 100 percent said they would recommend the course to others.



Christmas dinner at Topsail Road

Topsail Road campus students and staff enjoyed their annual Christmas Dinner again this year on December 1, 2001. Gerry Crewe and his minions outdid themselves once again, preparing a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. As usual, the faculty and staff of TRC got into the spirit of the occasion, serving the students before joining in themselves. Representatives from the Student Activities Council held draws for several prizes, including a giant Christmas stocking. Some of the kitchen crew from the North Pole included, from left, Lucy Miller, Wade Wheeler, Diane Bishop, Shirley Power, and Robin (Rudolph) Power.

This picture was taken at the signing ceremony for the new Collective Agreement for the college's support staff. Attending the ceremony were the management negotiating team, the support staff negotiating team, and the President of Treasury Board. Front from left are Pamela Walsh, College



Agreement signed

President; Joan-Marie Aylward, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board; Christopher Henley, Employee Relations Officer, NAPE. Middle, Ruth Rose, Buyer, Grand Falls-Windsor; Paul Duffy, Cook II, Bay St. George; Roseanne Hammond, Human Resources Manager, St. John's; Joan Hickman, Residence Supervisor, Happy Valley-Goose Bay; Edward Lundrigan, Community Relations Officer, Clarenville. Back, Geoff Kelly, ADA, Grand Falls-Windsor; Walter Legge, Labour Relations Officer, Headquarters; Robert Rideout, Director of Administration, Headquarters; Robert Gulliver, Offset Press Operator, Prince Philip Drive.

Fall Leaves, Spring Flowers leaf composting project

By Leonard Vassallo

In the fall of 2000, a committee of interested residents in Corner Brook, using funding from an EcoAction 2000 grant from Environment Canada, began the Fall Leaves, Spring Flowers leaf composting project. The goal was to encourage the diversion of solid waste from garbage that must be disposed of to a valuable resource.

This fall approximately 50 first year Natural Resources students from the Corner Brook campus of College of the North Atlantic participated in the second annual Fall Leaves, Spring Flowers leaf-composting project. The partners that organized this year's collection included Newfoundland Power, Conservation Corps, College of the North Atlantic, the Community Recycling Committee, Blow-Me-Down Cross Country Ski Club, and the City of Corner Brook.

Leaves were collected on two days, November 3 and November 17, and brought to the Blow-Me-Down Cross Country Ski Park for processing. We collected over 1,300 bags of leaves, diverting approximately 20 tonnes of leaves from the Wild Cove Waste Disposal Site. This is an increase of eight tonnes over last year's estimates.



Staff makes toy donation



Instead of exchanging gifts this year, the staff on the fourth floor of the Bay St. George campus decided to put their money together and purchase toys for the Stephenville Firefighter's Toy Drive. The staff collected more than \$300 for needy children in the Bay St. George area. Here, staff member George Lee presented the toys to firefighters Troy Alexander (left) and Gerry Stapleton (right).

Promoting epilepsy awareness

Epilepsy is one of the few disorders where the lack of understanding from others is often more of a problem than the condition itself. Living with epilepsy means never knowing when and where the next seizure will happen, who will be there when it does and how they will respond.

Unfortunately, strangers, co-workers and sometimes even friends and family may not always respond to epilepsy with understanding.

Unless you have been told that a person has epilepsy, you may never know until they have



a seizure in your presence. For most people, epilepsy is treated with anti-convulsant medication that controls the seizures. New studies are showing promising results indicating surgery may be an alternative to medication

rather than as a last result in seizure control.

Epilepsy is not a disease; it is a term for a seizure disorder and means recurring seizures. A seizure is an uncontrolled burst of electrical brain activity. There are several different kinds of seizures and their appearance depends on the part of the brain that is affected. A seizure could be as obvious as a convulsive seizure or as subtle as staring for a short period.

It is estimated that approximately 10% of the general population will have at least one seizure in their lifetime. There are more people with epilepsy than there are with Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis and Cerebral Palsy combined.

Epilepsy affects people of all ages. Childhood is the most likely time of diagnosis with 55% of the cases diagnosed before age 10. As our population ages and people are living longer, we are now getting first diagnosis in people aged 60 and up. In 50% of the cases the cause is unknown, while in the other 50% the cause could be Alzheimer's, infection, poison, stroke, or traumatic brain injury. For the majority of people with epilepsy, the seizures are brief and infrequent. Between seizures, most people are perfectly healthy.

To find out more about epilepsy, the different seizure types, and the proper First Aid procedures contact Epilepsy Newfoundland and Labrador at 722-0502 or 1-866-374-5377 or visit our web site at www.nfld.net/epilepsy.

Linkages program underway

The Labrador West campus has received funding to offer another Linkages program. Funding for the Linkages program is provided by the provincial Department of Human Resources and Employment.

Linkages is a client-centred program that welcomes applications from community based organizations that are interested in helping youth achieve their employment and career goals.

Linkages clients are youth, between 18-24, who have not completed post-secondary training or made the transition to the labour force, and who are not eligible to receive Employment Insurance benefits.

The Linkages program provides 26 weeks of career related employment, plus the opportunity to participate in regular career planning workshops and earn a completion bonus of up to \$470 towards the cost of post-

secondary education. Job placements may be with private or non-profit employers. Employers hosting a job placement under the program are provided a wage subsidy of up to \$5 per hour to a maximum of \$4,680 per position. Clients are monitored at their work places by their employer and program facilitator.

The college has advertised the program and selected the participants. Funding received allowed for five clients. The participants have completed the program orientation and are ready to begin their 26 weeks of employment with local employers.

Labrador West employers have been very supportive of this program during the past six years and the college looks forward to working with the clients and employers once again.

College's Council of Student Executives holds meetings

The first meeting of the 2001-2002 Council of Student Executives (CSE) was held in Gander from October 12-13, 2001. The CSE is the provincial organization for students of College of the North Atlantic and its members consist of the Student Activities Council Presidents from each of the college's 18 campuses. At the initial meeting, the CSE Executive and student representatives for various college committees were elected. As well, the CSE participated in a Leadership Skills Workshop which was facilitated by Shirley Woodward, Project Development Assistant.

The purpose of the CSE is to provide a forum in which the students of College of the North Atlantic can work cooperatively in advancing the interests of the students which they represent; to promote a better understanding of the needs and issues confronting the students of the college; to represent, promote and advocate the common interests of the students; and to promote social responsibility between and amongst College of the North Atlantic local councils and the college as a whole.

As a way of promoting social responsibility between and amongst local councils and the college, the CSE is actively involved in raising awareness about issues such as date rape and violence which could



Read and Succeed: A Christmas Harry Potter twist!

The Clareville campus capitalized on the province's "Read and Succeed" campaign for the 38th annual Clarenville Lion's Santa Claus Parade. Their parade float consisted of the entire set of four Harry Potter books - a six-foot high set! Student Adam Harnett became Clarenville's Harry Potter and student Tassie Lindsay dressed as Hermione Granger. Between the two of them they distributed candy to hundreds of kids along the six-kilometre parade route.

The theme of the float was the brainchild of instructors Holly Morris, Deidra Mullay and Nick Donovan. More than a dozen staff worked on the float for over 20 hours under the watchful eye of carpentry instructor Jack King. The talent-

ed Jody Locke, district graphic artist, worked countless evening hours getting the famous book-ends reproduced - in a gigantic scale.

"It was a great few nights of fun and topped the efforts of any formal team building exercise," said Paul Tilley, who helped coordinate the effort.

"This is the first time that we've done this in a few years... these types of efforts help put the 'community' back into our community college."

That effort paid off! Competing against some 30 other floats the campus won second place in the commercial category!

"Next year we're settling for nothing less than first place!" said Tilley.

adversely affect students. To increase such awareness, Lorraine Hearn was invited to attend the meeting in Gander to give a presentation on the Montreal Massacre. This year

the CSE hopes to take a lead role in commemorating the 12th anniversary of the event where 14 women were so tragically killed.

Students build winning sculpture



Students at the college's Prince Philip Drive campus took advantage of the heavy snowfalls again this year and entered several fine sculptures in the city's Winter Carnival snow sculpture contest. This dump truck was named the winning sculpture. The students also got a mention for their other entry - a replica of the Hoover Dam.

Members of the CSE include Neil Norman, Ridge Road (president), Lacey Abbott, Prince Philip Drive (vice-president), James Gallant, Bay St. George (treasurer), Charlene Combdon, Grand Falls-Windsor (secretary), Trudy Greenham, Baie Verte, Amanda Drover, Placentia, Donie Coady, Clarenville, Raphael Soucy, Bonavista, Raymond Noel, Seal Cove, Jamie MacDonald, Corner Brook, Trudy Buckle, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Jeffery Jennings, Labrador West, Stacey Moriarty, Carbonear, Patsy Loder, St. Anthony, Dan Fleming, Burin, Roger Gillingham, Gander, and Joseph Critch, Port aux Basques.

Research conducted at Labrador West campus

College of the North Atlantic's Labrador West campus has been supporting two research projects through funding from the college's Centre for Advanced Technology and Human Resources Development Canada.

The first project is "The Effect of Snag Removal on Breeding Birds," with the objective of identifying bird species that will be reduced in number and those that may have increased numbers as a result of removing snags from burned sites.

The second project is the "Study of Demographic and Food Habits of Wintering Ptarmigan in Labrador," with the objective of documenting

age, sex, body dimensions and food habits of wintering willow ptarmigan, and determining whether there are differences in those factors within Labrador and between Labrador and other geographic areas where these birds are resident.

This fall a research assistant was hired to work at the Labrador West campus under the direction of the college's biology instructor Dr. Francis Schwab. The research assistant conducted biological and laboratory tests on ptarmigan collected in Labrador. In total, over 350 willow ptarmigan were collected and analyses performed. These analyses have resulted in a draft manuscript on differences in the distribution of ages

and sexes among different areas of Labrador. A draft manuscript on differences in food habits among different areas is being drafted as well.

The snag removal project is almost completed. Study plots were established along the Trans-Labrador Highway east of Labrador City. Documentation of the number of breeding pairs of each species on each plot and distribution of vegetation characteristics before disturbance have been completed.

It is the intention of the college to secure additional funding to continue this research and, when completed, make the results available to the public.



President elected to CBIE board

College President Pamela Walsh has been elected to the board of the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University and Chair of the Board of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), made the announcement in late December.

President Walsh will serve a three-year term as the regional representative for Eastern Canada. The election was conducted through a mail-in national ballot of CBIE's membership of Canada's universities, colleges and boards of education.

The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) is Canada's national organization dedicated exclusively to international education with a membership composed of 110 colleges and universities across Canada, as well as corporate partners, non-governmental organizations, government agencies and individuals.

College award winners named, next stop ACCC

College of the North Atlantic is up for five awards at the Association of Canadian Community College's (ACCC) annual conference being held in St. John's in May.

The nominees were selected through a college-wide awards competition held late in 2001. The winners of that awards competition were automatically selected to go on to the ACCC's and represent the college.

The college's winner and ACCC nominee for the Leadership Excellence Award is Cyril Farrell. Cyril is the DA for District 3, but is currently serving as the project director for the Qatar campus.

The Student Leadership Excellence Award nominee is Karen Piercey. Karen is enrolled in the Machinist program at the college's Placentia campus. She was previously a part of the Orientation to Trades and Technology program for women.

The Teaching Excellence Award nominee is Ben Turpin, a Steam/pipefitting instructor at

the Clarenville campus. Ben has been turning out excellent graduates from the Clarenville campus for the past 13 years.

Shirley Woodward-Buckle, a student development officer at the Grand Falls-Windsor campus, is the college's nomination for the Staff Excellence Award. In her five years with the college, Shirley has taken a leadership role in all aspects of student services on a campus, district, and provincial level.

In the final award category - Program Excellence - the college's winner and ACCC nominee is the Mining and Mineral Processing program (Employee of the Future) at the Labrador West campus. This program, developed in partnership with the Iron Ore Company of Canada, is being viewed as a model for corporate human resource planning due to early retirements or an aging workforce.

Congratulations to all college-level winners and best of luck in the ACCC competition.

Hynes, Pippy receive national certification

Congratulations are extended to June Hynes and Donna Pippy, Tourism Studies instructors at the Bay St. George campus, who received their National Certification as Tourism Trainers during the recent Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador annual conference held in St. John's.

June and Donna have now joined the ranks of a very select few within the tourism industry

in this province who have achieved this designation.

In a message of congratulations sent to June and Donna earlier this month, Glen Dicks, Administrator of District 2, said this designation is proof of their commitment to excellence toward the Tourism Studies program, a commitment which has become synonymous with College of the North Atlantic graduates and employees.