

CURRENTS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

FALL 2011/WINTER 2012, Vol. 12, No. 1

A TALE OF TWO LEARNERS

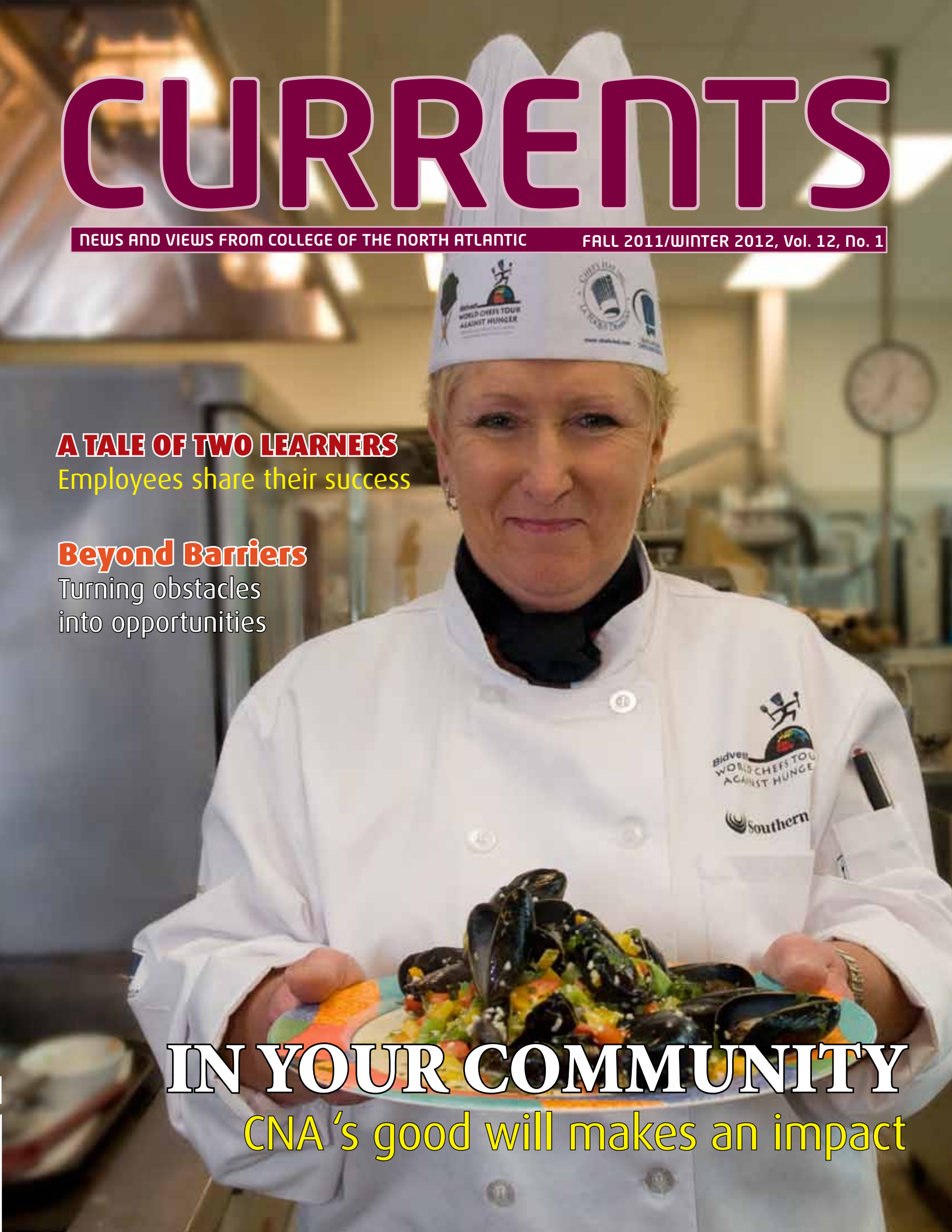
Employees share their success

Beyond Barriers

Turning obstacles
into opportunities

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

CNA's good will makes an impact



Letter from the President



In the three months since I arrived at College of the North Atlantic, I've been busy - really busy. I've travelled across the province several times and visited Lab West twice, and am committed to visiting all campuses by spring 2012. Along the way I've met a lot of you - the people who dedicate themselves to making our public college a first class post-secondary institution.

Thank you all for making this transition welcoming for me and my family. Some of you have been instrumental in bringing me up to speed on the history of the college, others have familiarized me with the way we do things today, and still others have challenged me to be the kind of leader who inspires them to move the college forward.

The people who know the most about the college and its potential are the people who work here and the people who study here. Further, our community stakeholders are proud of the college and have their own ideas on how to advance our presence and relevance in all areas of the province.

In order to determine how we see the role of CNA in five to 10 years, I am launching a series of consultations where you can share your vision for the future of our public college.

These consultations, titled Imagine - Your Future, Your College will be taking place at every campus over the next several months, and you'll have an opportunity to share your ideas and tell me how you see the future of CNA. I'm counting on you to be honest and tell me what you think the college needs to do to remain a leader in post-secondary education and in the communities we serve.

One of the most important things I've come to realize over these last three months is that CNA is so much more than a series of college campuses strung across the province - it is part of the fabric of the communities in which those campuses reside. That's why I'll also be meeting with community leaders and looking to them for ideas about how the college can continue to be a leader in their community, and how we can work together to help them to grow and thrive.

We have a significant opportunity and responsibility in contributing to the growth of our communities through human resource development and community engagement, especially as we look forward and see the tremendous development in front of us as a province. Through the excellent programs we offer, relevant community engagement we provide, and forward research we undertake, we are a strategic enabler for the provincial government and for the numerous communities we serve.

So, please watch for more information about when the Imagine Tour will be visiting your campus or your community. I'm looking forward to hearing from you, and working with you.

Ann Marie Vaughan

Did you know the President has a blog? Visit blog.cna.nl.ca for updates on the Imagine Tour, and other news and information from the President's office.

Contents

FROM THE COVER

Beyond barriers

Turning obstacles into opportunities 4

A tale of two learners

Two employees share their success. 8

In your community

CNA's good will makes an impact 11

Oh, Canada! Land of my dreams 1

Overcoming obstacles 2

Experience of a lifetime. 6

Reaching out 15

A piece of heaven 16

Being Nanuk 18

A portrait of the educator 20

Social media 21

Cisco Networking Academy. 22

Recycling electronic equipment. 23

In case you missed it. 24

From the kitchen 25

Cover photo: Chef Patti Dooley offers up a plate of mussels, one of the dishes she prepared while on a fundraising mission to South Africa. Read about her trip on page 6 and try her recipe on page 25.

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OH, CANADA! LAND OF MY DREAMS

Editor's note: In the days leading up to July 1, 2011, Irene O'Brien was teaching at CNA's Qatar campus and realized she was about to spend her first Canada Day abroad. That got her thinking about what it means to be Canadian and inspired this essay. To read an unabridged version visit www.cna.nl.ca/qatar.

To be honest, as a Newfoundlander I never used to root for Canada all that much, unless Danny Williams, Teddy Purcell, Ron Hynes, Rick Hillier or Brad Gushue were in the line-up. Lately, I have had occasion to change my tune considerably.

It is here in this tiny desert emirate – its thumb of a peninsula jutting out into the Arabian Gulf – that I have come to value my own worth as a Canadian. Amazing as it sounds, I had to journey to the opposite side of the globe to discover the true significance and worth of my Canadian passport and credential.

As is so often the case, this revelation came to me through the eyes of others.

During my time here, I have been made more keenly aware of the esteem with which the Canadian perspective on equality and justice is held. I find myself wanting to identify with the unique role Canada has assumed in world politics. I am proud of our reputation as peace-makers who bring calm to the dialogue and help develop both long- and short-term solutions to problems.

I will always remember the first time I experienced a warm and fuzzy feeling over being recognized as a Canadian.

My husband and I were making the best of a two-day layover in the Netherlands.

The story of Princess Juliana of the Netherlands and Canada's role in ensuring her daughter Margaret's birthright during

the Second World War was a vague memory from either a high school history teacher or a bus tour guide from Ottawa.

I was, therefore, mildly bewildered by the genuine warmth and welcoming smiles we were afforded once we landed at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam and had been identified as Canadians. It felt good at the time. It still does now. I remember vowing to read more Canadian history, or at the very least Google "Ottawa tulips" before the next Canada Day celebration rolled around.

During my time living and traveling abroad, I have interacted with people from every corner of the world and every strata of society. Old women making lace by hand in a village high in the hills of Cyprus, street vendors in Bangkok, kids on a school trip in Tiananmen Square, a museum curator in Cairo, a camel herdsman in the Jordanian desert of Wadi Rum and a sales clerk in Kuala Lumpur all smiled when I said I was from Canada.

I am often asked about snow, and "How cold does it *really* get?" Less often, I am asked about quality of life, freedom and opportunity, as these intangibles are known to be a given in my country.

Land of my dreams

One of my most vivid memories of Turkey is of a young lad trolling the beach for the more obvious tourists who might purchase a boat ride. When we gave him our passports, his eyes lit up, and with a mixture of recognition and longing, he blurted, "Oh! Canada! Land of my dreams!"

I am dreaming a lot about home myself these days as the academic year winds down and the mid-June temperatures here in the sandbox are pushing 50 C most days.

I need an unhurried roam around a




Irene O'Brien teaches at CNA-Q.

supermarket where tins and jars have familiar labels. I need to become reacquainted with the mindless bliss of a boat swing, a tall sweaty glass, and an unabashedly un-cerebral novel.

I want to hear Chris Andrews' booming gravel voice inquire if there are any Newfoundlanders here tonight. I am craving a cool ocean breeze and a driftwood fire on the beach in Outer Cove. I am breathless with anticipation of a sunny morning on a sparkling Bonavista Bay aboard the *Phoebe and Jean* with our friends the Hawcos, and Lucy, the chocolate Lab.

Lastly, I am pining for a real Jigg's Dinner (greens, peas pudding, and mash the turnips please!), followed closely by one rafter-rattling social gathering on a moonlit deck which affords a view of either the north side of Calvert or Clode Sound.

Land of my dreams, indeed!

Irene O'Brien lives in Logy Bay, NL and is currently teaching at College of the North Atlantic-Qatar in the School of Health Sciences. 

“I thought I had learned English in Uganda as a refugee student but you guys have this Newfoundland accent. I totally got lost. I thought to myself, ‘Well this is not English and they don’t speak English here.’”

Overcoming ob

By Glenda McCarthy

It has often been said that understanding the Newfoundland dialect is like understanding another language. No one knows that better than Bora Mahano. “I thought I had learned English in Uganda as a refugee student but you guys have this Newfoundland accent. I totally got lost. I thought to myself, ‘Well this is not English and they don’t speak English here.’”

Born in the Congo, which has a long history of civil war, Bora came to Newfoundland in 2000 as a refugee, with the help of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). The organization helps students from Third World countries find educational opportunities in Canada and around the world.

As she struggled to acclimate to life in Stephenville, the staff, students and faculty at CNA helped her persevere.

Bora says she felt extremely lucky to have been selected by CNA but never could have prepared for the major change her life was about to undergo. From the time she stepped off the plane in St. John’s it was a continuous challenge.

“It was a very surreal experience coming from Congo to get to Newfoundland. It was in January, and was very cold. The teachers always joke because I came in my sandals and a really light dress,” she recalls with a chuckle.

She was faced right away with a huge decision. What did she

want to study?

“Coming from war, all you are thinking about is survival. I was on the run. The last thing I was thinking of was what I wanted to do in school. I just wanted to be alive. I just wanted to be safe.”

With that mentality she says it was difficult to focus on choosing a career path. The staff at CNA helped her set a goal and recognize the steps she needed to take to achieve it. They determined that based on her experience dealing with the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, she should pursue community advocacy, so she enrolled in the Community Studies program.

The educational decision was only the first obstacle in her path. While she had survived the war in her home country, she faced another battle here in Newfoundland.

“I fell into depression. It was so dark, and I had not seen darkness. Everybody was nice but I was missing that nice weather in my first few weeks.”

With the Newfoundland accent providing a major barrier, Bora says there were times she didn’t understand anything she heard during an entire lecture. But despite the culture shock she recalls feeling very blessed, and now, more than a decade later, she raves about her CNA support system.

“Marg Lockyer was my advisor and she was one of my teachers

stackles



Bora Mahano escaped civil war in the Congo to study at CNA.

so she really helped me get through that time. She spoke a little French and would help me if I had questions.”

“(She) took it upon herself to work extra hours every day just to explain in French what they talked about in class. That was a great support. Many teachers really helped me out until I got used to the language, the accent, made friends and started functioning like anyone else.”

The food was another major hurdle to overcome. For her first two weeks in Newfoundland she was afraid to try the local cuisine so she only consumed milk and quickly became ill.

“So I said to myself, ‘Bora you have to eat!’ I started eating and I loved the food. It took a while to get used to it, but everyone really just rallied around me to help me out. My colleagues in school were inviting me for supper so they could make something I could relate to. I mean it was just a really, really great experience.”

Looking back she doesn’t believe she would have continued with the program had she not found such an exceptional support system. She says she wouldn’t have stood at chance at a bigger institution.

“I was ready to go back (to Africa). I couldn’t take it anymore and told my teachers I can’t do it and I have to go. But the school really helped and provided the support which I don’t think I would have

got if I went to another school somewhere else.”

The strong foundation from her experience at CNA gave her the building blocks she needed to make a better life for herself. After graduating early from the two-year program, she took advantage of the college’s transfer agreement with Cape Breton University and earned a bachelor’s degree in social work in just one year. Eventually she went on to earn her masters from McGill University, but she found herself longing for Newfoundland.

“It was very, very different. I missed that homey feeling.

“If I had come in at the level of McGill University I would never have had that help because the school at CNA is very small. People know you one-on-one and the class sizes are small,” she says.

While she lives and works in Montreal, Bora says Newfoundland will always be home.

“It has been nine years that I’ve been out of Newfoundland and everywhere I’ve been I’ve told them that Newfoundland is my homeland because I have my connection there,” she says. “I love Newfoundland and I love that college and I always say I will come back if I ever have enough skills that I know I can contribute. It is definitely my second home to the Congo. I travelled a little bit in Canada and the community spirit, the friendship and understanding – nowhere is like the Maritimes and Newfoundland. I love it.”



Photo credit: All photos courtesy of Justin Mercer.

BEYOND BARRIERS

Justin Mercer leads the way with an optimism that just won't quit

By Gina MacArthur

For Justin Mercer, the word *can't* doesn't exist.

Justin has cerebral palsy (CP), and when he was born – 16 weeks premature and weighing barely more than a pound – he was placed on a ventilator. “He can’t breathe on his own,” doctors told his parents, Debbie and Edward. After several unsuccessful attempts to remove the breathing tube,

that *can't* doesn't belong in his vocabulary.

“I feel my disability actually might be an asset to the firm I work with,” says Justin, who’s been applying for jobs in and around St. John’s since his graduation in June 2011. “New public buildings are legislated to be accessible. I feel that, because I have CP and because I’m a wheelchair user, those are skills that I can bring to the drawing

can do this, you just have to do it a different way.’ That’s how we raised him and that’s what got him where he is today, because now that is *his* attitude.”

When she was offered a talk board for her son, with the suggestion that he would probably never be able to speak, she refused to accept it, opting instead for speech therapy. Today he carries on complete conversations with anyone who’ll listen.

In fact, Justin is becoming somewhat of a celebrity speaker. He recently addressed nearly 200 people at the Atlantic Cerebral Palsy Association (ACPA) conference in St. John’s. The association’s president, Darren Martin, says the audience was captivated.

“You could have heard a pin drop for the entire hour that he spoke,” says Martin. “I don’t have that ability as president of the association, and at his young age it’s just remarkable – people were just so engaged in his message.”

Justin’s trademark sense of humour is a big part of his presentation, which is full

“One of my points is that disability does not mean inability,” says Justin. “When I was born the doctors said I’d never be able to walk, I’d never be able to put five words together in a sentence.”

Justin suddenly pulled it off himself, and took his first independent breaths. He was only two months old.

Today, with an Architectural Engineering diploma from College of the North Atlantic (CNA) to his credit, Justin continues to prove

board when I’m doing these designs.”

Justin’s can-do attitude is a trait he probably inherited from his mother. Debbie started advocating for her son from the moment he was born.

“I always said to him, ‘Well Justin, you

of stories about all the things he *can* do. On that list are things like snowmobiling, fishing, canoeing, and driving a rally car in the Targa Newfoundland race. As the first person with a disability to compete in the race, he also gave a motivational speech.

"One of my points is that disability does not mean inability," says Justin. "When I was born the doctors said I'd never be able to walk, I'd never be able to put five words together in a sentence. And (in my speech) I showed that I did all these things."

Debbie's brother, Winston Lynch, also encourages Justin to break down barriers.

"Justin spent a lot of time with me over the past half dozen years or so," says Winston. "If he wanted to go snowmobiling I didn't say 'No b'y, you shouldn't do that,' I said 'Come on b'y - let's do it.'"

Again, Justin models the attitude he's learned from his family. "That's the gist of his speech," says Winston. "If you have the support, if you have the backing of your parents, friends, relatives, - whomever then you can do whatever you want to do."

Most recently, Justin added another accomplishment to his "can-do" list. As part of the first-ever Team Canada to compete at the International Abilympics, he travelled to Seoul, South Korea to demonstrate his skills in computer aided drafting.

Although the team didn't bring home a medal, it was another opportunity for Justin to demonstrate his abilities, in spite of the physical challenges he meets every day.

Looking to the future, Justin knows he'll continue to face barriers, but at the end of his speeches he encourages his audience to

help him find ways to change that.

"We've got to remove these barriers, we've got to get together on the advocacy for the children and for others with CP," he says.

From Darren Martin's perspective, Justin is already making great strides toward that goal.

"So many people came to me after Justin's speech and said that there's hope - it just gave them something to look forward to," he says. "With CP there can be a lot of negatives. Well, Justin gave those young families hope that their child can achieve some of the things that Justin has achieved."

~



Justin hangs out with some young Targa fans.

Below: Justin makes his way down a narrow street during the 2007 Targa Newfoundland race.



Experience of a lifetime changes lives of African children

By Glenda McCarthy

It's hard to imagine that the efforts of a few chefs from Newfoundland could profoundly affect the lives of thousands of children an ocean away. But that's exactly the case for two cooking instructors from CNA.

Chefs Patti Dooley and Derrick Collier travelled more than 12,000 km from Newfoundland to South Africa this summer

to take part in the third Bidvest World Chefs Tour Against Hunger. They joined 260 chefs from 40 different countries for the 10-day fundraising effort, which aims to feed thousands of children in the underdeveloped country.

Team Canada, comprised of four Newfoundlanders and two Ontarions, set off for South Africa on August 16 to meet



“All the money goes to these children and will be distributed to different charities and feeding programs for the next five years. The goal was to raise 5 million rand and we raised over 8 million.”

up with chefs from around the world who shared a common goal: to help the children by raising 5 million rand.

The event consisted of a number of public fundraising initiatives through cooking demonstrations in shopping centres around the country, and gala dinners in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town.

Patti, who has been a commercial cooking instructor with the college since 1983, first heard about it when a colleague participated in 2003. When she and Derrick heard about the 2011 event during a Canadian Culinary Federation meeting they both knew they wanted to support such a worthy cause.

“At the opening ceremony in Johannesburg it was very touching to see so many chefs from around the world there with large smiles and great attitudes,” she recalls. “The second day we walked through the town of Alexandria where less fortunate families lived. It was extremely heartbreaking to see. As we gave out gifts to some of the children and their eyes just lit up with amazement we also felt very saddened, as we didn’t have enough for all of them.”

The children accompanied the chefs on a march which concluded at the police station.

“After we got inside, they closed the gates, and they brought in 30-40 kids, all 5 years old and under. But all you saw was all these other faces on the other side of the gate looking in. It broke your heart.”

Next, it was on to Cape Town to prepare for the cooking demos and a gala dinner.

The itinerary for the trip was jam-packed but Patti says it was worth it.

“Once you hit the ground, you were off and running,” she says. “Before we left we had to submit recipes on appetizers,

main courses and desserts. At the demos, we would demonstrate the different items and cook them right there.”

During their demos and food festivals, the Canadian team proudly showed their spirit.

“We had flags everywhere. We even had flags that sang *O Canada* and flags that lit up. You name it, we had it.”

They also went an extra step to engage the audience. “We told them that we would be quizzing them and if they got it right, we’d give them a prize.”

While the demonstration went well, she’ll never be able to forget how the children of South Africa live. “What I experienced in South Africa was unreal. The kids’ faces had a lost and lonely look.

There is no emotion whatsoever — like they have resigned themselves to the fact that this is their life and that’s that.”

Patti says this is why it’s so important to participate in the fundraiser.

“All the money goes to these children and will be distributed to different charities and feeding programs for the next five years. The goal was to raise 5 million rand and we raised over 8 million (just over \$1 million in Canadian dollars).”

Back home in St. John’s, the two chefs are continuing their fundraising efforts. Patti has ordered 1,000 special chef hats from South Africa and she will be selling them for \$5 each at different functions throughout the year.

“I know there are other hungry kids, but I know now, from being there, that these kids do get that money and get their three meals a day. It was nice to see them smiling and it truly was an experience of a lifetime!”

~



Opposite page: Chef Patti Dooley showcases some of the dishes she prepared in South Africa. Opposite page, inset: Members of the Canadian team were moved by the plight of the local children who would benefit from their efforts. Above: Chef Derrick Collier at work in the kitchen at the Seal Cove campus.



A TALE OF TWO LEARNERS

Any way you look at it, CNA wins

Bonnie Morgan was awarded a three-year scholarship to pursue her PhD.

By Gina MacArthur

Bonnie Morgan is not pursuing her doctorate in history because she wants a bigger paycheque, a prestigious reputation, or even the letters PhD after her name.

“Being a high-powered ambitious person is not something that is that meaningful for me,” says Bonnie, who’s been a librarian at College of the North Atlantic’s Seal Cove campus for about nine years. “I like to use what I know to help other people as best I can.”

Bonnie already has a master of arts in history and another in library and information studies. She also holds a bachelor of laws from Dalhousie University and was on her way to becoming a lawyer when she changed course and became a librarian.

“I’ve made a deliberate choice – I want to serve the community and I want to use my skills as best I can to help other people achieve their educational goals,” she says. “I’m committed to public education and I’m interested in using my skills in the public education setting.”

Bonnie considers herself to be a life-long learner, and has a certain appreciation for the value of education. Two years ago, she took a leave of absence from her job at the college to earn her doctorate.

In May 2009, she applied to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for funding to study the religious practices of women in 20th-century Newfoundland.

She was awarded a Bombardier Canadian Graduate Scholarship worth more than \$100,000 over three years. She’s using that time to study how people incorporated their faith into their everyday lives in outport Newfoundland. Starting in January, she’ll write her dissertation, which may eventually be published as a book.

Some of Bonnie’s research involves studying how people

“There’s also a lot of critical analysis, a lot of communication, and I’d like to bring those renewed skills back to work for the college.”

expressed their faith on headstones, and taking information from the ‘Minute Books’ of women’s church groups. She says her work will preserve the history of ordinary people.

“These are not famous people, these are not wealthy people. They’re women whose day-to-day lives would otherwise be lost. For me, that’s the greatest thing about the work that I do, is this kind of recovery of the experiences of people who might

CONTINUOUS LEARNING **VS** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

College of the North Atlantic has adopted a continuous learning model for professional development, in order to make the most of the educational opportunities that are available to employees.

The result is an efficient and strategic approach that works toward a common goal of advancing the institution by developing the knowledge and skill sets of its employees.

"Professional development is seen as activities that help people gain skills, knowledge and aptitudes for their immediate needs or the employer's immediate needs," explains Kevin Deveau, CNA's Continuous Learning Project Leader. "Continuous learning is more about the growth and development of the employee

throughout their career with the college."

CNA offers funding for a variety of educational activities, especially those that are directly related to the employee's current or future duties. Kevin says although not everything qualifies for financial support, there are other ways the college can facilitate an employee's interest in learning.

"If it's a request that doesn't address the college's strategic plan, but does provide a personal level of growth for the employee, we'll look at things like allowing them to work flexible hours, so that they can achieve that goal," he explains. "At the end of the day, anything that makes an employee happier in their personal life also delivers a return for the college, because it contributes to that

employee's general well-being."

Kevin says the best place to start is by doing a personal skills inventory, comparing it to the skills you'll need to reach your goal, and then talking to your supervisor about how you can work together to achieve that goal.

"There is a lot of evidence out there that tells us that an employer that supports its employees benefits in the long run," says Kevin. "Not only does it make the college an employer of choice, it also enhances our reputation as an institution where people are skilled and knowledgeable in their fields. When our employees shine, the college shines."

To learn more about Continuous Learning at CNA visit www.cna.nl.ca/employees.

otherwise be overlooked."

This spring, Bonnie began interviewing women who were active in the religious life of their communities between the 1920s and late 1960s.

"That's going to open up a whole new avenue of information that again, would be lost. We've got a generation of women that were very, very active in their church. Their faith was very important to them and I want to capture what that meant in their own words before it's too late."

Aside from the value of the research that she's doing, Bonnie says she hopes to share the skills she's honed through that research when she returns to the college next year, in a new position as Librarian at the Prince Philip Drive campus.

"Librarianship is a real mix of technical work, but day-to-day it's essentially academic work," she says. "There's also a lot of critical analysis, a lot of communication, and I'd like to bring those renewed skills back to work for the college."

For employees who don't want to take an extended leave of absence, or who aren't fortunate enough to receive a full scholarship for their studies, College of the North Atlantic offers other supports.

Sharon Collins came to the Grand Falls-Windsor campus as a temporary Office Administration instructor in 1994. By the time she became a full-time employee in 2001, she had already made continuous learning part of her long-term career plan.

In the early 1980s, while working as an administrative

"I remember the librarian saying, when I applied for my leave, 'All learning makes you a stronger employee.' I haven't forgotten that."

assistant at a library, computers were coming into use and Sharon signed up for a one-day workshop on word processing.

"I remember the librarian saying, when I applied for my leave, 'All learning makes you a stronger employee.' I haven't forgotten that."

Eventually she completed a degree in vocational education and a post-secondary teaching certificate, making her well-qualified for an instructor's position by the time she arrived at CNA.



Sharon Collins says that her willingness to learn new things makes her a stronger employee.

“It’s like turning on a light – there are a lot more bright spots in the college if someone’s mind has been engaged in continuous learning.”

Since then, she’s continued to seek other learning opportunities, including one-day workshops, online seminars, correspondence and teleconference courses and traditional classroom studies. In 2009, she completed her masters of education in post-secondary studies and now calls herself the ‘showgirl’ for continuous learning.

Speaking at a recent leadership conference for high school students, Sharon shared her passion for professional development in a workshop called “Who’s planning your life?”

“One of the things I emphasized was lifelong learning and the support you can get along the way from your employer,” she says. “It spices up your day, keeps your mind expanding and keeps you ahead of the game in your field.”

Sharon is quick to give credit to CNA for enabling her to pursue her continuous learning goals.

“The college has been pivotal in providing a learning environment for me to finish my undergrad degree, to pursue my graduate studies and to branch out in non-formal continuous learning at conferences and smaller short-term webinars and those kinds of things,” she says. “What has the college gained? I feel I’m a much stronger employee; I have more to contribute to the college because of what they’ve invested in me.”


In the bigger scheme of things, Sharon says, continuous learning creates employees who enhance CNA in a myriad of

ways. “An engaged employee is going to be more innovative, thinking outside the box and looking for opportunities,” she says. “It’s like turning on a light – there are a lot more bright spots in the college if someone’s mind has been engaged in continuous learning.”

Like Bonnie, Sharon sees beyond the potential for financial gain from her expanded skill set. “Even though my salary hasn’t increased because of my learning, my opportunities have increased, my mind has been stimulated, I feel I’m a much stronger person because of it,” she says.

In the long term, Sharon hopes to contribute in the wider community after she retires from CNA. Along with her husband, she’d like to take her knowledge and skills to the Third World, to help improve the lives of others.

Sharon’s advice for others who are considering continuous learning is to look at the big picture.

“If you’re interested, start looking now and look at your timeline – not only your work, but your personal life – see how they can align and then make your choices,” she says. “If you want it bad enough you’ll find a way to do it.” 



For nearly 50 years, Newfoundland's public college has been a fixture in communities across the province.

If you were asked to identify the college's impact on those communities it would be easy to point to the economic benefits – employees and students inject cash into local economies, and the college itself spends a significant portion of its operating budget on the local level.

Look a little closer though, and it becomes clear that CNA's impact is much more pervasive.

College employees volunteer for local groups and organizations, serving on boards and even holding public office. They use their expertise and skills to enrich others' lives.

When students step outside the college to practice what they're learning, the community becomes their classroom. When they share their time and talents, they impact those around them.

When disaster strikes, the college and its people step up to help, and grateful people pay it forward.

The college itself also acts as a gathering place for events and activities. By providing space for community groups and a focal point for festive celebrations, CNA is often at the centre of the community.

These next few pages share some examples of how CNA and its employees impact communities across the province and on a global scale. In future editions we'll bring you more of these stories, as we recognize the many ways CNA is part of your community.

TURNING TRAGEDY INTO HOPE



Kevin Tuerff addresses an assembly at the Gander campus, with some of his fellow stranded passengers seated to his right. Behind him (L-R) are Gander campus administrator Fergus O'Brien and former campus administrator Mac Moss.



When the world marked the 10th anniversary of 9/11 this fall, much of the media attention was focused on Gander, and College of the North Atlantic was also honoured for the role it played.

Students and staff gathered in the cafeteria at the Gander campus on September 9, 2011, where some of the formerly stranded passengers had returned to say thank-you once again. As they paid tribute to the many volunteers who helped them throughout their stay, it became clear that CNA had impacted them in a deep and lasting way.

Ten years earlier, the college had opened its classrooms and cafeterias to stranded passengers in Gander, Stephenville and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Employees put their lives on hold for days, and in true Newfoundland spirit, shared the hospitality that is part of our culture.

The passengers were amazed.

"I became part of the College of the North Atlantic community when I was here on September 11, 2001," says Kevin Tuerff,

whose flight was grounded in Gander. "I'll never forget the individual staff people who came here and volunteered. They opened up the phone lines and let us call home to other countries and served us food and took us on trips to go get a shower."

Kevin says he and his fellow passengers had no idea there was a place where complete strangers would open their homes – and their hearts – to people they had never met. He says while 9/11 is a tragic anniversary, it also marks a positive day for humanity.

"My day was filled with love from strangers who showed kindness to me and nearly 7,000 airline passengers whose planes were diverted to Gander," he says.

"For several days these remarkable hosts were a lifeline. They gave us food, clothing, shelter and information when they didn't have to. Since that time in Canada, I've tried to pay it forward by doing random good deeds for strangers and I've challenged others to do the same."

Each year on the 9/11 anniversary, Tuerff

sends the employees at his advertising agency out into the community armed with cash to do good deeds for strangers.

"Then they come back and talk about it," he says. "It's a very emotional gathering and there are tears and people telling of how, in a short period of time and with very little resources, they made a difference."

Mac Moss was the Gander campus administrator when Kevin and the others showed up at the college that day. While he and the CNA staff had been watching the horrifying story unfold on television all day, the passengers had been virtually cut off from the outside world.

"When they came into this room and saw the television pictures of the planes flying into the twin towers and the towers collapsing, what we saw were people in need of not just help in terms of food and other things, but of emotional support as well," he says. "Although we had no experience in doing this before, at the end of it, when we had the chance to absorb it, I think we did a pretty good job



The campus they called home



Coming together

of accommodating their needs while they were here."

Sue Ricardelli and her friend Maureen Murray were returning home from a vacation in Paris when they ended up in Gander.

"My most vivid memory is coming in through those doors and seeing the television, and what the world had been seeing for hours," she said.

As a token of their appreciation for the kindness they were shown, Sue and other passengers started the Air France Flight 004 Passenger Awards for students at the Gander campus. One of the criteria for the awards is that the nominee must show consistent kindness and concern for others.

"We do hope that you'll carry the torch for Gander and continue that tradition of caring for other people," she told the students who attended the assembly this fall. "You can come from a small town and still have a huge impact on the world, and we hope the scholarship will remind you of that." *u*



Kim's story

On January 13, 2011, Kim McNeil did what a lot of other motorists do. With a weather advisory in effect, the Student Aid Information Officer headed up to the highway near her home in Clarendville to judge the road conditions before deciding if she would drive to Gander for a meeting.

Only four kilometres down the highway another driver lost control on the slushy road and hit Kim head on. In the aftermath of the crash Kim was heavily sedated while she was treated for a long list of injuries which included a broken neck, a broken back, and broken ribs. The other driver did not survive.

Meanwhile, at College of the North Atlantic in Gander, Student Development Officer Kent Aitken began to worry when Kim didn't show up for their meeting. "An hour-and-a-half passed and she still didn't show up, so I was really starting to get worried," says Kent.

As the morning wore on, Kent heard that there had been a fatal collision near Clarendville. Was it Kim? He decided he had to find out. "So immediately I started making some phone calls, and nobody knew where she was," he recalls. "I called everyone from the Department of Education to her office in Clarendville." As it turns out, no one in Kim's office even knew she was travelling that day.

What happened next would change the way Kim's department manages employee travel, and create a lasting friendship between her and Kent.

As Kent continued to verify her whereabouts, more and more people became aware of what had happened. Within days, her department had drafted a new policy, which ensures that employees

who travel are always accounted for.

But Kent's concern for his colleague didn't stop there. Eventually he connected with Kim's family, and through regular phone calls offered his moral support and the best wishes of his colleagues at CNA. Two weeks later, he drove to St. John's to visit her in the hospital.

Eight months after her accident, Kim attended the assembly at the Gander campus that honoured the staff and students who cared for stranded passengers on 9/11.

At the end of Kevin Tuerff's presentation she stood and shared her story, thanking Kent for his support while she recovered from her injuries.

"College of the North Atlantic can take pride in their feeling of community and their willingness to treat everyone that comes into their lives with the same care and compassion that was shown to both the stranded passengers of 9/11 and to me as a stranded colleague," she told the assembled group. "So today as you leave here remember Kevin's message. Pay it forward. Do something good for someone - just like Kent did for me."

Kim says the support she got from Kent helps fuel her positive attitude.

"The positive feedback that came through Kent did a lot for my recovery," she says, explaining that he shared his co-workers messages of support with her as she healed. "I didn't realize how much I had impacted people until that happened."

As for Kent, he's humble in his acceptance of Kim's gratitude. "I didn't do anything anyone else wouldn't have done," he says with a smile. *u*

a culture of caring

By Gina MacArthur

Melinda Anderson works in the finance department at CNA, and as a recreational golfer, she plays at Harmon Seaside Links in Stephenville. She also serves as president of the club's Ladies Golf Association, which comes with the responsibility of organizing charity golf tournaments.

"The first year it was for breast cancer research," she says. "Then last year, I suggested we do something that would benefit a charity right here in Newfoundland, so we agreed on Ronald McDonald House."

Christine Morgan is the manager of development and communications for Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador. She says supporters like Melinda are essential to the project's success.

"Without support from outstanding individuals and organizations who take on leadership roles to fundraise on our behalf in their communities, we would not be able to provide a home-away-from-home for sick children and their families," she says. "Fundraising events like these are a great way to raise money and awareness."

Melinda says the charity just seemed like a good fit.

"There are so many families out there that go to St. John's and they have nowhere to stay while their children are in the hospital," she says. "Ronald McDonald House is a place for them to be close to their children while they're fighting their illness."

Melinda's volunteer spirit goes back many years, as she did a lot of fundraising for her son's hockey team, and often found herself involved with fundraisers for cancer research and hospital foundations.

"It takes a lot of work, and a lot of volunteer time, but I like it because it motivates you," she says. "It's rewarding to see the end result after all your hard work, and everybody appreciates it."

Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador is scheduled to open its doors in the summer of 2012.

* * *

Charity may begin at home, but for many CNA employees, it follows them straight to the office.

As is the case in most workplaces, you don't have to look far to find someone who's raising money for one cause or another.

For staff at the Prince Philip Drive campus, one employee's need hit close to home.

Heather Piercey works in the college's continuing education office and her husband Jeff has Multiple Sclerosis. When they learned there was a new treatment for the disease, they were excited but also a little skeptical.

After talking to Jeff's doctors and doing extensive research, they decided to travel to Poland for the treatment, which isn't covered by MCP.

"No previous fundraising had been done, so we had to quickly make plans on how we were going to make this happen," says Heather. "I wasn't surprised at all when my colleagues at the college stepped up to help."

She says it was the generosity of her colleagues and friends and family in her hometown and the surrounding area that helped ease the financial burden as they prepared for the medical treatment.

Aside from fundraising to help with the cost of the treatment, there was also plenty of moral support.

"The support from colleagues here at the college is truly amazing," she says. "They are always there to give support, whatever the cause, but words can never describe how you feel when the day comes that the support is for you. You don't realize how much people care until something like this happens and they all step forward to help." *MA*

Can CNA do more?

Jim Marsden thinks so. Marsden is a coordinator for learning & development at the college, but was once part of the institution's Centre for Organizational Leadership and Development.

"There is tremendous potential for CNA to be even more involved on a community level through economic and social development," he says. "College of the North Atlantic is well recognized and geographically positioned to bring together leaders from business, government, education and communities to find ways to tackle local issues and positively impact them."

Jim says the key to overcoming the challenges that face rural regions of the province is to develop a culture of innovation and learning — something the college demonstrates on a regular basis through its office of applied research.

"To move beyond the comfort zone of familiar ideas, our communities must engage people in new ways to process and stimulate new ideas," he says. "Sometimes, people need help generating new ideas and they need support and guidance to develop those ideas."

Jim says that's where CNA comes in.

"I believe there is an opportunity here for an identified entity to take a leadership role in this regard," he says. "That entity could become a clearinghouse or focal point for all of the college's community development activities, and could work in partnership with other government agencies to drive development on a community level."

MA

Do you have an example of how CNA impacts your community in a meaningful way? Email us at currents@cna.nl.ca

Reaching out

Alumni, students and staff spread the good news



By Gina MacArthur

“We know that some of the best ambassadors for our programs are people who have either successfully completed them or are currently enrolled.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said that a moment’s insight is sometimes worth a lifetime’s experience. Elizabeth Laurie is hoping she can put that principle to work as an ambassador for College of the North Atlantic.

Elizabeth graduated from the Geomatics/Surveying Engineering Technology program in 2006 and now works for the provincial Department of Transportation and Works. She hopes any tidbit of information she can share with potential students will inspire them to similar success.

“I’d like to give them my personal opinions and stories, tell them why I chose CNA and what it’s done for me,” she says.

The Ambassador Program is a joint effort between CNA’s office of learner recruitment and its office of alumni affairs and advancement. A pilot project at the Corner Brook campus is recruiting current students who will be trained to deliver presentations to high schools and community groups, while the alumni office is recruiting graduates to volunteer at events and outreach sessions.

“We know that some of the best ambassadors for our programs are people who have either successfully completed them or are currently enrolled,” says Lisa Shallow, manager of alumni and advancement. “That’s why we’re inviting them to volunteer at events where we connect with people on a one-to-one basis.”

Lisa met Elizabeth through their mutual involvement with Girl

Guides, and knew she’d be a great fit for the Ambassador Program.

“Elizabeth is a stellar example of what we hope to offer through this program,” says Lisa. “In addition to her full-time job, she is a dedicated councillor with the Town of Paradise, and a district commissioner for Girl Guides of Canada. She is a role model for current and future students and I know she is going to be a fantastic ambassador.”

For Elizabeth, it’s not only a chance to represent her alma mater, it’s also an opportunity to inspire others. “My experience with the college was very positive,” she says. “I actually had to put the work into it of course, but if that program wasn’t there, I don’t know that I would have had the opportunities that I’ve had.”

While Elizabeth found that her transition from high school to college went relatively smoothly, she realizes that some students might find the changes daunting. She hopes to connect with those students on a personal level. “I think when you have a personal connection with somebody it feels more comfortable to ask them questions,” she says.

In Corner Brook, Student Development Officer Regional Recruiter Dave Decker has been working with students from the Northern Peninsula, the Avalon Peninsula and the Corner Brook area to develop their presentation skills. “As a group, the ambassadors tend to feed off one another’s enthusiasm and ideas,” he says. “They’re anxiously awaiting their time in front of

an audience to share their experiences.”

Stacey Cadet is one of those students. She completed CNA’s Comprehensive Arts and Science program, and is now studying to be a fish and wildlife technician. She’s already done a presentation at French Shore Academy, in her hometown of Port Saunders.

“I’m still a student so high school students can relate to someone like me,” she says. “I told them that it’s a really good learning environment, with smaller classes, and the instructors are amazing – they’re there for you in class and after class, whenever you need them.”

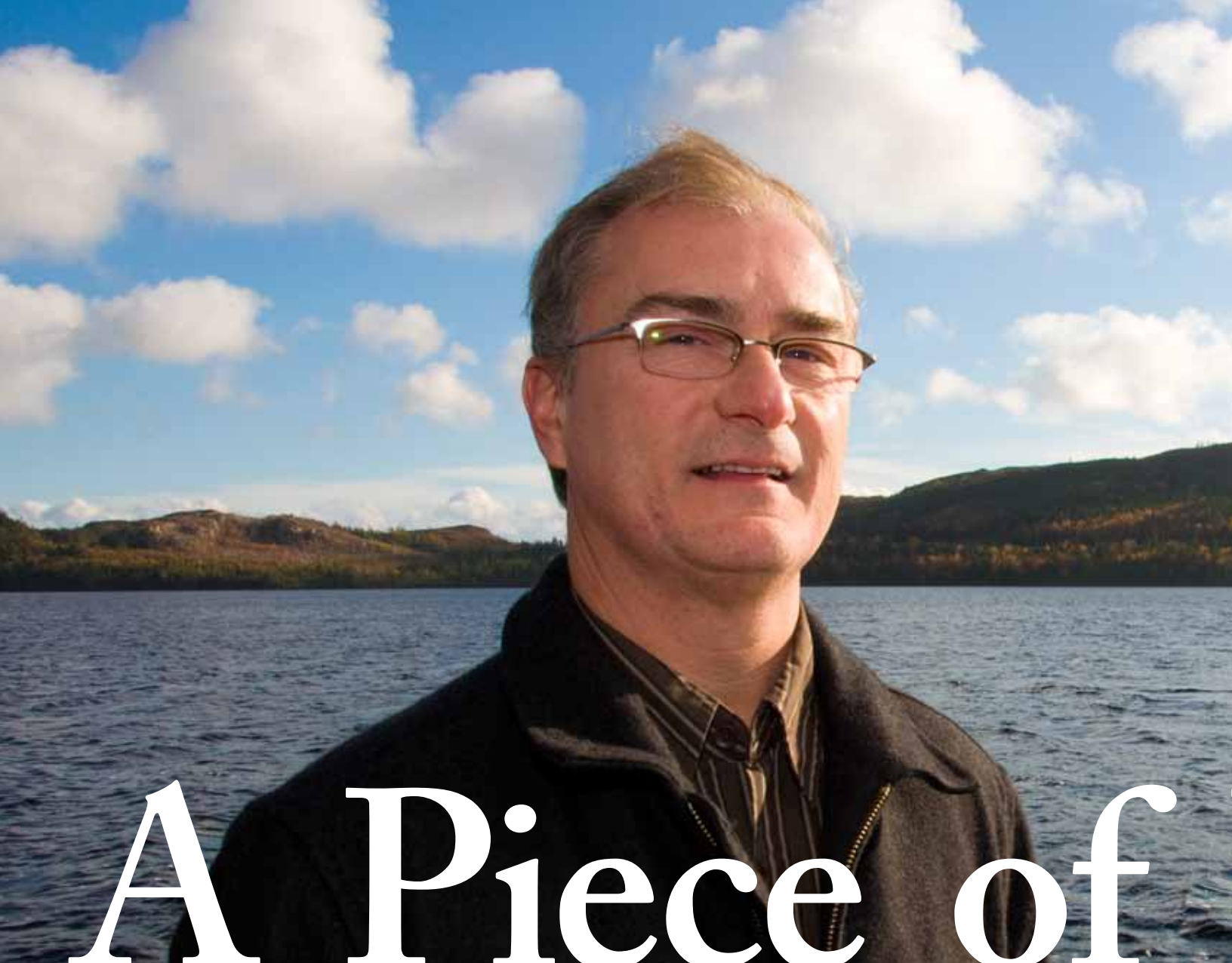
Stacey says she’s looking forward to connecting with more potential students, so she can share her experiences.

There’s also a role for college staff to play in the ambassador program.

“Employees have been consistently showing their dedication to learners by assisting at college events province-wide,” says Shallow. “The Ambassador Program provides a formal mechanism to actively recruit and recognize these employees for their contributions as well.” *na*

To become a CNA Ambassador:

- Students: Dave Decker at 709-637-8604
- Alumni and employees: Lisa Shallow at 709-758-7515



A Piece of

As a self-proclaimed geek, Ron Richard says it became clear to him he was destined for a career in the information technology sector after writing computer programs at Dalhousie University while still in high school. Now, with more than 30 years of experience in the field, he's held positions at pretty much every level at one point or another.

Ron came to CNA in 2008 to become the college's software quality assurance analyst, and it didn't take long for him to fall in love with this province.

"I had a peaceful crossing on Marine Atlantic at 5:30 in the morning. The sun was shining as I arrived and when I saw Newfoundland it was incredibly eye-

catching. Since that first day, I've had a chance to travel across the island several times. It is truly beautiful here and the people are wonderful."

Working from Headquarters in Stephenville, Ron soon found a deep appreciation for all the west coast has to offer.

"I live in Gull Pond, which I think is a piece of heaven. I have a mountain in the back yard, a lake in the front, lots of trees, and an opportunity to enjoy everything that offers - from hiking to swimming, boating, quadding, snowmobiling and more."

Although he was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Ron says living in Newfoundland has given him the opportunity to discover lots of new activities.

"I've crewed up with colleagues, neighbours and related acquaintances who've become great friends. We've sang, fished, travelled into the Lewis Hills on snowmobile and quad, panned for gold, and the list goes on. There is something here for everyone. Filled with great landscapes, people and times, you're at home on the rock."

Ron has lived and worked in a lot of places including the United States, but when he was away, he always missed home. Since 2008, that sense of longing has been for Newfoundland.

"I love it here - including being able to easily see many types of wildlife. I have some 'pets' you might say - a moose that likes to visit my backyard periodically, and



By Glenda McCarthy

Heaven

“I have a mountain in the back yard, a lake in the front, lots of trees, and an opportunity to enjoy everything that offers – from hiking to swimming, boating, quadding, snowmobiling and more.”

most recently I was 10 feet away, eye-to-eye with a black bear. I opened my back door and there it was.”

His “pets” are just one of the reasons Newfoundland is the favourite of all the places he’s lived.

“Where I am right now, I just love it, and it fits with a philosophy I’ve been exploring for a long time, the notion of inherent quality. I find it prevalent in the surroundings and the people I meet.”

He applies this philosophy not only to his personal life, but to work as well.

“I’ve written a fair amount on the subject – at CNA, I find that we are using technology that might not be considered simple, but we do try to apply simple, long-standing and tested principles.”

As the college’s software quality assurance analyst, Ron’s goal is a simple one: to provide support.

He’s tasked with looking at the way projects are carried out and recommending ways to ensure they are efficient and effective. He does this by researching best practices and sharing what he learns with the people who decide how a project will be developed or implemented. With his extensive background in the field of computer science, much of that work is related to software and information systems, but he also finds other opportunities to contribute.

“A lot of what I do can apply to project management in general,” says Ron. “Much of it involves looking at what might work best and balancing that with the costs associated with doing it that way, the time commitment that’s required, and the risk of doing it differently, so that, ideally, the end product does what it’s supposed to do in the most effective and efficient manner.”

However, Ron does more than act as an advisor to his colleagues at CNA. He has earned numerous credentials, contributed to globally accepted best practices, and accomplished much as an athlete, coach, and IT professional. “Throughout my various activities, I generally try to share input and ideas to help teams and my manager ensure projects, and every person on them, strive toward getting better, at having fun and delivering value. I do, however, credit fully the individuals I interact with for making successes possible. They are the heroes and I appreciate their dedication and collaboration.”

His co-workers were more than just figurative heroes a year and a half ago when Ron faced the biggest scare of his life. When he mentioned that he had a minor case of indigestion, his coworkers urged him to get it checked out at the hospital. He followed their advice and weeks later ended up having a successful a quintuple bypass.

He says that experience brings a renewed appreciation for everything he has.

“I’m grateful to many and for much. I realize, more than ever now, how things can surprise you and how precious life is,” he says. “Hopefully, during your lifetime, you can do some good, enjoy life and help others enjoy theirs, so you can make a difference.”

Regardless of where life takes you, to Ron it’s all about quality of life. And he gets plenty of that right here at CNA and in his Newfoundland piece of heaven. *RM*



BEING NANUK

MY DAY AS THE COLLEGE MASCOT • BY GINA MACARTHUR

It really is a spur-of-the-moment decision, and one that I probably should consider more carefully, but the Summer Crew needs a mascot and I have some experience. So here I am, dressed in white polyester fur from head to toe, on what could turn out to be the hottest day of the summer.

It's July, and the RCMP Musical Ride is in town. Visitors will be dropping by the Stephenville Dome, where the magnificent black horses are being stabled, and that provides a perfect opportunity for College of the North Atlantic to raise its profile. Information booths at events like this are a proven marketing

strategy. People get to talk to a college representative in person, and often make the decision to enrol.

Nanuk is an important part of that strategy. By his sheer size alone, he commands attention, which gives our student development officers an opening to discuss the college and its programs and hand out promotional items. Most importantly, he helps create a fun atmosphere everywhere he goes.

Of course, the atmosphere inside the big, white, furry suit is another story -

especially on a warm day. That's why Nanuk comes equipped with a cooling vest lined with ice packs, and a battery-operated fan mounted inside his giant Styrofoam head.

Getting into this contraption is definitely a two-person job, and it has to be done somewhere private, so that you don't ruin the illusion for young children. So we hide away in a dressing room at the Dome as Student Development Officer Sherri McNeil

helps me into the suit, fits the giant white feet over my sneakers, and then straps the head onto my shoulders. Although I'm only wearing a tank





“I quickly learn that no one can resist Nanuk’s hugs. All I have to do is stretch my arms wide in the direction of the nearest person, and POW! Instant hug!”

top and bicycle shorts, I’ve already broken a sweat – and the fan isn’t working. By the time my first 20-minute stint is over, I’m soaked, thirsty and hyperventilating. Thankfully we get the fan working for the next round, and it makes a significant difference.

If the potential for heat exhaustion is Nanuk’s biggest occupational hazard, reduced visibility from inside the costume comes a close second. His mouth, which sits at the eye level of the wearer, allows a very narrow line of sight. That’s why Nanuk is always accompanied by a mascot ‘handler’ – someone who can direct him around obstacles and warn him if he needs to get out of the way.

As I head out of the dressing room, I encounter my first young admirers – and my first problem. As anyone who knows me can appreciate, I’m struck by the urge to talk to them. Unfortunately for me, Nanuk doesn’t speak, and since his face is immobile, I’m going to have to be creative in demonstrating emotion. That means lots of large, exaggerated gestures – not the

easiest thing when you’re buried inside a mountain of fun-fur with a giant Styrofoam ball on your head.

I quickly learn that no one can resist Nanuk’s hugs. All I have to do is stretch my arms wide in the direction of the nearest person, and POW! Instant hug! Even the big, burly RCMP officers who have perfected the art of looking intimidating, aren’t immune to Nanuk’s charms.

Of course there are also the children – usually little girls or toddlers – who are positively terrified of Nanuk, or any mascot for that matter. In the interest of saving their parents the cost of a psychotherapist in the future, I’m careful to cut them a wide berth.

And then, there are the 10 to 12 year-old boys. I’m not sure why they feel the urge to physically attack Nanuk, but it seems to give them great amusement to pretend to body slam me, or punch me in the head. Oh well, it’s just another occupational hazard for mascots.

Pretty soon I’m making the rounds of the displays, and looking for ways to be entertaining. We need some good pictures

for Nanuk’s Blog, the website feature that’s geared toward children. I stretch out across the hood of the RCMP’s antique car (which happens to have been restored by CNA students) and then get my picture taken with the Remote Mobile Investigator.

Later I’m joined by the RCMP’s Safety Bear mascot, and we concoct a plan to get us into the police rescue boat – which requires climbing a step ladder in full costume (minus the feet for safety’s sake). After a couple of iconic poses (“I’m the king of the world!”) it’s time to pack it in for the day.

As I’m climbing out of the suit in the dressing room, a female RCMP officer enters, dressed in red serge and riding boots, and offers a look of pure sympathy. “You must be hot,” she says, matter-of-factly.

“Yes,” I reply, and instantly down another bottle of water. *u*

A Portrait of the Educator as a Young Man

By Glenda McCarthy

Back in the 1970s, Dermot Kelly had no way of knowing a chance encounter with the work of Irish novelist and poet James Joyce would profoundly impact his life.

He was just a teenager when he stumbled across Joyce's work for the first time. Flash forward 37 years, and Dermot is a James Joyce expert who has written a book and traveled to several countries to give special lectures.

"I pulled down this copy of *Dubliners* when I was 14. I had to read some stories for English class and I liked the picture on the cover. I don't think Mom or I thought anything special was happening that afternoon."

Something special definitely took place – the beginning of Dermot's love of Joyce, which would ultimately influence the rest of his life.

With a father who has written 11 books, you could say writing is in Dermot's blood. His first book, *Narrative Strategies in Joyce's Ulysses*, was published when he was just 28 years old — an impressive feat for someone so young.

"Generally you'll see the book is cited, but it doesn't mean I'm a big star or anything. It is in the Memorial University library and has been cited in Korea and Portugal," he says. "I've published other articles on Joyce over the years

but a book is a wonderful thing. I really had no idea at the time how a printed copy can travel the world."

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Dermot immigrated to Montreal with his parents.


"I knew quite specifically I had Irish roots. I was born in Scotland and they really believe in education there. I came to Canada when I was in Grade 3... but I was old enough to remember. My parents made the brilliant maneuver to move to Montreal in the late 60s."

Although he was young when he arrived in Canada, he never forgot his roots. After completing a bachelor of arts in English literature at McGill University, Dermot moved to Dublin in the 1980s to attain a masters followed by a PhD, also in English literature. But somewhere in between, he found the time to write *Narrative Strategies in Joyce's Ulysses*. Dermot harnessed his fascination with Joyce's work as the focus for his honours thesis at McGill and again in his PhD dissertation.

After completing his education, he moved into various teaching positions and he has been employed with CNA as an English instructor since 1989.

Dermot believes parents encourage their children to dream big, which prompted him to set big goals for himself. He also encourages students to do the same.

"There are a lot of dreams out there and I keep telling my students that your parents have to support you. I had my dad as a role model. My parents were teachers and education was a big thing in our house."

Decades after his introduction to Joyce, Dermot continues to be fascinated with the poet's work. Earlier this year he was a guest lecturer with the 22nd North America James Joyce conference in California, where he described Joyce's impact on popular music in a lecture titled *How the Irish Invented Punk*. Next year, he has been invited to speak at the international James Joyce Symposium in Dublin, Ireland. 



Dermot Kelly



SOCIAL MEDIA

By Glenda McCarthy

Interaction with current and potential students was the driving force behind CNA's recent redesign of its social media presence.

"People often hear the term 'social media' these days without realizing the full significance of what it means," says Lorne Pike, owner of Lorne Pike & Associates which provides social media, blogging, search engine optimization, and website design services.

"The media has traditionally been a small group of very important broadcasters and printers, such as radio and television stations, and magazines and newspapers. But social media expanded the power and influence of that small group to include virtually everyone in society. We are all now the media, and anyone with access to the Internet can share their opinions with the people around them."

According to Pike, many people look for information from bloggers and Twitter as much as or even more than traditional media.

"Social media gives everyone the potential to be a broadcaster, and companies need to recognize this to avoid either missing potential avenues of broadcast and support, or being surprised by new channels of criticism and competition."

He also believes social media is important for post-secondary institutions.

"While colleges and universities serve people of all ages, most students will generally be relatively young people or people who are actively interested in learning and growing. These are the prime users of social media. These people are forming their career choices and paths of education through social media and online searches, whether they do it consciously or not.

"Post-secondary institutions can provide information to help them make informed choices, but perhaps even more

importantly, these schools can themselves learn more about what these potential students are seeking, and what skill sets today's and tomorrow's companies are needing. There are countless voices out there, and the school that is not listening will soon be not relevant."

CNA has stayed relevant by redesigning its three main social media presences.


"It was only a couple of years ago that CNA's website was the focus of attention and main vehicle for getting information to potential students, however it certainly hasn't taken long for the various social media platforms to jump to the forefront," says Roger Hulan, the college's communications specialist.

"The college has made every effort to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to incorporating social media into our recruitment efforts and our general communications activities. With the updated profiles and accounts up and running over the past few months - we feel we have refreshed the college image."

"The college has done an exceptional job of creating a Facebook presence," adds Pike. "In fact, I'm comfortable in saying that you are pushing the edge of what any colleges anywhere have done on Facebook. You have a lot of information made available on your CNA tab, and have built up an impressive number of people who like your main page as well as your campus and alumni pages."

Pike believes the college has a strong start with its Twitter presence and also gives kudos to the college's redesigned YouTube account.

"Great work again on your YouTube page! Nice incorporation of the college look and feel. You've done a lot of things right with the setup."

"As social media has changed," says Hulan, "So too must our strategy for connecting with new learners." 



CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY CREATED *FOR* EDUCATORS, *BY* EDUCATORS

By Glenda McCarthy

The Cisco Networking Academy partnership is a thriving example of how College of the North Atlantic (CNA) continues to create opportunities for students.

"Cisco is a company that supplies networking equipment and offers training on their products worldwide to schools and educational institutions," says Jackie Reid, the information technology instructor who delivers the Cisco Academy curriculum at CNA.

Created by educators, for educators, Cisco Academy offers curriculum at no cost to not-for-profit educational institutions such as CNA. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration as well as practical knowledge.

"The Cisco Academy program teaches students relevant technology skills through standardized curriculum that can be integrated into our existing college programs. It also can be delivered by qualified instructors at the high school level."

Jackie says Academy students don't just read about networking, they build networks and complete hands-on exercises in specially equipped labs. Certified instructors use a variety of teaching and learning activities to help students master content while multimedia address a variety of learning styles.

Greg Kinsella is a second-year Computer Systems and Networking student at Prince Philip Drive campus who has gone through Cisco Academy training.

"I really like the information technology sector. I was doing some courses in information systems at Memorial but I wanted to do more hands-on and courses over there are more theory based."

He says it takes hard work and dedication but is worth it in the long run.

"I'm really enjoying it. There are a lot more lab hours and a lot of hands-on stuff that needs to be done."

The St. John's native has just three courses left to do at Memorial University to

get his business degree, which he hopes to finish this summer. He plans to put his CNA training to good use after that.

"I have always liked the business side of things and I feel like a degree in business will help give me a leg-up from everyone, so I'd like to combine both things and see what happens from there."

CNA has successfully used the Cisco curriculum within the Computer Systems and Networking and Telecom Engineering programs since 2000.

"It's an international program that successfully prepares graduates for networking and IT related jobs in the public and private sectors, as well as for higher education in engineering, computer science, and related fields. It provides state-of-the-art test equipment for Academy labs at discounted rates as well as certification and job placement opportunities for Academy students," continues Jackie.

"It's a fantastic program that gives opportunities to actually learn valuable curriculum from certified instructors," she says, explaining that the program is only available to public schools and that CNA is lucky to have access to the Cisco-developed curriculum.

"Educators and policymakers agree that student learning occurs best when high-quality curriculum, instruction and assessment are standards-based, aligned and reinforcing each other. The Cisco Networking Academy program is not just a virtual class or an online course. The curriculum is delivered over the Internet to classrooms with certified instructors and specialized equipment."


CNA has three

active local academies which deliver the curriculum at the Prince Philip Drive, Ridge Road and Corner Brook campuses.

"The program provides students with the Internet technology skills essential in a global economy, prepares students for the demands of the workplace, leads to continued education and learning, and prepares for industry standard certifications," says Jackie.

It also uses a blended learning model.

"Each academy integrates high-quality face-to-face teaching with hands-on lab exercises with Cisco providing a multimedia delivery of challenging curricula and embedded assessment over the Internet. In addition, you can mix and match courses according to your needs."

More than 10,000 academies are using the assessment and grade book tools that are embedded in the program and over 20,000 instructors tap into online support and training for professional and personal development. 



RECYCLING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT



By Glenda McCarthy

Wayne Mills is proud of the work the college is doing to reduce its carbon footprint. Over the past few years, a number of new initiatives have come online to help preserve the environment for future generations – electronic waste (e-waste) recycling is one such initiative.

“E-waste is all of our electronic equipment such as computers or monitors,” says Wayne, fixed asset coordinator. “It could be a microwave, a shredder, lab equipment – anything that has to do with electrical outlets that is either obsolete or not working.”

E-waste is collected from campuses across the island and brought to Stephenville by students in the Commercial Transport program, and then inventoried, classified and stored.

“A church, a school or any other non-profit organization can request computer equipment, monitors...”

“We use our students, who get their training, and we get our e-waste which is a wonderful win-win situation,” says Wayne. “The students need the hours on the big trucks to get their licence and pass their course. They go with our trucks and get their hours, and we get our e-waste.”

Anything that’s reusable is donated to non-profit groups within the province, and the rest is sent to a facility in Quebec, where it’s broken down and recycled according to national and provincial regulations.

“A church, a school or any other non profit organization can request computer equipment, monitors, or keyboards that would help their organization work,” says Wayne.

The college also donates other equipment, including desks, chairs and filing cabinets.

“Back in 2000, we decided that a donation to a community non-profit organization would be an absolute good way to dispose of some of our excess equipment. Any non-profit group can send a letter of request to our comptroller, Kelly Hanlon,” Wayne says, adding that it’s better than putting it in a landfill.

“I’m environmentally friendly myself and I wouldn’t want to see anything go to landfill. My personal opinion is that it’s absolutely wonderful. It’s absolutely a wonderful footprint for the rest of the island and government agencies to do. E-waste should not be going to landfills and it is. It’s massive and it should not be happening.” *nm*

In case you missed it...

Students' video game scores at Toronto Film Festival

February 16, 2011 – A group of students from CNA's Video Game Design program won a national competition that will help them 'level up' as they start their careers in the industry.

The Binding was one of five student-designed games to be featured at Future Frames and Games during *Sprockets: The Toronto International Film Festival for Children and Youth*, from April 5 – 17, 2011.

The game was developed by Shane Brake, Morley Elliott, Jared Gilbert, James Kerfont, and Jeremy Morgan when they were first-year students at the college's Bay St. George campus in 2010. It beat out dozens of offerings from colleges across the country to become one of five games that was showcased during the festival.

Federal/Provincial Governments invest in Labrador campuses

February 22, 2011 – The provinces energy and mining industries received a boost with a combined \$612,765 investment from the governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador.

CNA received funding to assist in the purchase of specialty mining simulation equipment to enhance its Mining Technician program Labrador West campus.

Funding for the Power Line Technician program helped the college purchase equipment that is required to establish the popular program at its Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus. The high demand for the program is being driven by the industry's need for skilled recruits.

Hebron establishes diversity scholarships, research grants

March 8, 2011 – The Hebron Project co-venturers established endowments totalling \$1.5 million for women, Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities. The funds were split evenly between students attending Memorial University and CNA.

Federal government supports certification of CNA aviation program

March 8, 2011 – CNA enhanced aviation training at its campus in Gander, thanks to an investment by the Government of Canada that allowed the college to move forward with international certification of its Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Technician program.

Through an international training partnership between CNA and Lufthansa Technical Training based in Frankfurt, Germany, program graduates will be able to obtain professional certification through the European Aviation Safety Agency in addition to the Transport Canada and Federal Aviation Authority certification currently offered by the college. By completing an additional semester of training, program graduates can become certified to service European registered aircraft, increasing their job mobility and marketability.

JUNO 2011 week begins and JUNO 2010 Legacy announced

March 24, 2011 - As the JUNO 2011 40th anniversary celebrations kicked off in Toronto, the Legacy program from JUNO 2010 in St. John's was announced.

A total of \$85,000 in funding was provided to educational initiatives of CNA (\$40,000), Memorial University of Newfoundland (\$20,000), and music industry related curriculum development in the K-12 system (\$25,000) as a direct result of the JUNO 2010 events held in Newfoundland and Labrador last year.

Hebron investment establishes new oil and gas training facilities at CNA

June 3, 2011 - A \$2 million investment by the Hebron Project co-venturers resulted in the development of two world-class oil and gas training facilities at CNA's Seal Cove and Ridge Road campuses.

The investments included establishing the Hebron Process Operations and Applied Research Laboratory at CNA's Petroleum Training Centre (Seal Cove) and the Hebron Process Analyzers Laboratory, at the

Engineering Technology Centre (Ridge Road). These state-of-the-art facilities enhance CNA's training abilities as they relate to the resource sector, and increase its petroleum related applied research capacity through a stronger college/industry partnership.

Grand Falls-Windsor campus gets new skilled trades suite

July 28, 2011 – The Grand Falls-Windsor campus opened its doors to special guests to celebrate the official opening of a new industrial trades suite.


The \$5.5 million project was funded through the provincial and federal governments, with the province contributing \$2.75 million – \$1.375 million from the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development's Regional/Sectoral Diversification Fund and \$1.375 million through CNA – and \$2.75 million from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

The 12,600 square-foot facility features two multi-function skilled trades shops. The building also houses a multi-function classroom and multi-media centre, which can be used to provide training for construction managers, contractors and supervisors.

The college campus offers two programs in the new facility; the Comprehensive Arts and Science (CAS) Trades Program and a two-year Renovation Technician Program.

Government of Canada investment in CNA benefits manufacturing industry

August 23, 2011 – Manufacturing firms on the Burin Peninsula are able to fulfill their quality assurance requirements much closer to their operations thanks to the federal government's investment in CNA's destructive and non-destructive testing project at the Burin campus.

The ACOA funding allowed the college to acquire new equipment and begin a research project around quality assurance methods. 



Chef Patti Dooley puts the finishing touch on a plate of mussels.

Mussels in white wine garlic & pepper sauce

Ingredients

3 tbsp butter	3/4 cup fresh cream
1 onion, finely chopped	30 fresh mussels
11 cloves of garlic, crushed	1/2 cup chopped bell peppers
3 tbsp cake flour	1/2 tsp garlic salt and pepper
2 cups white wine	1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

Directions

Heat the butter in a large sauce pot and sauté the onions for 5 minutes.

Add the garlic and stir-fry for 1 minute. Stir in the flour quickly and thoroughly. Pour in the white wine and keep stirring to prevent any lumps from forming.


Add the cream, mussels and peppers and slow cook 10 minutes. Season with garlic salt and pepper.

Transfer to serving bowl and garnish with parsley.

Chef Patti Dooley says the key to selecting fresh mussels is to find the ones that sound solid, not hollow when tapped with a knife.

"Fresh mussels should have a sweet ocean scent," she says. "Mussels that are exposed to the air for any length of time will open slightly. To test for freshness, tap the mussel's shell and it should close. Mussels that do not close should be discarded."

Patti says mussels are best when used immediately, but they can be stored for up to eight days in the refrigerator. Keep them moist by covering them with a damp cloth.

"Preparing mussels for cooking is quick and easy," says Patti. "Cultivated mussels require very little cleaning, since they are graded and ready to use. They may require a quick rinse and inspection, and if byssus threads (sometimes called the beard) still remain, remove them with scissors or a quick tug." 

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