

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

CURRENTS

Nanuk takes the Big Land by storm

Nanuk stormed his way through Happy Valley-Goose Bay (HVGB) the week of Sept. 8-13. While temperatures were warm, he still managed to visit daycares and the local primary school. Children were delighted as Nanuk distributed over 340 Rice Krispie squares to the boys and girls. There were hugs and high fives everywhere. He then moved on to the local Big Land Fair and the college community pancake breakfast where kids of all ages were excited to meet the large polar bear. Nanuk didn't forget the college as he toured the HVGB campus visiting staff and students and having his picture taken with various classes.



Nanuk visited all classes at Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus including the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician program.

E-store opens for business



After several years in the conceptual stage and months of development work, College of the North Atlantic's e-store is open for business.

The e-store can be accessed directly from the college's internal e-store introduction web page (www.cna.nl.ca/estore) and is the first

place employees should visit when ordering promotional merchandise. Examples of items found on the site include golf shirts, hoodies, sweat shirts, t-shirts, track suits, various caps and hats, pens, mugs, back packs, and much, much more!

Staff ordering items for college purposes must still follow the regular purchasing procedures and complete a PeopleSoft requisition for their merchandise. The only difference now is that the e-store will serve as an electronic catalogue for staff to browse to find items. Purchases by staff (or anyone else) for personal use can be made through secure credit card transactions.

After its public launch (coming soon!), we expect the e-store to be a popular spot on the college's website, and anticipate use by alumni, students, parents, employers and our own employees. The e-store will be given a permanent, prominent link from the homepage.

"This is a project that has been a long time

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Provincial government investment increases access to Paramedic training

As mentioned in a previous issue of *Currents*, Bay St. George campus has established a new paramedic training program that includes some of North America's most advanced emergency response simulation equipment. The provincial government has invested \$584,000 in the training program through its Regional/Sectoral Diversification Fund (RSDF).

"The establishment of the Paramedic Training program at our Bay St. George campus reflects the true spirit of our White Paper, demonstrating successful partnerships between each of our educational institutions," says the Honourable Joan Burke, minister of education.

"Through a partnership between the Bay St. George campus of the college and the Marine Institute's Safety and Emergency Response Training Centre (SERT), students at both facilities will have access to the latest technology and world-class training, giving them the highest level of skills required in today's work-

place.

After consultation with industry, the college has developed an emergency response curriculum, hired an instructor, and built a five-bed emergency room complete with computerized mannequins that can simulate any injury. Students can use the life-like mannequins to check blood pressure and heart rates, use a defibrillator and give injections. The mannequins also record how students respond to medical situations.

"These are advanced human simulators, capable of replicating every conceivable injury and symptom from childbirth to being crushed in a car wreck," says CNA President Jean Madill.

"Our desire is to create in Stephenville a state-of-the-art centre for emergency first-responder training, and a paramedic training program is an important part of our plan. The site capacity will be among the very best in Canada and has potential to attract business nationally and internationally."



Joanne Farrell provides respirations to the new SIM MAN High Fidelity Patient Simulator. This piece of equipment simulates various scenarios including advanced respiratory and cardiac emergencies. The equipment also gives verbal descriptions of the presenting complaint and responds to student questions.

Instructors from China visit CNA

Prince Philip Drive (PPD) and Ridge Road campuses in St. John's are hosting guest instructors from China for Fall Semester 2008.

Qiu-Qiong Peng is from Huangshi city, Hubei province, and is an Accounting instructor at the Huangshi Institute of Technology. During her time at PPD campus she will attend, observe, and partake in courses in the Business Management program. There are several goals in mind for this

visiting instructor, says Campus Administrator Conrad Maillet.

"We'd like for her to gain an appreciation

"What impresses me most is that people here are very friendly – they are so kind and give me much help."

of how we deliver our accounting courses and the differences in Canadian accounting; in addition, she has an opportunity to improve her English communication skills," says Maillet.

"The stay with us will provide our guest with the opportunity to return to China with the experience of our program and culture and help with the delivery of our programs at her institute. Ms. Peng will also be able to speak of our program, campus, and province in a more detailed manner to all those instructors and students there who may be interested in studying abroad."

CNA holds partnerships with and offers curriculum at eight institutions in China, with some 1,000 students studying CNA's Business, Engineering and IT curriculum there. Chinese

students have also had the opportunity to continue their studies in Newfoundland and Labrador at CNA. This visit is the first in what is hoped to be a succession of guest instructors from the country in an instructor exchange program.

Peng, who holds a Masters in Accounting, is the Vice Director of the Accounting department at the Huangshi Institute and also teaches Accounting. This is her first visit to Canada.

"Although the travel took me almost two days and two nights from China to St. John's, it is worth it when I saw the beautiful scenery about the city," says Peng of her first time travelling overseas.

"It's so nice here... many trees, grass, and beautiful houses. The air is so fresh. What impresses me most is that people here are very friendly – they are so kind and give me much help. I believe I will have a very wonderful experience here."

Also visiting from China, is Cong-Sheng Huang, an instructor from the Huang Shi Institute of Technology in China. He holds a Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from



Visiting instructors meet President Madill

CNA-Q student enjoys summer in Newfoundland

For Khalil Mohamed the summer months are typically spent with friends and family at his home in Saudi Arabia or camping in the dunes of Qatar. This year he decided to experience something a little different.

Mohamed applied for the Qatar Project Exchange Student program last spring and was chosen to spend eight weeks working in various departments of the CNA Headquarters office in Stephenville. Unsure of what to expect, he packed his bags and eagerly headed for Newfoundland.

"I thought it would be a larger city with more nightlife," Mohamed jokes of his Stephenville expectations. "I also thought it would be more difficult working and living with Westerners, but it wasn't. In the United Kingdom people don't smile... but they do a lot of that here."

Mohamed is an experienced world traveler, led by his studies and inquisitive nature. Originating from Syria, living in Saudi Arabia, having attended a post-secondary institution in Manchester, England, and now attending school in Doha, he has seen a lot at the ripe old age of 21! However, he admits still having to work through adjusting to the North American culture and climate.

"My first week here was horrible," he laughs. "It wasn't what I had expected so I spent a lot of time at the gym. I was thinking of a city like Montreal... but after spending time in Stephenville I would prefer to visit here any time."

Mohamed is entering his third and final year of the Banking and Financial Studies program at CNA-Q this semester, and while the cultural aspect of his Newfoundland trip was something he'll never forget, he learned a lot from his time working at the college.

"The finance department helped me with things I am studying at CNA-Q," states Mohamed. "I have a stronger understanding of finance and a better view of the working environment. I've also had the chance to do a lot more reading in the office and in residence, and that has helped me gain more experience."

While his language skills were good, he admits that living and working in an English speaking culture was beneficial to his career choice. All program offerings at CNA-Q are taught in English by Canadian instructors, and while having two years under his belt with Canadian instruction, experiencing the culture first-hand has given him a better appreciation for the skills CNA-Q instructors help instill in


students.

"The CNA-Q instructors are very nice people... and Newfoundland must have a good reputation from what I have experienced," notes Mohamed.

Another of Mohamed's duties while in Newfoundland was to assist in the development of a student exchange program report with two Newfoundland summer students (see story on page 4). He offers up some advice for students of any age or education level who are considering taking part in an international exchange.

"Where the students are going isn't always going to be what they expect," notes Mohammed. "The best thing they can do is research as much as they can and get information from other people that have gone through the process."

"I'd like for other people to have the same positive experience that I have had. I didn't expect to have such a good time and my goal is to share as much as I can with others at home. I think people from both cultures would be really happy to have this experience. I'll definitely be back, whether it's to study or for a vacation."



College of the North Atlantic-Qatar student Khalil Mohamed takes in some of the scenery of Cape St. George during his student exchange program in Stephenville.

Exchanging cultural experiences

Imagine being thrust into a foreign environment with no preparation.

That is what College of the North Atlantic (CNA) hopes to avoid with a new plan for a student exchange program between CNA–Newfoundland and Labrador and CNA-Qatar.

Michele Cooper and Ryan Tiller were employed at Stephenville's Qatar office this past summer as part of an eight-week Student Work and Service Program.

"We were hired on as summer students and it developed as a student exchange development position, where we were responsible for researching past experiences of people who have gone to Qatar," says Tiller. "We ended up interviewing a number of people who participated in the student exchange program and learned what was good and bad about it."

Some of the individuals they spoke to include Corner Brook Campus Administrator Brent Howell and Manager of Recruitment/Enrollment Shirley Woodward-Buckle.

After numerous interviews with CNA employees from various campuses throughout the province, the plan took four weeks to compile.

"It's a great experience," says Cooper. "I've learned a lot. I didn't know anything about Qatar at first. When I first started here I only knew the name and now I know so much about it. It's really great. It will be good for our future and other people will learn from what we've accomplished – in the future they can expand on our work. If anyone else would like to do an exchange they will know more about it based on what we've compiled."

"The students that were hired by the Qatar Project office were given the responsibility of developing a student exchange resource booklet," adds Roger Hulan, information officer for the Qatar Project. "The booklet would highlight the various human and physical resources needed to successfully implement an annual student exchange program. This initiative is a commitment outlined in the comprehensive

agreement between the college and the State of Qatar."

While student exchange programs have many advantages, according to the plan, there are many obstacles faced as well.



A plan was recently developed at the Qatar office for a student exchange program. Working on the plan are from left, summer student Ryan Tiller, Qatar exchange student Khalil Mohamed and summer student Michele Cooper.

No one can understand the obstacles better than Qatar exchange student Khalil Mohamed, who provided a first-hand account of some of the ethnic and cultural differences faced by exchange students.

"Everything is different here," Mohamed says of comparing Stephenville to Qatar. "The first thing to come to mind – it's a really small place. People are from a different culture here but I got used to it after the first week. I was used to it back there with local people in Qatar but didn't have chance to work with

other people or other cultures. I thought at first I would have a hard time understanding (the language) – but I found the people here easy to understand. They have been like my second family and I really like it."

Mohamed says it took a little time to adjust to the lifestyle.

"I'm doing everything – doing laundry and preparing meals. I'm used to having everything ready for me. I have to wake myself, walk to work, walk to main street. It's not hard for me but it's different."

While the majority of the time the language isn't a barrier, there were times he struggled.

"Sometimes if you speak really fast I can't understand, but 90 per cent of the time I can understand the conversation."

The exchange program allows a student to broaden personal and education perspectives, explore and appreciate new cultures, explore new areas of study, look for future employment opportunities, acquire life skills and enables students to be more prepared for globalization.

In addition, the report identified some of the considerations to take into account including housing, healthcare, food, climate, funding, travel arrangements, dress code, religion, social support and quality of life.

"There has been a new position, Coordinator-International Education, created at the Qatar campus," says Hulan.

"This person will have the responsibility of taking the document and its recommendations

and implementing it over the coming year. They will also have the task of developing student exchange opportunities with other post-secondary institutions for the students of CNA-Q."

For more information about the CNA-Q log on to their website at www.cna-qatar.com.

Local CNA instructor chairs the first World Virtual Science and Engineering Fair

Dear Editor,

I recently had the privilege of being invited to Qatar to help judge the first World Virtual Science and Engineering Fair and I would like to share some of the highlights of this event with your readers and future young Newfoundland scientists.

This event was the brain child of Wilf Riego who is a Physics instructor with CNA Corner Brook campus, and who has been teaching at CNA's Qatar campus for the last five years. Mr. Riego has always been a strong supporter of local science fairs and has brought his enthusiasm for developing an interest in science in our youth to Qatar with him. His idea was to develop and deliver a world science fair that differs from traditional competitions in that participants would use the latest in Internet and multimedia technology to submit their projects in the form of web pages. Student scientists from anywhere in the world, between the ages of 15 to 24, would submit their science projects virtually on the internet to be evaluated by an international panel of judges.

"For the first time, students have been able to compete in a world-class event alongside their peers from around the world," said Dr. Harald Jorch, president of CNA-Q.

CNA's policy of supporting innovative research and development allowed CNA-Q management to endorse Wilf's initiative. In addition, His Highness the Emir and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned have set a course for Qatar to become the epicentre of science and research in the Middle East. The Qatari government and many prominent local industries fully embraced the concept of bringing the best and brightest science students to Doha to compete for significant awards and recognition. Their contribution is a direct reflection of Qatar's present philosophy towards science and education. Her Highness summarized this as follows:

"The sharing of knowledge, ideas and values

is the noblest way to transcend barriers. In this sense, globalization is the architect which constructs academic bridges across cultural and geographical landscapes."

Their support made it possible for teams from five continents to travel to Doha for the final competition. These students were provided with the opportunity to share ideas with one another and to experience a brand new culture. In addition, they were afforded the opportunity to personally discuss their projects with judges from all over the world.

These judges included:

Musbah Mahfoud — CNA-Q faculty, who taught at Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
Michael Berry — Senior Technology officer from Department of Education, Queensland, Australia
Mariam ALAli ALMa'adeed — Material science Associate Professor Qatar University
Dwight Sparling — Web Specialist, Miami, Florida, U.S.
Imad Khaduri — Nuclear Scientist Special Programs Manager Qatar National Research Fund, Qatar Foundation
A.M.S. Hamouda — Head of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Qatar University
Larry Orberg — Canada Wide Virtual Science Fair Coordinator

In addition, Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canadian Astronaut, Physician, Scientist, Author and Photographer, was a special guest and judge at the fair. Dr. Bondar is the world's first neurologist in space and the first Canadian woman in space on the shuttle Discovery mission in 1992.

Dr. Bondar said, "The virtual aspect of the fair is quite unique and allowed students who don't normally have access to science fairs to be involved and compete against students from all over the world. I am a big supporter of science fairs like this. They stimulate sci-

ence and education through rewarding excellence."



Wilf, Dr. Bondar, and Tom

Out of 103 entries, eight projects were chosen as finalists. The top three winners in each category received scholarship money to go towards tuition costs at an educational institution of their choice. The top prize was \$20,000 Canadian, with the second prize of \$15,000 and \$7,500 for third place. Four teams were assigned to the College-University category and four teams were assigned to the High School level. Canada was represented by three students from BC and Ontario. Jordan Chin and Robert Young, Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF) 2007 silver medalists from Vancouver who are now in first year at UBC, represented North America in the College-University category with the project, Finding f(x). Vladislav Ternosky, CWSF 2006 bronze medallist from Northview Heights Secondary School in Toronto, represented the continent in the high school category with the project A Hole in a Wing... Not Always a Bad Thing. Vladislav took top honours in his category and was awarded a Platinum \$20,000 scholarship.

If any reader is interested in obtaining more information about this science fair, you may link to <http://66.195.251.235/sciencefair/public/main.asp>. On a final note I would like to say that all participants and guests were treated royally by all of the volunteers that worked tirelessly throughout the entire event. I would definitely encourage any young scientist to track this event for future offerings so you can showcase your ingenuity to the world.

Submitted by Tom Coombs, Academic Math/
Physics Instructor.



New technologies at CNA - busting germs

Germophobes rejoice!

Two new technologies by College of the North Atlantic's Office of Applied Research (OAR) will crack down on the dangerous microbes we come in contact with in public on a daily basis.

On the heels of creating such technologies for public consumption as the Nomex Clothes Dryer for fire resistant clothing, and a Remote Viewing Welding Helmet, engineer Randal Power has invented a self-sanitizing pen holder and a self-sanitizing toilet seat. The inspiration for each, as with most of his ideas,

"...we've developed an item that will render the seat clean to the point of being sterile."

came from an everyday occurrence.

"I was home doing dishes and wishing there was a way to keep the dish cloth clean longer. The idea intrigued me and I began asking around, getting ideas of what other items people wanted to see sanitized... things they handle regularly in public," reveals Power.

"We considered hospitals and such things as telephone receivers and door knobs and what

just about anything resting on them.

"With the pen holder, UV rays clean it for you. It effectively renders anything on the surface dead if you leave it," says Power. "UVA light isn't as affective as UVC – the mother of all UVs – the one the ozone layer filters out that could cause end of the earth; it causes skin cancer but kills bacteria very well. It is fairly new and very expensive technology so we chose to use the UVA light."

The light sanitizes surfaces by damaging the DNA strands of bacteria, therefore killing it. Researchers played with ways to apply

the light to surfaces, including running UV rays through a flashlight. This technique isn't ideal; though it can kill bacteria, it quickly burns up your batteries. This led them to create an apparatus that runs on a timer circuit. For example, when a pen is placed in the sanitizing holder, it triggers the UV light, which cleans it in a matter of seconds (or minutes, depending on the bacterial density). The toilet seat works in much the same way.

"The public toilet is a subject of fear and loathing, but we have to use them,"

"The public toilet is a subject of fear and loathing, but we have to use them," begins Power. "So we've developed an item that will render the seat clean to the point of being sterile. It has a built-in timer so when you close the lid, it runs the timer... for how long, is to be determined. It exposes the entire

"...this is the highest number of technologies produced by any Canadian college for licensing..."

surface and even some areas within the toilet bowl. When you lift the lid it shuts off immediately. Like the pen holder, it will run on batteries or can be plugged in to an AC outlet."

The OAR has filed for a Canadian patent for the technologies and they have fabricated several prototypes for distribution and testing. These two inventions extend the number of CNA's technologies available for licensing to seven, says Chair of Applied Research, Mohamad Iqbal.



UV light is attached to the seat cover of this prototype; it will kill germs while the seat is down. The light will shut off as soon as the cover is lifted.



Placing a pen in this holder will sanitize it within minutes, possibly seconds.

process we would use to clean them."

Power explains that the sanitization technology utilized for the two new inventions uses a particular light source to rid surfaces of

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the highest number of technologies produced by any Canadian college for licensing at this time," says Iqbal.

"Also, these items are the first two among our intended line of products in this technology area. Through a well coordinated marketing plan, we intend to launch these products

into 21st century workplaces, homes and businesses, to offer improved sanitation, hygiene and a healthier environment."

Prototypes may be viewed at the Office of Applied Research, Prince Philip Drive campus.

Woman's journey brings her home

Sherrilynn Lundrigan went all the way to Fort McMurray for work but didn't find it; instead, the 23-year-old from Jerseyside, Placentia Bay found a career at home, practically in her back yard.

After returning home to Newfoundland in the fall of 2007, Sherrilynn visited College of the North Atlantic's Placentia campus, where she noticed an ad for the Career Exploration for Women (CEW) program. When she asked the campus' Business Development Officer about it, she was told the program was starting the next day.

"I was on maternity leave and wondering what I would do next when I saw the ad at the campus," says Sherrilynn.

"Before I knew it, I was going to school!"

She discovered a great deal in the six-week program that was of interest to her; so much so, she wasn't sure which trade to choose.

"Every week I found something else I loved... I would say 'I'm going to become a welder,' then 'no, I'm going to become a heavy equipment operator,'" she laughs, "then it was 'no, I'm not going to do that trade, I'm going to do this other one.'"

The CEW program, launched at the college in 2006, introduces women to a number of career options in skilled trades at a time when the Conference Board of Canada forecasted a shortage of a million skilled workers by 2020. College of the North Atlantic has been responding to this need for several years, by initiating programs such as the Orientation to Trades and Technology and CEW, and augmenting their offerings to include more engineering, IT and industrial trades programs.

With the introduction to such programs and training, women like Sherrilynn are not only considering a career in the skilled trades sector, they are taking a bite out of the industry and filling an important role in Canada's labour market needs.

By the time Sherrilynn graduated from the CEW program in November, she decided to enroll in the full-time, 24-week Heavy Equipment Operator program at Placentia campus for the next semester. In the meantime, however, she was called for a job interview with Marine Atlantic; she went into the interview unsure of what she had to offer and was pleasantly surprised.

"In the interview...when they asked me how I could handle certain situations I would say

'well, when I did CEW, we did this, and this, and this...' listing off the many things that turned out to be directly related to what they were looking for," says Sherrilynn.

"It felt really good to be able to say I had those skills. Without that program I would have no related experience whatsoever and I know I would not have gotten that job."

In addition to spending up to a week at a time on a particular trade, CEW also introduces students to courses in communications, resume writing, personal dimensions, computer operation, work ethics and more.

"Different women came in and spoke to us



about what it was like to work in the trades," explains Sherrilynn.

"Every person who came in was in a different trade and all of them sounded so good."

Today, Sherrilynn is employed full-time as one of Marine Atlantic's Stevedores, which is a person who loads and unloads boats. This marine transportation service connects the island of Newfoundland to the rest of Canada through two ports – Port aux Basques, on the west coast of the island, and Argentia, which is just 10 minutes from her home. Though

ecstatic when she was first hired in July, Sherrilynn was unsure if she could do the job.

"I was quite intimidated when I first started and saw what the men were doing," she says, "and the fact that I was the only woman among 11 or 12 men."

"Here I was, this little tiny girl. I was frightened to death!" she laughs. "The job involves tying the boat, guiding traffic on and off the boat, unloading and lashing vehicles to the boat with big heavy chains and big heavy rope. I was nervous at first... I'd back

down because I thought I couldn't do it. But I found out it's not as bad as it looks, anybody can do it."

That nervousness didn't last long and now Sherrilynn is doing all aspects of the job. Other duties of the job off the boat include sweeping the dock, mowing the lawn around the ferry terminal cleanup and more. She calls herself a "jack of all trades and master of none," something she is quite comfortable with and proud of.

"When I started I was just on the door of the boat and only guiding traffic; I was too nervous to do anything else," she says. "Now I'm doing lashing, I'm tying and untying the boat – basically everything the men are doing, I'm doing."

It wasn't only her who was nervous when she started the job; her family thought she was getting in over her head.

"At first, Mom, Dad and my fiancé told me I didn't know what I was getting into," she shares. "Now they're saying 'Good for you, you're doing a good job!' My friends and family are happy for me."

Sherrilynn is very pleased with her decision to work for Marine Atlantic and has a long-term plan in place.

"The next step for me is to train for Traffic Director. Marine Atlantic gives me all this training," she says.

"I've also decided to do the Heavy Equipment program at the college in six months or so – that will get me higher pay at Marine Atlantic and make me even more valuable to them."

CEW has opened up a world of possibilities for Sherrilynn. Her dream to work in the province, like that of many Newfoundlanders, has come true.

"I didn't want to leave the area because it is where I grew up; it is the best and most

beautiful place to raise my child," she shares.

"And as luck would have it, I got the job at Marine Atlantic – the CEW program is what made that dream possible. My fiancé and I are now looking for a home to purchase and we intend to get married and live happily ever after in our home town."

It seems this modern-day Cinderella's dream-come-true includes a hard hat and coveralls.

"Different women came in and spoke to us about what it was like to work in the trades,"

Oceans of opportunity

There seems to be no limit to what College of the North Atlantic can do when it comes to training. In fact, the college's Corporate Training and Continuing Education department prides itself on offering customized training for government, private enterprise, networks of companies and even individuals.

further developed.

"Through this initiative we are addressing the skilled trades aspect of building a vessel, including carpentry, electrical, mechanical, and just about everything else necessary to produce a high-end pleasure craft," explains Blake Cryderman, chair of Contract Training

first year of training will take place in the classroom and through workshops at Seal Cove campus. Years two and three will see trainees learning skills through a hands-on mentorship training component onsite at various boatyards throughout the province – also creating additional employment in rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"We are very excited to be moving forward with this new area of training, which will support the development and diversification of the local boat building industry," says CNA President Jean Madill.

"The college has worked closely with the provincial boat building sector to assess the needs in developing the appropriate trades training program."

Cryderman says there are many facets to the program and it has potential to greatly expand the current industry.

"This training could provide opportunities for people to set up new businesses and for existing companies to expand and diversify operations to address the current needs of this emerging industry," he says, "both for international export and for local and national markets."

"Equipped with this training, someone may also decide to open a business for the maintenance and repair of existing yachts and large vessels."

The program is slated to begin in January 2009.



This high-end pleasure craft, Beothuk, is owned by a Newfoundland businessman who had it custom-made in Holland. With the expected skilled work force resulting from the Yacht Building program, vessels of this calibre will be built right here at home.

A prime example is the most recent undertaking – an exciting three-year Yacht Building program designed to meet the needs of a growing industry in the province. It taps into an existing element of boatmaking that can be

and Continuing Education at CNA.

There will be various components to the training, including learning to work with fiberglass, wood, steel alloy and other materials involved in the making of such a craft. The

E-store opens...

»Continued from page 1

in the works," says Stephen Lee, the college's Manager of Marketing and Communications. "It's great to see it finally materialize and I'd like to acknowledge the tremendous effort put into this project by our marketing and communications staff, especially our webmaster Chris Yeo and marketing assistant Kim Blanchard."

The idea for the e-store was born out of a need to provide consistency with regard to how the college's logo was treated on promotional items, and to ensure these products were available to the widest audience possible.

"But when we brought the idea forward we found the e-store would also help out

with consistency in pricing," says Lee. "We discovered instances where we were selling a promotional item – for example a pen – at one campus for less than another campus was able to buy it. This was noted by the Auditor General, but the e-store should eliminate this problem."

The college issued a request for proposals to industry for the e-store project and received a number of responses. After careful review, the selection committee for the project (consisting of representatives from purchasing, marketing and finance) awarded the contract to Cooney Promotions/Branded Merchandise, out of Ontario.

"We had dealt with this company on a number of prior orders for promotional items and were confident they could provide us with

quality product," says Lee.

The Marketing and Communications department has been pleased with the products to date and says new items will be introduced to the site on an ongoing basis.

"If you go to the site and the item you want is not there, then you would requisition it through purchasing and they will go through the quoting process to find you that item," says Lee. "But if it's something the e-store vendor can stock, we will make them aware that there is a demand for this item and ask that they add it to the inventory."

The contract with Cooney Promotions/Branded Merchandise is for a three-year period, at which time the success of the e-store will be evaluated.

Unearthing Labrador history and culture

Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus is now offering a new course dedicated to the history of Labrador.

Labrador Society and Culture is taught by Scott Neilsen at Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus and broadcast through video conference to Labrador City.

"It's basically a pretty broad class about Labrador society and culture. It defines how society and culture are used and what they mean," says Neilsen. "From there we'll chrono-

Labrador West, and is a multi-year project documenting the archaeological record of the Labrador interior.

He says he is enjoying teaching at College of the North Atlantic.

"This is the first time I've taught a course. This is as much a learning experience for me as it is for the students. Since the students are from Labrador, they have a lot of the history already – even if they don't realize it," Neilsen says.

"They can learn first-hand about cultures..."

logically learn about the history of Labrador."

A first time instructor, Neilsen says he has plans to call on people of the area to give students insight into the history of Labrador.

"I'll talk about the archeology and go on to Labrador society and culture from when Europeans came over, the aboriginal culture that was here, how Newfoundland and Labrador became a part of Canada, and Labrador society today. We'll also discuss how things may change in the future with regard to mining and things like that."

Neilsen, a PhD student at Memorial University, recently won the Robert McGee Award from the Northern Scientific Training program to study a little-known area of Labrador.

His project is titled Archaeology Beyond the Horizon: Innu Land Tenure in

"The class is going good. It's a fair bit of work but I'm enjoying it so far and I certainly hope the students are enjoying it too. I'm trying to make it more interesting by using documentary films on Labrador, films on the Innu and I'm having guest speakers come in as well."

Neilsen says he hopes to have Trevor Hickey, Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, as a guest speaker in his class.

"I also hope to have someone from the Innu and Metis communities come in as guest speakers so they can learn first-hand about the various cultures that make up Labrador society."

Neilsen is originally from New Brunswick and is now entering the third year of PhD studies with Memorial University.



Registration week activities



CNA President Jean Madill lent a helping hand to the registration process at Bay St. George campus in September. President Madill assisted with handing out credit waivers during the registration process.



The Honourable Lieutenant Governor John Crosbie and his wife Jane toured Bay St. George campus during their recent visit to the west coast of the province in early September. One of the sites included in the tour was the new Qatar office. Kevin Baker, vice-president of the Qatar project, highlights the facility located at the Qatar campus of CNA.



New faculty meet for orientation

Twenty-four new instructors recently began their careers as professional educators by attending a workshop at CNA Headquarters in Stephenville. Entitled Learning by Design, the session took place August 19-22. Participants were introduced to the principles and practices of planning and facilitating adult learning, with a particular emphasis placed on the concept of alignment between content, learning outcomes, assessment and instruction. They also had an opportunity to learn about various college programs and services, through interaction with various college personnel, including the College Executive.

Brian Tobin, senior VP Academic and Student Services says it's essential that CNA

provides new faculty members with an opportunity to participate in a comprehensive orientation to the teaching, learning and research environment of the college.

"We're proud of our faculty and when we recruit new instructors, we want to do what we can to make their transition into the classroom as smooth as possible."

"We want to do what we can to ensure that their experience in the classroom is as rewarding as that of the students they teach," explains Tobin.

"We're proud of our faculty and when we recruit new instructors, we want to do what we can to make their transition into the classroom as smooth as possible. And that's

just the start... we also strive to provide faculty members with professional development opportunities throughout their careers with us."

Cindy Seymour, Office Administration instructor at Port aux Basques campus, thought the orientation was excellent.

"All of the sessions were very well presented and informative. It certainly helped prepare me for the classroom, especially the first day of classes," she says.

"Sheldon is an excellent facilitator and uses many different techniques to engage the group into discussion. I would have been happy with more time to cover even more material."

This is the sixth consecutive year that a faculty orientation workshop has been offered to new instructors.

Restructuring brings positive results

Restructuring brings positive results for the college and its learners

Newfoundland and Labrador is entering a period of prosperity unlike any in its 500 year history, as new projects in oil and gas, mining, and hydroelectricity are driving the economy and creating an unprecedented number of employment opportunities.

College of the North Atlantic already plays an important part in preparing much of the province's workforce, and it is now being called on to play an even greater role as the demand for skilled employees increases.

To that end, the college has been adding new programs and expanding capacity in existing programs, and has begun a process of restructuring and organizational design to better support this growth and serve its learners. The process is expected to be completed by March.

"For a long time in the early part of this decade the college had to deal with annual cutbacks to administration and support staff," says John Hutchings, vice-president of Finance and Administration. "There were many layoffs and as a result there were situations where the responsibilities for a lost job were combined with another existing position. This situation was far from ideal, but those functions still had to be carried out even though the college was operating with fewer bodies."

The discovery of large offshore oil reserves and the resulting oil boom, and expansions in the mining industry and other natural resource projects has meant a much better present for our province; and an even brighter future is forecast.

The demand for skilled workers has created a renewed emphasis on college education, and in the past number of years the level of government funding being provided to the college has increased and has surpassed pre cut-back levels.

In fact, between 1997 and 2007 the college's grant-in-aid increased by 77 per cent (from \$39.6 million to \$70.2), and the college's total operating budget increased by 81 per cent (from \$70 to \$127 million). Aside from general salary increases, funding has been directed towards academic program expansion and support. No new funding had been added to the grant-in-aid to support the administrative function of the college.

"Our first priority was to increase capacity so we could better meet the demand from learners for training," says Hutchings, referring to how the increased funding has been utilized to date. "But as the number of programs and students increase, so must the level of administrative supports, to service the needs of these learners."

Last year the college began the process

of organizational design – reviewing its staff complement, assessing roles and responsibilities, reporting structures, job titles, and so on, to determine what would be the best structure going forward. A lot of positive change was the result.

"We engaged an external consultant to review our administrative structure and make recommendations to respond to the comments made by the Auditor General in his 2006 report," says Hutchings. "The college was not keeping up with its service to clients or with its statutory requirements."

In addition to new instructional positions and the changes recently announced in Student Services, the college has made permanent 26 positions in the system that had been classified as temporary. Also, there have been 17 new positions created, 12 of which are permanent. Most of these positions are intended to support the functions across all campuses; however, a number are campus-specific.

"We feel the conversion of the temporary positions to permanent status will create more stability for the system," says Hutchings. "People will also notice that there have been a number of title changes and adjustments to the reporting structure for a several positions."

For example, the Associate Director of Administration (Finance) will now be called the Director of Administration (Finance).

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Restructuring...

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Hutchings says it didn't make any sense to have an associate director title when there was no director. Another example is the Associate Director of Human Resources, who becomes the Executive Director of Human Resources. In addition to the title change, the Executive Director will now report to the President (as opposed to the Vice-President of Finance and Administration), reflecting an increased importance being placed on employee recruitment and retention.

"Also, the internal auditors, who formerly reported to me, will now report to President Madill. We think it makes more sense for our internal audit function to have a direct line to the president's office," says Hutchings.

Employees directly affected by these changes have been notified and the new positions are being advertised as they are ready. And while much of the organizational design

has been drafted, the college will still be engaging employees and seeking input from staff as the process unfolds. For instance, Student Services is using their upcoming meetings at Max Simms camp to solicit feedback on the recent changes proposed for that division.

"At the end of this process, we believe we're going to have the correct structure in place to allow the college to continue its progression," says Hutchings. "It's a structure we feel is needed to allow us to move from being a good college to being a great college!"

Employee Appointments

Arthur Leung has been appointed Campus Administrator at Ridge Road for a three-year term. Leung has been on secondment with the college since June 2006 – from the Department of Education – as Manager of Special Projects responsible for leading the implementation of our Oil and Gas Special Initiatives funded by the provincial government. Leung's career in engineering, construction, engineering technology and industrial trades spans over 30 years and includes extensive experience at both the academic and management levels within the provincial post-secondary education system in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Leung is a registered professional engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador. He holds undergraduate degrees in Civil Engineering and Vocational Education and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

He has served on various committees and boards. Leung is currently a member of the provincial Petroleum Industry Human Resource Committee and a member of the college's internal Oil and Gas Steering Committee. He brings a wealth of education and industry experience to his new role.

Sonya Smith has been appointed as the new Manager of Alumni and Advancement.

Smith brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise.

Most recently, she was the Manager of Personal & Planned Giving with the Janeway Children's Wish Foundation and previously held positions as Regional Development Specialist with The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Chapter Director with The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada – Nova Scotia Chapter, and roles with The Lung Association of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador.

Smith is currently a member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP) and plays a role on the Executive Committee CAGP NL. As well, she is a founding member of FINALLY – Futures in Newfoundland & Labrador's Youth.

Cyril Farrell has returned to the position of Campus Administrator at the Grand Falls-Windsor campus after his recent assignment with the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium (APCCC).

Farrell was appointed as Executive Director of the APCCC in June 2004. Prior to this appointment, his career in adult education spanned nearly 30 years and included experience at both the academic and senior leadership levels within the public college system in Newfoundland and Labrador. His work experience also includes playing a leadership role in helping to establish the CNA campus in

New Positions at CNA

Permanent

Manager of Purchasing and Bookstore Operations
Occupational Health and Safety Officer
Supervisor of Heavy Equipment Operations
Financial Analyst (2)
Functional Specialist – Master Merchant
Human Resource Analyst
Manager Organizational Design/HR Policy/Programs
Manager of Internal Audits

Temporary

Security Guard (Burin)
Storekeeper (Seal Cove)
Risk Management Coordinator
Records Clerk
Communications Specialist
Web Programmer Analyst

the State of Qatar in the Middle East. He also served as Advisor to the Commissioner on the White Paper on Post-Secondary Education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Farrell also has extensive volunteer experience, having served on various committees and boards. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Central Regional Health Authority and is a member of the Leslie Harris Centre on Regional Policy and Development.

Farrell joins Paul Chafe, campus administrator, in providing leadership for our Grand Falls-Windsor campus.

Jennine Loder has been appointed to the position of Manager, Human Resources for St. John's Region on a permanent basis.

Loder graduated from Memorial University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Commerce (Co-operative) and is in the process of completing her Master of Employment Relations, also through Memorial.

She began her career with CNA in September 2000, and since that time has acted as Manager, Human Resources (Eastern Region); Manager, Human Resources (St. John's Region); Labour Relations Officer; and recently Manager, Human Resource Information Systems with our PeopleSoft system.

Welcome and congratulations!

Instructor wins national award

Lillian Moores, ABE Communications Instructor at Grand Falls-Windsor campus, is the recipient of the 4th Annual 2008 Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Newfoundland and Labrador. This award recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in literacy and is presented to educators, volunteers, learners, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and businesses.

The award was collectively created by Canada's premiers of each province and territory in 2004 to exemplify the importance of literacy as an essential building block to a vibrant society and economy. They "...recognize that literacy is a key element enabling labour force participation, which in turn, contributes to productivity and the country's economic well-being," states the council's release announcing the awards.

Lillian has been involved with literacy in Newfoundland and Labrador since 1989. She is currently a board member of Literacy



Newfoundland and Labrador and is an Adult Basic Education instructor at Grand Falls-Windsor campus. Lillian has been an avid volunteer, giving of her personal time to assist learners and communities in responding to literacy needs. She served as President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Laubach Literacy council for three years and also served a 10-year term as Provincial Training Officer for the province, and represented the province on a national literacy board. Past literacy awards

include 2006 Volunteer of the Year for Laubach Literacy and the 2007 Canada Post Educator Award.

Working in literacy means a great deal to Lillian.

"Literacy is a passion for me; it's easy to put the effort in," she says.

"To help people do things for themselves like write letters, use a banking machine, things like that, is incredible."

She says the work is what means the most to her but being recognized is a true honour.

"I am more than pleased. It's a real honour to have someone call to tell me they were nominating me, but to win it was something else. I know there are so many others who are also deserving of it and it's a pleasure to have won it. I believe there were another 14 people from this province nominated as well. It's a big award," says Lillian.

"It's nice to be recognized and to know that others see and notice your efforts and I think it makes you work even harder."

Deadline approaches for Awards of Excellence

The deadline for College of the North Atlantic's (CNA) Awards of Excellence is drawing near.

The Awards of Excellence program recognizes and promotes excellence within CNA, showcases the extraordinary contribution of individuals to the college and the communities it serves, and highlights the role the college plays in the social, cultural and economic development of Newfoundland and Labrador, the country and the world.

CNA is not only an institution of learning but an institution of learners. In honouring excellence, the college invites others to take pride in the achievements of their peers and learn from the many outstanding contributions to post-secondary education found within the college.

There are five Awards of Excellence, one each for teaching, staff, leadership, student, and program. The teaching, staff, leadership and students awards consist of a \$500 cash prize, and an engraved award. Recipients of teaching, staff and leadership categories will also receive \$1,000 toward a professional development opportunity.

In addition, the program award consists of an engraved award and a \$1,500 grant for

program-specific purchases such as new equipment, supplies, software, promotion, etc.

CNA plays a leadership role in the communities it serves. While it is a college-wide effort that accomplishes this, inevitably, one or two people make an outstanding contribution each year. The Leadership Excellence Award is for those leaders.

Nomination criteria include impact, community involvement, team work, creativity, and sustained leadership over an extended period of time.

CNA is well known for its diversity and flexibility of programming. Inherent to this flexibility is the involvement of business, industry, and the professions in the design of programs in their areas of expertise. Nominations for the Program Excellence Award are based on innovation, portability, sustainability, effectiveness, participation and efficiency.

Students are full partners in the learning process and the central focus of all institutional activities. To play this partnership role to its fullest, students require outstanding leadership. The award for excellence in Student Leadership is for a student leader who has made an exceptional contribution within the college and within the communities CNA

serves.

Nomination criteria for this award include impact on external communities, impact on institutional image, academic excellence, contribution to campus life and sustainability.

Support staff are full partners in the learning process and the Staff Excellence Award honours a staff member who has made an exceptional contribution within the institution and within the communities it serves. Primary nominees play a non-managerial and non-teaching role within the college.

Nomination criteria include evidence that the nominee has had a significant, positive and verifiable impact on the college, team work and creativity, and that the nominee has demonstrated exemplary performance of duties, contributing overall to the institution through involvement on committees, volunteer work, etc.

Finally, the Teacher Excellence Award honours a faculty member who has exhibited consistent excellence in teaching and has had a significant impact on the personal and academic growth of students.

Both excellence and innovation are criteria for this award. Specific criteria include commitment, leadership in teaching, impact on

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Deadline approaches...

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students, colleagues and the institution, sustainability and adaptability.

The Excellence Awards are presented annually and each campus administrator will identify one nominee in each award category. The process for identifying and selecting the campus nominees are at the sole discretion of the relevant campus administrator(s).

A list of the campus nominees need to be forwarded to the district administrator no

later than October 15. A District Nomination Committee will be established to select one district nominee in each award category from the list of submitted campus nominees. The process for identifying and selecting the district nominee is at the sole discretion of the relevant District Nomination Committee.

School chairs, Headquarters employees and college executive members may also submit nominations for any award category, submitting their nomination packages directly to

the CNA Awards of Excellence Nomination Committee no later than October 31.

The District Nomination Committee is responsible for preparing a nomination package for each nominee that contains a cover letter, executive summary and descriptive report.

For more information about the nomination process, contact the human resources department nearest you.

Virtual Campus: Distributed Learning Service Update

The beginning of a new academic year is a wonderful time to touch base about new happenings and growth with our @College Distributed Learning Service.

Linda Pafford, our Office Administration (Medical) instructor, retired in June. Linda had been with DLS since before day one. She has been a superb instructor in every way. Linda's students never hesitate to comment on how helpful she has been. She consistently revised and upgraded the DLS courses she taught, always striving to improve the teaching and learning environment. Anyone who has worked with Linda will agree that she is a very pleasant person to work with. Linda is an all-star instructor, and we will miss her.

The competition for this position has now closed. We had excellent applicants for the competition and are delighted to inform you that Bernardine Harris has been awarded the position. Bernardine is a graduate of the Office Administration program and has completed her diploma in Post Secondary Education at Memorial University. She has been an instructor and instructional assistant in the Office

Administration programs at PPD since 2001 and has facilitated DLS courses since 2006. Bernardine has many years of related work experience as a Medical Office Administrative assistant and she continues to maintain and upgrade her professional workplace skills. Welcome and congratulations Bernardine!

With regard to enrollment, this semester

Business programs.

Over the summer we upgraded to Desire2Learn (D2L) Version 8.3. At this point, we are receiving very positive comments on the new version and our online training materials, which have also been updated to reflect the changes. Many instructors are now using D2L to provide e-learning components to support their on-campus classes. DLS staff have been providing training and Help Desk assistance to advance this initiative. More information is available on

"This semester we have 865 students enrolled in 1,935 Virtual Campus courses. This is a 24 per cent increase from Fall Semester 2007."

we have 865 students enrolled in 1,935 Virtual Campus courses. This is a 24 per cent increase from Fall Semester 2007. Assuming that full-time students take six courses, 1,935 course registrations would be the equivalent of more than 320 full-time students. That makes the full-time enrollment size of the Virtual Campus similar to Grand Falls-Windsor or Burin campus.

The major component of growth for us is 270 students, with 160 enrolled full-time. Our most significant growth is occurring in the School of Business, where 75 per cent of full-time students are in Office Administration and

our web site: <http://dls.cna.nl.ca/iresources/oncampus.asp>.

None of this would be possible without the continued professionalism and dedication by DLS instructors and staff. Their ongoing excellent work and the Student Survey results are proof that distance does not necessarily diminish the teaching and learning process; at College of the North Atlantic we believe that we can enhance it.

Submitted by John King, chair of DLS and Learning Technology

Instructors from China...

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the ShengYang University of Technology.

He is visiting the Engineering Technology Centre at Ridge Road campus to conduct an audit of CNA's Electrical Engineering Technology courses. He would like to learn

the teaching style of the college, become familiar with the shops and laboratory set-ups, and collect the information to bring back to students and faculty in China.

"I am very pleased to be in St. John's; it is my hope this visit will strengthen cooperation

between the college and Huang Shi Institute of Technology."

For this preliminary visit, the focus is to observe strategies from CNA's delivery methods to become familiar with differences in teaching practices in Canada and China.



Deborah Reid crosses the finish line during the Race to the Sea relay held in Port aux Basques in August.

On your mark.... get set..... go

Employees at College of the North Atlantic (CNA) were revved up this summer, preparing for the Race to the Sea competition.

Two college teams consisting of 11 members each entered the Race to the Sea, an annual relay to raise money for lighthouses on the southwest coast of the province.

The race took place August 8–9 and began at the Cape Anguille Lighthouse in Codroy Valley and ended at the Rose Blanche Lighthouse.

Race to the Sea began in 2004, however this is the first time CNA has entered teams into the event.

"The race has proven to be a wonderful experience," says Jan Peddle, campus administrator for Port aux Basques. "It was a wonderful day and it was great to meet people from right across the province who work with the college. It was a valuable event to participate in and to have these people come in."

The Flying Nanuks consisted of Michelle MacIsaac, Annette Thibeau, Melica Meade, Samantha Donais, Chrissie Kerr, Tera McDonald, Kent Aitken, Sharon McLennon, Gene Flynn, Jan Peddle and Pat O'Toole.

"The race was good, the weather was great. The organizing committee was great and it was well organized. By participating in this race you promote wellness, fitness and health," says Peddle.

The Flying Nanuks took home an award for the most spirited team.

"Not only did we make it a point to support our team but we supported every team there – we passed out water and sponge towels, and that was recognized. Everyone on our team

has asked to be on the team again next year," he says. "It was great to have a second college team and I'd love to see the college participate at even a higher level next year."

The total race was approximately 120 kilometres divided up over paved road, gravel roads and rail beds. This route passed all four lighthouses on the southwest coast and was divided up into 11 legs.

"The race times ranged from the first coming in at 8 hours, 33 minutes and 32 seconds to the last coming in at 12 hours, 19 minutes, 29 seconds," says spokesperson Randi Alexander. "Each leg starts at the designated time, whether all persons are in or not. The timers stay with the leg until each runner crosses the line, and then the times are recorded. This way, no one actually knows who wins the race until it is announced at the closing ceremonies."

The second team entered by CNA was comprised of employees from Headquarters/Bay St. George campus and was named Cruisin' N' Amusin'.

"Given the level of interest in the Race to the Sea in this area, we decided to enter a college team representing Bay St. George campus/Headquarters," says Deidre Dunne, labour relations officer.

"To prepare for the event, we started biweekly runs for anyone wishing to participate for the purpose of the race or for the fun of it."

In all, 11 teams participated in the event. Cruisin' N' Amusin' took seventh place with 11 hours, 32 minutes and 58 seconds while the Flying Nanuks came in 11th place with a time

of 12 hours, 19 minutes and 29 seconds.

Cruisin' N' Amusin' was composed of Dunne, Jennifer Brake, Sarah Gaudon, Tracey Seaward, Todd White, Kevin Deveau, Liz Campbell, Mary Vaughan, Michelle O'Quinn, Lisa Alexander and Deborah Reid.

"The race was awesome. It was a wonderful teambuilding experience and great promotion for CNA. From all sides it was a very positive



Tera McDonald of the Flying Nanuks sets off on her leg of Race to the Sea.

event," says Dunne.

Eleven teams participated this year, which according to Alexander, was on par with the numbers from the past several relays.

"For the first time ever, there was a profit with this race that will be donated to a charitable organization," says Alexander. "The exact amount is not known just yet, as we are still waiting for all the bills and revenue to come in, but there will be a donation to the Jumpstart Program in Port aux Basques."

The Race to the Sea is organized by the Port aux Basques and Area Chamber of Commerce and Codroy Valley Credit Union.

Combating cancer

Employees at College of the North Atlantic spent hours over the summer raising money for the fight against cancer.

Teams at several campuses throughout the province participated in the Relay for Life – a 12-hour event that celebrates cancer survivors, remembers loved ones lost to cancer, promotes awareness of cancer and encourages people to fight back in the hope of finding a cure for this terrible disease.

During the Relay for Life, teams of 10 people participate in an overnight non-competitive relay, taking turns walking, running or strolling around a track. Cancer survivors join together at Relay For Life to walk the Survivors' Victory Lap – the first lap of the event, and at dusk, a moving Luminary Ceremony is held for those who have lost their battle with cancer.

This year, several campuses of CNA got involved in this worthy cause.

Bay St. George campus has been involved in this event for the past five years. This year the team Nanuk's Cubs raised \$1,400 and sold over 75 luminaries.

The team consisted of Joy St. Croix (captain), Michelle MacIsaac, Valerie Warren, Leona Mitchell, Theresa McDonnell, Theresa Hynes, Lorraine Hawco, Marsha Snow, Melinda Anderson, and Tanya Lopez.

"We had a ball again this year," says St. Croix. "This is our fifth year taking part in the relay – we have taken part in every relay – and each year we have raised approximately \$1,500. I must say, each year we have a few new employees that take over for some that cannot participate and we always have a good response in raising our funds."

The Campus Cruisers from Bonavista campus participated in the Relay for Life on Sept. 20. The team has participated in this event for the past three years and got involved because of a co-worker.

The team consists of Marilyn Coles-Hayley, Connie Street, Betty Goodland, Natasha Squires, Stephanie Shirran, Rick Dalton, Tony Stagg, Tom Cooper and Brenda Monks (captain).

"As a team we have raised approximately \$3,500," says Monks. "All members of our team are employees of the Bonavista campus. The main reason we decided to participate

in the relay is because our co-worker Connie Street is a breast cancer survivor. I have to say that being part of the relay is the most rewarding thing I have ever done and I am safe in saying that the whole team feels the same way."

The Grand Falls-Windsor campus has had a team in the relay for the past several years. Their team, The College People, raised approximately \$1,700 through various fundraising efforts, including recycling, bake sales, pizza sales and ticket draws.

"This year we had 10 members and did fundraising throughout the winter semester," says Mary Lannon, co-captain. "This year our team was called The College People and we dressed up as various types of students at the college: a cook, lab tech, LPN, air craft maintenance, a graduate, etc. Nanuk (the college mascot) even showed up and relayed with us. He was a big hit with the children. We are looking forward to participating again next year."

Members of the Grand Falls-Windsor team who took part in the May 31 event are Lannon, Thaddeus Collier (co-captain), Andrea Best, Valerie Day-Hawkins, Rob Hillier, Betty Kendall, Allison Miller, Gail Poole, Jennifer Poole and Jill Temple.

St. Anthony's CNA Team consisted of Vadney Tucker-Russell, Juanita Taylor, Cecil Roberts, Lucy Doyle, Ruby Peyton, Margaret Cull, Brad Pilgrim, Lorraine Baker, Glen Hillier

"This is our fifth year taking part in the relay – we have taken part in every relay – and each year we have raised approximately \$1,500."

and Nina Woodward.

"The first year that Relay for Life came to this area we decided we would take part because we believe it's for a great cause and we hope that our fundraising contributions will help find a cure, because everybody knows someone whose lives have been touched by cancer," says Woodward.

"We have continued to take part each year since then and we try to make our fundraising efforts a fun time. There have been many barbeques, ticket sales on quilts and baskets, yard sales, games of chance and Mohawks. Everyone on campus helps out with the fundraising."

St. Anthony campus raised \$1,179 this year. In September 2007, the Baie Verte campus



Bay St. George campus participated in the Relay for Life in August. Nanuk's Cubs raised \$1,400 and sold over 75 luminaries. Members of the team are Joy St. Croix (captain), Michelle MacIsaac, Valerie Warren, Leona Mitchell, Theresa McDonnell, Theresa Hynes, Lorraine Hawco, Marsha Snow, Melinda Anderson, and Tanya Lopez.

participated in the Relay for Life. The team raised approximately \$900 and consisted of Allison Miller, Emily Foster, Tony Foster, Peggy Foster, Colin Hodder, Liza Hodder, Lewis Biggin, Marie Biggin, Claudine Quigley, Bill Shelley, and Francis MacPhearson.

While the relay didn't go ahead in 2008, the campus hopes to participate next year.

Finally, Corner Brook campus is participating in a different cancer fundraising initiative – the CIBC Run for the Cure. This is the second year the campus has participated.

The team members of the Maude Squad are Pauline Hutchinson, Brenda Janes, Joan Parsons, Hope Wiseman, Sharon McLennon, Jane

Hogan, Barb Stone, Juanita Brake and Bonnie Schwartz.

"We hold a garage/bake sale at our campus in September and it's a great opportunity for our students to pick up items for their apartments," says Hutchinson.

"Last year we raised over \$800 from the sale and again this year we raised \$827. With the personal donations last year, we raised over \$1,300."

The Run for the Cure was held in Corner Brook on Oct. 5.



College hosts cruisers

The International Star Riders Association's fifth annual Northern Stars Cruise-In was held in Corner Brook from July 17–19. Bay St. George campus sponsored a meal for the participants of the Port au Port leg of the ride. Approximately 45–50 people on 42 bikes took part in the group ride along the Port au Port Peninsula. The three-day ride consisted of riders from across Canada and the United States.

Project ICE CAP

"The problem in the world today is communication; Too much communication." Homer Simpson.

Keeping this quote in mind, I will keep this communication brief and to the point. I'm happy to say we completed our "Go-Live" on September 19, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. We have since been working out the glitches and appreciate everyone's patience. The entire PeopleSoft system is now available, with the new Financials system in place.

It has been expressed that information is the seed for an idea and that information is the source of learning. It has also been said that information must be organized, processed and made available to the right people in a format that supports decision making in order to be a benefit. Ideally we have achieved this in our upgrade.

The project team has been working very hard since March to get ready for this. But even before this we began to prepare for the changes that this upgrade would bring to the college. We embarked on a Change Leadership session to help the employees who were to participate in the upgrade, lead the college through these changes that are about to occur this week. This was followed by a week-long session of train-the-trainer, enabling our financials staff to help pass on their knowledge to others who were not closely linked to the PeopleSoft upgrade but would need to take a functional role after implementation.

From the beginning, we prepared a description of what needed to be done in this new system and reviewed additional features we wanted to see included in our financials to help us carry on our day-to-day business. That was our fit-gap analysis, the initial step in turning PeopleHard into PeopleSoft.

From there, our technical team converted our current data to be compatible with the new PeopleSoft environment. Our functional

team then began the considerable task of testing all of the operational pieces of PeopleSoft that we wanted to use in Version 9. In both cases there was a determined, almost unbelievable effort on the part of many people who have devoted time, effort and substantial energy into making this work. We added a quality assurance team member to the upgrade team to ensure we had a planned and systematic approach to this upgrade and are confident in the effectiveness of this new version to deliver what we need to do business.

We had some difficult times, some spirited debates about how and when we could achieve the best results for the college, all the time keeping a watchful eye on our budgets to ensure that we truly achieved value for what we spent. What else would you expect from a staff made up largely of financial folks?

In the past month we delivered training to most of our financial staff to make sure we begin operations of the upgraded system with staff that have a healthy understanding of the new features. Our upgrade partner, working with us every step of the way, provided us with flexible and cost-effective alternatives to help us achieve the level of training that will help maximize our success.

I am proud to be working with such a dedicated team of professionals. Their efforts should be well appreciated by all members of the college community. The next phase for upgrading student services and human resources data will begin in October with a full team compliment expected to be on stream by mid-January.

*Submitted by Keith White,
Manager of Business Solutions*

Do you have a college story to tell? Do you know a student, faculty, or staff member that should be recognized for their achievements? CURRENTS is looking for a few good stories about our public college and the people who make it a success. Send us your photos, announcements, and alumni updates. If you have any ideas, suggestions or criticisms, please drop us a line. Please let us know how we can make CURRENTS a better newsletter for you.

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