



President's Report June 2009

News and Special Events

Federal and Provincial governments invest \$40 million in Niagara College's new Applied Health Institute – May 25th marked a monumental day in the history of Niagara College. The Honourable Tony Clement, Federal Minister of Industry, and the Honourable John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, announced \$40 million in infrastructure funding - \$20 million each - for Niagara College's new Applied Health Institute. This is the largest funding announcement in Niagara College's history, and is a significant enhancement to our comprehensive campus redevelopment master plan. This announcement is the result of an incredible amount of work in a very short period of time by a large number of people, who came together to develop a very successful funding proposal for both the Federal and Provincial governments. The construction of the new Applied Health Institute is a major leap forward for our College, and will truly position the College as a leader, accommodating key health programs, applied research, and related community health services in a new integrated facility on the Welland Campus. The announcement was made at a joint federal/provincial media conference held at Brock University, where investments totalling \$1.476 billion for infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions throughout Ontario were announced.

Spring convocation – More than 2,000 graduates of Niagara College will receive diplomas, degrees or certificates during seven spring convocation ceremonies to be held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus. The ceremonies will take place in the gymnasium/cafeteria complex on Tuesday, June 9 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 10 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Thursday, June 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Distinguished business, hospitality, government, educational, health, and entertainment leaders will also be honoured during the convocation ceremonies.

This year's ceremonies feature a list of accomplished convocation speakers and honourees, including:

- John Peller, CEO of Andrew Peller Ltd., June 9 at 2 p.m. Mr. Peller will receive an Honourary Degree in Applied Studies;
- Tom Rankin, Owner of Rankin Construction Inc., June 9 at 7 p.m. Mr. Rankin will receive an Honourary Diploma in Construction Technology;
- Farley Flex, Canadian Music Promoter, Manager and Canadian Idol judge, June 10 at 10 a.m. Mr. Flex will receive an Honourary Diploma in Broadcasting;
- Denise Burke, President of the Niagara Ice Dogs, June 10 at 2 p.m. Ms. Burke will receive an Honourary Diploma in Business Administration;
- Ruedi Hafen, Owner and Pilot of Niagara Helicopters Ltd., June 10 at 7 p.m. Mr. Hafen will receive an Honourary Diploma in Tourism Marketing and Operations;
- Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, June 11 at 2 p.m. Ms. Landsberg-Lewis will receive an Honourary Diploma in Health and Community Studies;
- Betty Ann Baker, Executive Director of Niagara Peninsula Homes, June 11 at 7 p.m. Ms. Baker will receive an Honourary Diploma in Business Administration - Human Resources.

Niagara College's annual **Day of Reflection** was held on April 30th. The annual event is a highlight of our College calendar and is a time for staff to come together to reflect on strategic issues important to the College and students. This year's theme was "Windows and Mirrors," where we explored the great mosaic that makes up our College community. We were very fortunate this year to have had two interesting and provocative speakers who challenged us to reflect on our College culture: John Draper's "Together We Rock" presentation provided a glimpse into our shared responsibility for the success of those around us, and Lionel LaRoche, Ph.D., an entertaining speaker and author shared his expertise in cross-cultural training and coaching. The program also included breakout sessions with several special guests, staff and students.

Once again Niagara College staff and supporters have shown tremendous team spirit and community support. A record number of ninety-four participants represented Niagara College in the **Rankin Cancer Run/Walk** on Saturday, May 23, 2009. Niagara College placed fifth in fundraising, receiving a trophy and a donation of equipment to the Athletic Department. The total raised by the Niagara College team was \$4,126. Overall, the number of participants walking in this fundraising event was just under 6,000 and a total of \$445,000 was raised. All proceeds raised from the event remain in Niagara.

Niagara College Students

In April, two of our Photonics Research Assistants, **Jeff Brown and Mike Taras**, placed 2nd in the **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Competition** in New Brunswick. The Niagara College students placed first in Phase 1 of the competition which required the submission of a technical paper. Mike and Jeff have been involved in an OCE funded Interact project, "The Development of a Remote Gas Sensing (SO₂) 2D CCD Camera" where the industry partner is Resonance Ltd. and the faculty lead is Alexander McGlashan.

Niagara College second-year Police Foundations Student, **Joshua Merrill**, was recognized recently as a **top Police Foundations student** in the province. Police Foundations/Law & Security Administration coordinators from colleges across Ontario, recognizing excellence in academics and leadership amongst thousands of student candidates, selected Joshua as a recipient of the Police Prep Scholarship. Selection was based on a portfolio submitted by every applicant. Joshua's portfolio was a four-month work-in-progress collaboration between staff and Joshua.

For the fourth year in a row, a Niagara College Hairstylist Apprentice has captured a medal at the **Skills Canada - Ontario competition**. Lisa Caputo of Niagara Falls won gold at the competition held in Waterloo, and will represent Niagara College at the Skills Canada National Competition, held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, May 20-23. Caputo is currently enrolled in Niagara College's Hairstylist Apprentice program, and she works at Girasole Salon and Spa in Niagara Falls.

In Recognition of Excellence

Randy Conlon and Graeme Gaunt were inducted recently into the **Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Hall of Fame** in a ceremony held April 2009 in Windsor. Randy, currently working as a Consultant with the Niagara College Job Connect Service, served as head coach of the Niagara College Varsity Touch Football team, winning 6 OCAA medals, including 3 consecutive Gold Medals. Randy's commitment to varsity sports extends beyond football - he is also assistant coach to the men's Basketball team. Graeme, currently a constable with the Niagara Regional Police Service, was inducted in the Athlete Category. As a member of the Niagara Knights Men's Varsity Volleyball Team, he led the team to two consecutive OCAA championships, four Western Region titles, and three trips to the National Championships. Graeme set single season records for individual scoring, ending up top three in the province on several scoring levels. Twice he was named OCAA Championship's Most Valuable Player, and Canadian Colleges Athletic Association First Team All-Star.

Niagara College is proud to have Randy and Graeme inducted into the 2009 OCAA Hall of Fame.

Niagara College Winery Turns Wine into Gold – The Niagara College Teaching (NCT) Winery turned Icewine into gold by winning a Double Gold Medal at the **28th Annual All Canadian Wine Championships**, held recently in Windsor. The 2007 Dean's List Cabernet Franc Icewine won double gold in the 'Best of Category - Red Icewine.' This specific Icewine was produced from Niagara College's Donald Ziraldo Vineyard, located at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus, and crafted by Winemaker Terence Van Rooyen with student involvement. The NCT Winery entered the competition in seven categories and won medals in four. In addition to the Double Gold, the NCT Winery also picked up a Silver for the 2007 Merlot and a Bronze for both the 2007 Dean's List Pinot Noir and the 2007 Dean's List Vidal Icewine.

On the Academic Front

Shiny Smiles for All – As part of the Shiny Smiles for All project, more than 20 area elementary school students received dental treatment at Niagara College's Dr. James Sim Dental Clinic at the Welland Campus. The project represents a unique community outreach program aimed at children who don't have access to dental coverage. Now in its third year, the project is a partnership among Niagara College dental programs, the United Way of South Niagara, the Niagara Peninsula Dental Association and Regional Niagara Public Health Dental Programs.

Niagara College Event Management students, with a group of volunteers, completed an environmentally-friendly restoration of the HOPE Centre's Sprouting Hope Community Garden on Saturday, April 18 as part of the **12th Annual Many Hands Project**. The project included an expansion of the garden to provide additional plots, installation of a fence, a shed, water barrels to collect rainwater and more. More than 80 volunteers participated in the eco-restoration, including Niagara College faculty members Gary Dolch, with his Construction Techniques class and Mike Hoeksta, with his Horticulture and Landscaping class. Welland's Centennial Secondary School, Canadian Tire Financial Services and the Hope Centre's employees and clients also provided volunteers for the project.

Marketing & Recruitment

Taste of Niagara and College Dialogues – Niagara College had the opportunity to host the Western Region College Dialogue Conference at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus on May 1st. This event saw 240 counsellors from many Ontario secondary schools and adult education centres and 32 college liaison staff representing all Ontario Colleges. Feedback from attendees was very positive as many had never been to Niagara previously and were impressed with our facilities, staff, and overall welcoming approach. The evening prior to the event, Niagara College staff and faculty hosted "Taste of Niagara," a reception for those attending the conference. In all, 85 guidance counselors from across the province had the opportunity to mingle with Niagara College staff and faculty at the Niagara Culinary Institute.

Skills Canada – Niagara College participated in Skills Canada in Waterloo at RIM Park on May 4th and 5th. The recruitment team launched its "Summer Fever" campaign with a movie theme backdrop and interactive "scenes". Participating in each scene were various program areas from the college including; hairstyling, environmental, horticulture, culinary, and engineering. Over 25,000 students, parents and educators were in attendance and the Niagara booth was a crowd favourite.

Destination College – On May 21st and 22nd Niagara hosted Destination College, a School-College-Work initiative. This year was the first year that Destination College was a full day event. Approximately 325 grade seven students attended over the two days and participated in hands-on workshops in areas such as business, construction broadcasting and electronics.

Niagara International

International Enrolment and Contracts – Niagara College finished the academic term with the most successful enrolment and contract delivery activity results in its history. New or extended contracts were signed in Saudi Arabia, China, Chile and Brazil. Students have also secured co-op positions in Peru and South Africa thanks to ongoing contract deliveries in those countries.

Global Activities for Students – The promotion of globally focused activities by the International division working with students, student government and several academic areas resulted in a record number of students undertaking an international experience this term. Of particular note was a team of Broadcast/Film and TV students who filmed a documentary in the Dominican Republic; Business and Hospitality students working with our partner institution in Arequipa, Peru and a team of General Arts and Sciences (Pre-Health) students currently working on a housing development project in South Africa.

English as a Second Language (ESL) – Despite concerns regarding the World Health Organization

warnings about H1N1, most summer ESL contracts will be realized and individual student enrolment looks very strong for the July and August intakes for the Summer Language Program. Also, September applications have increased by 36% and reflect an excellent increase from recent recruitment target countries in central Africa, the former Soviet Union countries and the Caribbean.

Foundation and Alumni News and Information

Seafood Gala generates \$275,000 - The Niagara College Foundation raised a record amount of \$138,000 at its 20th Annual Seafood Gala held April 3, 2009. More than 600 guests attended this spectacular event at the Grand Ballroom of the Fallsview Casino Resort. The Ontario Trust for Student Support program will match every dollar raised increasing the total to \$275,000, which will be added to the College's endowment fund for scholarships and bursaries. The next gala will be held Friday, April 23, 2010 at the Fallsview Casino Resort. For more details visit our website at www.niagaracollege.ca/seafoodgala

Building Futures Campaign – The Campaign Cabinet continues to cultivate prospective donors. Secure commitment, now at \$11.8 million is 72% of the \$16.5 million goal. The quiet phase of the Family Campaign is underway to secure 100% commitment from the senior team, Deans and Directors, prior to asking faculty and staff to support the campaign.

Scholarships and Bursaries – The Foundation has \$261,000 available in 2009-10 for scholarships and bursaries, with \$175,000 from endowed funds and \$86,000 from declining funds. Staff continue to work with individuals, businesses and organizations to establish new student awards through the Building Futures Campaign. This is also the season of award ceremonies at which time students who receive scholarships and bursaries are celebrated, and there is an opportunity to connect with the donors who made those awards possible. After the sudden and tragic loss of HR student Ellie Burbidge this winter from motor vehicle accident, students, faculty and staff rallied together to raise sufficient funds to establish the Ellie Burbidge Memorial Bursary to honour her memory.

E-bulletin and Website updates – Our Alumni office has increased the number of alumni email addresses from 8,000 to 11,000 over the past few months. Our April e-bulletin promoted upcoming events, shared news and profiled various discounts including CAA Niagara, Ontario, Place, Horseshoe Resort, High School Musical and Merrittville Speedway. More companies are contacting Alumni Relations to offer discounts for staff, faculty and the alumni community. Staff have collected 70 new alumni mini-profiles to be organized by decade and added to the website, with 25 featured in the In Touch publication.

Student Services

The **First Nations Student Services** (FNSS) Office sent out recruitment and information packages to over 160 Aboriginal communities across Ontario. During 2008/09, Niagara College counted over 110 Aboriginal students across all campuses, including Six Nations Polytechnic in Oshweken, Ontario, where 16 Early Childhood Education Program students will be graduating this year. Most Aboriginal students are connected to community Bands outside the Niagara Region. FNSS staff also participated in two recruitment fairs, in New Credit and at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre. Each event attracted dozens of Aboriginal elementary and secondary school-aged children, their teachers and parents. Staff established productive connections with many of the visitors.

Student Administrative Council (SAC)

The **College Student Alliance** (CSA), a provincial advocacy group representing the Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) and 17 other member colleges, held its Annual General Conference in Niagara Falls May 1-3, 2009. Various Niagara College staff formed a speakers' panel to address the topic of better serving non-traditional student audiences. Niagara College staff included: Brigitte Chiki, Director-Student Services, Trina Washington, Disability Counsellor, Susan Fyke, First Nations

Student Advisor and Shawna Luey, International Department Advisor. The 120 student government delegates from across Ontario and CSA executives who participated in the conference thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality that Niagara Falls and the Niagara College SAC had to offer.

People @ Niagara College

Teresa Quinlin appointed as the College's Vice President of Corporate Services – Teresa has held the role of Vice President, Corporate Services in an acting capacity for more than five months. Prior to taking on the Acting Vice President's role, Teresa served as the College's Director of Financial Services for six years. In that position, Teresa proved to be a prudent steward of the College's finances, exhibiting strong fiscal management and planning that has allowed the College to meet its financial goals. Teresa is a chartered accountant who holds an undergraduate degree from Brock University and a Masters in Business Administration from Niagara University. In 2007, Teresa received Niagara College's Award of Excellence for administrative staff, and in 2008 she received the Distinguished Administrator Award from the Ontario College Administrative Staff Association. She is also a member of the first graduating cohort of the Leadership Niagara Program. Welcome Teresa, to the Executive Team.

As part of our **Internal Communications Plan**, a new internal publication, **College Report** was launched in April. The publication is designed to share information and updates on major college changes and growth initiatives with all College staff. College Report will be distributed electronically and in print four-to-six times each year. Our first edition included an in-depth look at the 2009-2010 College budget, details of the 2008-2009 Key Performance Indicator Results, information on the College's Strategic Plan, and updates on the Master Plan and the re-organization of the Academic Division.

Colleges Ontario / Provincial Update

College Presidents approved the framework for a vision for postsecondary education that would follow the Ontario government's Reaching Higher plan, which is in its final year. The Colleges will be proposing a vision to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) that we hope could be adopted as the foundation of the new Reaching Higher provincial vision.

The long-term marketing campaign, which began last year, is aimed at changing parental and teens biases favouring university over college. The campaign promotes the idea that college and university are both viable postsecondary options and students should pursue the higher education that works best for them. This year's advertisements are centered on the themes "It's all about M.E." / "C'est M.A. Vie", and have included television, newspaper, radio, online and transit shelter ads. The research from the first execution of this year's campaign (the first wave of ads for 2009 ran in February and March) confirmed the system wide advertising did work and that colleges should be pleased with the research results. However, it is important to be aware that a variety of factors would influence the results, including increased marketing activity by colleges and enhanced interest in college training and retraining due to the economy.

MTCU is consulting with colleges, universities, Colleges Ontario, the Council of Ontario Universities and student groups on a province-wide strategy for the transfer of completed postsecondary credits. The Ministry is still aiming to begin the rollout of the strategy in September, with full implementation by 2012. COP approved the college position on what must be included in a provincial strategy, including the provision that all institutions must participate in a province-wide credit transfer system and that institutions accepting students should look at the students' most recent grades, rather than the students' secondary school grades.

Upcoming Events

Niagara College Annual Golf Classic will be held at Thundering Waters Golf Club in Niagara Falls on September 15, 2009. The \$200 registration package includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart with GPS, golf clinic, a welcome package including a \$25 Thundering Waters certificate, lunch, wine and cheese reception, banquet dinner, silent auction and prizes. Proceeds will support the scholarship and bursary component of the Building Futures Campaign. For more information, call 905-735-2211, ext. 7551.

Under the leadership of our Alumni Council, the schedule for **Homecoming** events has been tentatively established and planning is well underway. Once again, Homecoming will be linked to the Niagara Food Festival with most of the events occurring from Oct 2 to 4. Information about homecoming is available on the alumni website at www.niagaracollege.ca/homecoming.