

News and Special Events

Bursting at the Seams - With a projected overall enrolment increase of more than six percent, Niagara College is literally bursting at the seams, with less than 100 seats available for the Fall term. Projections indicate Niagara College's enrolment will exceed 8,000 when the Fall term starts next week. Of those, approximately 4,200 are first-year students.

"MY NC" – As the campuses of Niagara College welcomed thousands of new and returning students on Tuesday, the College unveiled its distinct new look with the launch of its new brand. The new logo and wordmark includes a circle "nc" icon, a supporting logo with the phrase "my nc", and the incorporation of new colours and typefaces in College materials. Niagara College has also adapted a new tagline: "Applied Dreams.", which reflects the College's vision of "Enriching lives and fulfilling dreams," and its mission of "Providing outstanding applied education and training for a changing world."

The College welcomed faculty and staff to a new academic year with a successful **Niagara Day** event held September 2nd at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus. During this annual event, employees have an opportunity to reconnect, recognize employees for years of service and celebrate a number of recognition awards. **Employee Awards of Excellence** were presented to Peter Vanscoy (Faculty), Eileen Akershoek (Support Staff), and Jim Thomson (Administrative Staff). These peer-driven awards recognize employee excellence and service above and beyond the call. Niagara Day is also an opportunity for staff to get up to speed on enrolments and any other significant developments over the summer. This year featured a presentation on the exciting construction projects underway and the launch of the new Niagara College brand. Also new this year was the Niagara Day House Band that blew the audience away with their high energy and musical talent.

In Recognition of Excellence

Niagara College has been named '**Business of the Month**' for May 2009 by the Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce. The honour recognizes "business know-how" and contribution to the community and the Chamber.

Two local employers were honoured with the **Minister's Apprenticeship Employer Recognition Awards** this year. Picasso's Salon and Spa and Pineridge Tree Service both received awards in June. Both were nominated by Niagara College's Job Connect program for their outstanding commitment to hiring and mentoring apprentices.

Supporting Economic Development & Labour Market Adjustment

Niagara College hosted the **John Deere Action Centre** on August 11, 2009, from 2 pm to 8 pm in the Technology Skills Centre. About 50 John Deere workers attended. Various program and service areas of the college participated in providing information on our programs and services. Community partners, such as the Career Planning Service and the Apprenticeship Branch also attended the event.

The Business Development Centre is receiving record attendances at its monthly **Ontario Self-Employment Benefit program Information Sessions** – an average of 43 people per month in June, July and August. Business Development Centre clients and their successful businesses continue to be featured in the news media.

On the Academic Front

Niagara College has entered into an agreement with **Six Nations Polytechnic** to deliver the first ever Technology Engineering program with our First Nations' Partner. Under the School of Technology Studies, Civil Engineering Technician will be offered at Six Nations starting this fall in conjunction with our regular offering at the Welland Campus. Six students will be attending classes at Six Nations Polytechnic this fall as an off-site cohort of the program, and they will be joining the rest of their program classmates in the winter term (January 2010) where they will attend classes at the Welland Campus.

Niagara Research

Niagara College representatives met with Dr. Kim of Hoseo University, South Korea to discuss expanding the student research exchange program through a new MOU, developing a system for credit recognition between the two institutions, collaborative research initiatives, and developing collaborative relationships with local businesses for both research and co-op opportunities. Niagara College has a longstanding relationship with Hoseo University. Niagara Research began working with Hoseo University in 2008 when an international research exchange was piloted.

OASYS Healthcare, a medical equipment manufacturer located in Richmond Hill, is interested in partnering with Niagara Research and integrating faculty and students from both the technology and health programs. Niagara College and OASYS are in the process of applying for Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Connections funding for a Computer Programming capstone research project. A team of three students, under the supervision of Rick Goertz and David Stovell, will work with OASYS on developing programming for virtual medical devices.

After an initial meeting with the Grape Growers of Ontario (GGO) and representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the group is putting together a national team to collaborate on an Agriculture Canada funding proposal. Additional partners will include an Agriculture Canada scientist from British Columbia, researchers from Brock University and the University of Guelph, and Nova Scotia Community College.

Peter Kohlmann of IBM Canada - Research (lead database specialist) dedicated a full day to teaching Computer Programming Analyst Research Assistants (students working on research projects for the summer) about the principles of database development and IBM's current software portfolio. The students expressed their excitement in having the opportunity to spend such a considerable amount of time with one of Canada's leading database developers. Peter is interested in conducting guest lectures for Niagara students, and at developing curriculum modules on DB2 to be integrated into college programs. He is also interested in bringing Niagara student interns and co-op students to IBM.

Under Construction

It has been a very busy summer this year on the **Welland Campus** not only with new construction but also with deferred maintenance and renovation projects. Some of the major projects completed this summer include: Tecumseh Air Handling Unit (\$1.2M); 40 new academic offices; Building Automation System (\$280k), Emergency Power System Upgrade (\$700k); Merritt Building windows and HVAC upgrades (\$1.4M); Welland Campus Main Transformer (\$400k); Digital signage and new security cameras in the residences. Also 178 faculty desks, chairs and cabinets have been upgraded.

Real Time Operating Systems were installed on the main services, as well as primary sub-distribution stations at the Welland and NOTL campuses to monitor electrical consumption in real time. This is an important part of the college's ability of achieving its goal for maximum sustainability.

Student Services

Over 500 first-year students and parents “started right” for September 2009. The **Start Right** program, now in its 30th year, is a popular and voluntary pre-college orientation program that provides a smooth and confident transition for first-year students embarking on a college career. It includes informative workshops on many topics and issues students face, ranging from computer, academic and employment resources, to the social scene, laundry, room-mate and grocery tips. Facilitated by the Student Services Division, Start Right includes the support, expertise and resources of many front-line service areas of the college.

The **For Parents Only** component, started in 2001, is a unique workshop designed especially for the parents/guardians of college-bound students. It recognizes the important role parents and family members play in a student’s decision to attend college, and helps parents learn more about college life, financial issues, campus safety, academic success and more.

The Fall term kicked off September 8th and 9th with **Orientation 2009**. The event included first-year program information sessions, Student Administrative Council (SAC) sessions and campus tours. Also featured were live music and entertainment, prizes, a vendor village and much more for first-year and returning students to enjoy. New this year was “Park After Dark - Movie in a Blanket” on September 8th, a family-friendly screening of the movie “Yes Man” with Jim Carrey on the Welland Campus lawn. Students from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus were bussed to the Welland Campus to partake in the festivities. Orientation is a great opportunity for students and staff to mingle within the College community.

The **Get Set for Success Program**, Niagara College’s summer transition program for students with learning disabilities, was delivered once again at both the Welland and NL campuses in late August. In total, **34** students, a record high, participated in the program (17 students in Welland and 17 in Niagara on the Lake), receiving a full psycho-educational assessment from the Brock Reading Clinic, Niagara College orientation, individualized learning strategies and training in adaptive technologies. Students stayed in residence and participated in a variety of social activities and group skills development as part of the Get Set for Success Program 2009. Funding from MTCU for the Get Set for Success 2009 Program is \$67,271.00. Trina Washington will continue as Chair of the provincial College Committee on Disability Issues in 2009-10.

Counsellors, Donna Putman and Jocelyne Briggs have been invited to present “**Their Voices, Our Ears**” DVD to the School of Access at Camosun College in Victoria, B.C. The “voices” project was developed by Donna and Jocelyne as a Niagara College Innovations project in 2007-08 and the DVD of students voices has been delivered to faculty and staff at Niagara College as well as Internationally. This most recent invitation was extended after Camosun participated in a program review of the Access programs here at Niagara and was inspired by the project and our commitment to students.

Health Services staff have worked with the Health and Community Studies Division and Information Technology Services to develop a system of tracking and monitoring student compliance with legislated health requirements, also known as Communicable Diseases Screening. Prior to commencement of any clinical placement, students must provide specific immunization records as required by Ontario legislation. The new tracking and monitoring initiative will support students in meeting these requirements and also provide timely reporting to the program areas.

Niagara College Foundation

The Building Futures Campaign has received commitments of more than \$12 million toward the \$16.5 million goal with donations from individuals, businesses and organizations. The total also includes revenue from the Seafood Gala, Niagara College Golf Classic and other fundraising activities.

The summer was spent working to secure 100% commitment from the College Management Team. The appeal to other college staff and faculty was launched on Niagara Day in partnership with the United

Way. So far, staff has committed \$160,000 to the Building Futures Campaign. In comparison, staff giving to the Next Century Campaign was \$81,000 and the FutureReady Campaign was \$92,000. The United Way has raised twice as much as this time last year.

Niagara Knights

Niagara College is very pleased to officially add the **women's outdoor soccer** program to our list of varsity teams. The Women's Knights Outdoor Soccer Team will officially compete as a sanctioned varsity program in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) beginning this Fall. They will compete in 12 league matches of which 6 will be played at the Welland Soccer Club. Niagara College Women's Indoor and Outdoor Soccer Head Coach and Welland resident Frank DeChellis successfully completed the Canadian Soccer Association A License program. The A License is the highest coaching level attainable in Canada. Coach Frank has invested countless hours toward completion of the 2-year program. The **Knights Varsity Golf Team** will try to build on a very successful 2008 season with a new head coach at the helm. Jim Briggs, who resides in Fenwick, is widely respected as one of the top local golfers in the Niagara Region. We are thrilled to have Jim take over as Head Coach of our Knights Golf program - he has a wealth of golf experience at all levels and is a proven winner. He has built a successful golf program in the Niagara Region and we are looking forward to him leading our Knights Golf team into the future.

People @ Niagara College

Luciano Berardocco, Procurement Administrator in the Finance Department, recently earned his Certified Professional Purchaser designation. Congratulations Luciano.

Charmaine Kissmann from the President's Office has been appointed by Order in Council to the Provincial Advisory Committee on Francophone Affairs effective this September. This Committee provides advice to the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs on strategies, priorities and program which affect francophones in Ontario and on the provision of government French-language services.

Niagara College Athletic Co-ordinator, **Ray Sarkis**, has been appointed Vice-President of Programs on the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) Executive Committee. The CCAA is the national body overseeing intercollegiate sports, with 107 member institutions across Canada. Ray will serve as member of the Executive Committee, act as chair of the programs Committee and monitor all matters relating to the technical sport programs of the Association as well as represent the Association at National Championships. Ray's two-year term began June 2009, and follows Ray's previous executive positions with the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA), including President.

After 25 years of dedicated service in the President's Office, **Helene Moscato** has decided to retire effective September 25th. During her tenure she has served three presidents in various capacities including Administrative Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary to the Board. In her 14 years as Board Secretary, Helene has never missed a single Board meeting. Helene is enormously respected by Governors and staff alike for her professionalism and total commitment to quality governance and providing the best support possible.

Colleges Ontario / Provincial Update

Academic Bargaining – A settlement in academic bargaining has not yet been reached. The Ministry of Labour's conciliator recommended that both sides recess for several weeks to consider the positions that have been tabled. Both sides have tabled initial monetary offers and proposals that take into consideration the recommendations of the Joint Workload Task Force Report. Obviously, the challenging economic environment is having a significant impact on negotiations. Management is working with the

Union to reach a responsible settlement in this environment. The next bargaining days will be in late October.

Part-time Unionization – On July 23, 2009, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) filed an application with the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) to unionize the part-time support, students and employees working in projects of a nonrecurring kind. The Ontario Labour Relations Board has scheduled a secret ballot vote on OPSEU's application to represent you. The vote commences on October 5 and ends on October 27. A decision by the OLRB is still pending regarding the vote held earlier this year by part-time faculty.

The Ontario government has approved a new **provincial funding formula** for Ontario's colleges that is designed to provide greater transparency and to better help colleges in planning their budgets. The formula comes into effect this fall and includes a transition process.

The Committee of Presidents has approved a governance structure for the expansion of the **Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII)** that includes a transparent process to allow new colleges to join the provincially funded system for applied research projects.

Marilyn Crawford was appointed as the executive director of the college sector's new **Ontario College Library Service**. Crawford has more than 20 years of experience in the library field, including developing business and strategic technology plans for the CNIB Library.

Ontario's colleges have clearly become a postsecondary destination of choice as **system applications** to first-year full-time programs have increased 10 per cent this year. Ontario Colleges Application Service (OCAS) had received 155,642 applications for first-year programs in fall 2009, compared with 141,671 applications at the same time last year.

Upcoming Events

Niagara College Golf Classic 2009 - September 15

This year's Niagara College Golf Classic will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at Thundering Waters Golf Club in Niagara Falls. The \$200 tournament fee includes 18 holes of golf, a golf cart with GPS, a BBQ lunch, a golfer gift package, a door prize ticket, select competitions, a wine and cheese reception and a banquet dinner. As an additional bonus, each golfer will receive a 10% discount on all purchases from the Thundering Waters Gift Shop, along with a \$25 certificate that can be used towards green fees for a return visit to Thundering Waters Golf Club. A morning clinic will be available for less seasoned players who book in advance, as there is limited space. Proceeds of the Niagara College Golf Classic support the Building Futures Campaign. To register online, visit <https://enterprisesystems.niagaracollege.ca/forms/RFGolf/>. For inquiries contact Alison Burgoyne, Tournament Coordinator, by phone at ext 7551 or by email at aburgoyne@niagaracollege.ca.

Homecoming 2009

- Oct 1 Niagara Ice Dogs host 'Niagara College Night'
- Oct 2 Tent @ Niagara Food Festival, Varsity Basketball Reunion, Alumni Pub Night
- Oct 3 Tent @ Niagara Food Festival, Ball Hockey Tournament
International Soccer Tournament, Barbeque, Campus Tours, Wine Reception
Alumni Dinner Dance
- Oct 4 Tent @ Niagara Food Festival

Seafood Gala – April 23, 2010

Planning is underway for the next Seafood Gala to raise money for scholarships and bursaries. The event will be held at Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls. For more information or to order tickets, visit www.niagaracollege.ca/seafoodgala.