

# PIN NEWSLETTER

## Postsecondary International Network Spring 2009 Edition

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### Kofi Annan Delivers Adam Smith Lecture in Scotland Adam Smith College News Release

Adam Smith College and PIN welcomed former United Nations Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan as speaker at their prestigious 2009 Adam Smith Lecture on Thursday, 23 April. The Adam Smith Lecture celebrates the life and work of Kirkcaldy's most famous son, Adam Smith – a leading figure of the Scottish Enlightenment and the father of modern economics.



Pictured left: Graham Johnstone - Chair Adam Smith College, Dr. Craig Thomson - PIN President and Principal Adam Smith College, Gordon Brown Chancellor of Adam Smith College and Prime Minister, Kofi Annan former United Nations Secretary-General

The Adam Smith Lecture series (there have been 15 in total) attracts prestigious national and international speakers. Most recently, the College has had the pleasure of welcoming Alan Greenspan KBE, who spoke while Chairman of the Federal Reserve in the USA; and Mervyn King, Governor of The Bank of England, both of whom were introduced by The

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister and Chancellor of the College.

In his speech, entitled 'Africa and the Global Economic Crisis', Mr Annan urged the international community to ensure that its response to the current economic crisis is underpinned by the universal values of justice, generosity and public spiritedness outlined by Adam Smith in his 'Theory of Moral Sentiments'. Mr Annan said: "Without leadership, policies and practices rooted in basic values, our efforts to address climate change, inequality and injustice will be doomed to failure.

In a world beset with problems, we cannot afford to get this wrong." African nations, said Mr Annan, are severely affected by an economic crisis for which they are not responsible and yet which is having a widespread negative impact on economic development across the continent. "The global economic crisis is a calamity for African nations, and they would like a response which is fair, efficient and which they can influence," he said.

Mr Annan warned of the significant costs – to Africa and the world - of not including the continent in the global economic stimulus plan. Highlighting the scope for investment on the continent, Mr Annan

**POSTSECONDARY INTERNATIONAL NETWORK**

said. "The benefits in terms of jobs, income and business generation could be huge, both for Africa and the world".

Chancellor of the College, Prime Minister Gordon Brown, said: "I am delighted to welcome the world's pre-eminent diplomat, Kofi Annan, to this year's Adam Smith Lecture. It is a great privilege to hear Mr Annan share his thoughts on the global economic crisis and his hopes for the future, during what has been a thoroughly memorable occasion.

As part of the Lecture, Mr Annan and College Chancellor, Prime Minister Gordon Brown, also formally endowed the Kofi Annan Adam Smith Scholarship Fund, which offers financial support to Malawian students. Adam Smith College is leading this initiative on behalf of Scotland's Colleges International alongside partners in Angus College, Anniesland College, Cardonald College, Cumbernauld College, Elmwood College, Forth Valley College, James Watt College, Perth College and Stevenson College Edinburgh.

The Adam Smith Lecture will be broadcast on Adam Smith TV via the internet. Adam Smith College Principal Craig Thomson, who is the current President of PIN organised the global broadcast to further engage with college staff and students from across the globe, with PIN representatives from countries including New Zealand, America, Canada, Bahrain, Australia and Fiji expected to tune into the broadcast. To watch the Adam Smith Lecture via Adam Smith TV, please visit [www.adamsmithcollege.tv](http://www.adamsmithcollege.tv) or connect at the PIN website: [www.pinnet.org](http://www.pinnet.org).

## **PIN Conference 2009 - New Zealand**

### **Conference Theme: Sustainability**

Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) and Otago Polytechnic (OP) co-hosted the 2009 PIN Conference in New Zealand. The conference was attended by 37 delegates and 8 companions, which was one of the larger conferences. All PIN countries were represented, including our newest member from Bahrain.

The conference commences in Christchurch on Tuesday, March 31, and concluded in Queenstown on Tuesday, April 7. The first three days of the Conference (March 31 - April 2) were hosted by CPIT. Travel to Queenstown was via coach on April 3, and the final days of the conference, (April 4 - 7) were spent in Queenstown hosted by Otago Polytechnic.

The theme for the conference was Sustainability, with all sessions providing a variety of presentations on sustainability topics related to the conference themes. The three themes were: (1) Leadership Sustainability, (2) Organisational Sustainability, and (3) Education for Sustainability. New Zealand is a leader in sustainability efforts. Speakers from New Zealand included:

Mark Solomon, Mauri Leader - "Indigenous People's Perspective on Sustainability"

Peter Neilson, Business Leader - "Sustainable Business Opportunities"

Vicki Buck, Political Leader - "The Business of Climate Change"

Morgan Williams, Political Leader - "Leadership for Change"

Pam Williams, Education Leader - "A Tertiary Education Sector that Educates for Sustainability"

Malcolm Macpherson, Political Leader - "A World of Difference - Lean Service as Sustainable Practice"

John Beattie, Business Leader - "Uniting a Community through a Common Vision"

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Steve Henry, Community Leader - "Framework to Underpin Education for Sustainable Practice"

In addition, PIN delegates presented on sustainable issues from their college and countries perspective. Speakers presenting their college and counties views included:

Phil Ker, CEO Otago Polytechnic - "Every Graduate a Sustainable Practitioner"

Jackie Doodson, Assistant Principal Coleg Llandrillo - "Progress on Sustainable Practice at Coleg Llandrillo, Wales"

Larry Litecky, President Century College - "Sustaining Leadership: The Professional Development and Evaluation of Principals/Presidents"

Clyde Sakamoto, Chancellor Maui Community College - "Here Today, Here Tomorrow"

Joe Sertich, President Sertich Consulting - "Rural America Matters"

Geoff Bell & Glenn Carter, Canberra Institute of Technology - "Sustainability, A Green Government and Forensic Science"

Tom Thompson, CEO Olds College - "A Rural Canadian Perspective on Community Sustainability and Development"

Irene Lewis, CEO Southern Alberta Institute of Technology - "Leadership in Supporting Industry"

Bahrain Polytechnic Team - "Weaving the Threads of Sustainability Together"

### 2009 PIN Delegates - Queenstown, New Zealand



All delegates participated in small group sessions designed to provide input on the PIN Benchmarking project. Delegates reacted to the work that has been completed to date. Additional work will be completed by June/July. The work will be done by a steering committee to assist in directing the project. Members interested in serving on the steering committee should contact Craig Thomson or Bill Warner. At that time a pilot project will be initiated.

To summarize some of the key sustainability thoughts delegates were able to take home from the conference were:

- Develop sustainability goals related to the college mission
- Do it in a coherent way - plan what will be done.

- Confirmation that you are on the right road
- There is a lot of support available - much is happening around the world
- Keep it simple
- Don't push it down in the institute/college - let it happen.
- CEO/President support is key to success
- Course redesign - include sustainability objectives
- Global connections are important to move things forward - networking
- Leverage information obtained
- Use a data matrix

The minutes of the PIN Business Meeting are available on the PIN website.

### **Future PIN Conferences**

**2010 PIN Conference** - Maui Community College will host the 2010 PIN Conference. Chancellor Clyde Sakamoto announced the conference will start on Monday, April 12 (Noon Luncheon) and conclude on Friday, April 16 (Dinner). The conference will start in Honolulu and conclude on Maui. Hotel options are currently being explored.

The conference theme will be entrepreneurship and the impact on programs, the institution, community and state/region. The entrepreneurship theme will build on the 2009 Conference sustainability theme and the educational and economic challenges in all countries, exploring strategies to promote sustainability among PIN graduates, programs, and institutions.

Track 1: Leadership in Entrepreneurship – PIN's institutional role in stimulating students and communities to create and/or strengthen new and sustainable enterprises.

Track 2: Leveraging Local/Institutional Comparative Advantages – PIN institutions can create and add value to student learning and community economies through collaboration.

Track 3: Optimizing Anticipated Broadband Ubiquity – How telecommunications and distance education technologies can more effectively serve our PIN students, institutions, and communities.

**2011 PIN Conference Location** - Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology will co-host the 2011 conference. The conference will be held in Calgary/Edmonton, Alberta. More information will be provided as planning progresses. No dates have been identified but will probably be June or July.

**2012 PIN Conference Location** - Bahrain Polytechnic agreed to host the 2012 conference. More information will be provided as planning progresses. No dates have been identified but will probably be January-March.

### **Report to the Postsecondary International Network Visit to the United States through PIN's Visit and Exchange Initiative By Fiona Haynes, Dean - Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology**

Over the course of my visit to the United States I visited the Appalachian State University, Boone North Carolina; Alexandria Technical College, Alexandria Minnesota; presented a paper at the

IVETA conference and attended the ACTE convention in Charlotte North Carolina. This visit has proved to be as interesting and useful to CPIT as was envisioned, exceeding my expectations.

At the Appalachian State University engineering was my predominant focus with construction research another area of immediate interest. ASU provides leading edge research in environmental engineering which is studied from a social or societal perspective in one department, while new methodologies for improvement of technologies to lessen environmental impact is the focus of studies in another. The building sciences department had a number of interesting and essential projects underway. These included research into more effective insulation of buildings. In New Zealand building regulations are being tightened, and there is a need an advanced understanding of the practicalities of alternative methods of insulation. Having a partnership would enhance prospects of employment in New Zealand and encourage more potential students to engineering and construction at CPIT.

At the IVETA Conference my paper – Sandpits and Simulated Subdivisions was well received by the conference attendees. The scope of the papers presented complimented each other well. Of particular interest was the presentation by Roddy Henry, Head of Centre for Learning Effectiveness, Scotland's Colleges. His paper on the new 'Skills for Work' qualification and how it is being implemented in Scottish schools with assistance from tertiary providers is timely for New Zealand as the new government intends to introduce a more robust interface between secondary and tertiary without having given any details, as yet, on what form it will take.

The ACTE Convention keynote speakers were well chosen and their messages were very relevant to the growing economic crisis and the need to encourage youth towards good training and/or education. Break-out sessions over the three days provided case studies or insights into the use of new technologies and teaching techniques. The other aspect of the convention that was extremely useful was the vast range of educational and technical products on offer. The convention was extremely valuable for someone from outside the USA.

The main thrust of my visit to Alexandria Technical College was to study the Centre for Automation and Motion Control and discuss collaborative projects. It was very evident that New Zealand has a long way to go to match what is already in place at ATC. New Zealand and Alexandria Technical College participate in the World Skills competitions. This visit has made it clear that mechatronics would be an ideal area for a national exhibition event in New Zealand in 2010. Ken Ryan suggested a project that could be tackled by a national team from New Zealand in conjunction with a team from Alexandria Technical College. The time difference would mean that the project could be worked on (virtually) 24 hours a day.

The customised training centre is an amazing example of the scope of education possibilities available through a technical college for industries and the community. The TradeFIT (Trades Futures in Training) project at CPIT can learn from the sophisticated setup in place at ATC. I could also see that relationships developed between ATC departments in Construction, Medical Technicians, Lean Engineering and Administrative areas could benefit both Institutions.

I would like to thank the Postsecondary International Network for granting me the stipend to undertake this trip.

Fiona Haynes

Dean, Trades Innovation Institute & School of Engineering  
Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology

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## News From Around the PIN World

### An Introduction to NorthTec, North Island, New Zealand

#### PIN's Newest Member

NorthTec is the region's largest provider of tertiary education, with campuses and learning centres in Whangarei city and Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands, and Learning Centres in Rawene on the shores of the Hokianga, Dargaville, Kaikohe and our northernmost site in Kaitaia.



NorthTec remains the only Northland-based Tertiary Education Institute (TEI) that provides programmes from foundation to degree level.

Originally opened as the Northland Community College in 1978, with a staff of ten tutors, the college was hailed as "a significant centre for learning and an administrative centre for courses to be run in the wider community." In 1987 Northland Community College changed its name to Northland Polytechnic [Tai Tokerau Wananga] and to NorthTec [Tai Tokerau Wananga] in June 2006.

Now 30 years later our institution has taken courses beyond the main campus to the two-thirds of northland's population who do not live in Whangarei. NorthTec staff and management are committed to our Charter to make tertiary education accessible to all Northlanders. We offer our students high quality and industry-focused education, with flexible learning options and a personalised classroom approach.

Our commitment to our students extends beyond the campus boundaries. We have solid partnerships with kiwi, other institutions, industry organisations and advisors, to further enable us to meet NorthTec's mission of developing Northland and its people through tertiary education. We pride ourselves on the fact that when our students are ready to leave us they graduate with the knowledge and practical skill base needed "in the real world" of business and enterprise.

NorthTec supports and encourages the development of our staff and a strong research culture. Staff

continues to participate in a wide range of research and other developmental activities, with particular encouragement being given to new researchers to attend workshops and presentations. Our staff and established researchers are increasingly collaborating both internally and externally to ensure the quality of what we offer our students.

## **Central Community College Receives \$2.17 Million Grant for Advanced Manufacturing**

### **Central Community College News Release**

A \$2.17 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will be used to establish the Midwest Center for Plastics and Design on Central Community College's Hastings Campus. The grant will educate people for high paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs.

The project has several other goals:

- Create a new associate of applied science degree program in design technology with an emphasis in plastics.
- Develop agreements for program graduates to transfer to four-year colleges to complete bachelor's degrees in industrial management, engineering and mechanized systems.
- Educate new workers for high skilled jobs in advanced manufacturing.
- Provide training in the latest technology for people currently working in manufacturing.
- Prepare dislocated workers for new careers.
- Inform educators about career opportunities in high skill, high demand regional manufacturing jobs through week-long summer academies and "return-to-work" opportunities for high school and college faculty to observe current manufacturing processes.
- Implement career awareness programs for students in grades 6 through 12.
- Increase CCC's capacity to provide 24/7 training options by developing technology based learning systems for technical programs.
- Increase the quantity and quality of the workforce in central Nebraska with advanced manufacturing and industrial technology skills.

The new degree in design technology will combine elements from CCC's existing drafting, industrial technology and machine tool technology programs. The goal is for program graduates to have an in-depth understanding of plastic injection molding – a commonly used manufacturing process – from the product design phase through plastic mold making and production of the finished product.

CCC President Dr. Greg Smith said that although rural Nebraska has had a decline in the number of manufacturing jobs during the current economic downturn, nine high growth and high demand occupations in advanced manufacturing have been identified in the region, with 2,500 new jobs projected for the next 10 years. "By providing advanced technology training for current and future jobs, we hope to help return manufacturing employment in Nebraska to desired levels," Smith said.

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## **Olds College and University of Lethbridge Co-operate to Offer Unique Degree Program**

### **Olds College News Release**

On Friday, March 27, representatives of Olds College and the University of Lethbridge will sign off on an agreement to bring additional educational value to students and graduates of the Olds College Land Agent Diploma program, as well as bringing much-needed skill combinations to the Alberta workforce. Land Agents (often called Landmen) are responsible for facilitating access to land and freehold minerals for activities such as exploration, development and transporting of onshore oil and gas, or constructing and maintaining power lines. Millions of dollars in land access agreements are managed every year for these types of activities.

Approximately 1500 land agents are registered in Alberta working for energy companies as well as land owners, and play a vital role in land access agreements. An average of 40 students has graduated annually from Olds College's Land Agent Diploma program over the last five years. Where the Land Agent Diploma program helps students understand the agricultural and environmental context and regulatory requirements associated with professional land access agreements, the University of Lethbridge Degree will complement this Diploma skill set.

"We are pleased to work with Olds College as a partner in offering this program to enhance the professional development of Alberta's Land Agents," said Dr. Murray Lindsay, Dean of the Faculty of Management. "They play a key role in Alberta's economy, and we are pleased to provide the relevant, convenient programming to help advance their professional skills."

Graduates of Olds College's Land Agent Diploma program will be immediately eligible to enroll in the U of L's Bachelor of Management Degree program. "This allows our graduates to take the real-life, hands-on education they received with Olds College and build upon it. Completing the Lethbridge Degree requirements will be a great fit for those interested in pursuing managerial roles by broadening their skills in areas such as financial analysis, business strategy and human resource management," said Joel Gingrich, Chair of Olds College's School of Agriculture, Land and Environment.

#### **About the Program:**

In as little as two and a half years, students can obtain a General Management degree from the U of L at its Lethbridge, Calgary or Edmonton campuses. They can choose from programs in Lethbridge or afternoon and evening programming in Calgary and Edmonton. The University of Lethbridge will accept block transfers of credits from the Olds College two-year program, with guaranteed admission for recent graduates with a 3.0 Grade Point Average or higher. Students with a GPA of less than 3.0 are admissible on an individual review basis. Students are admissible up to eight years after graduation from Olds College.

## **A First for New Zealand: Disability Management in the Workplace**

### **Otago Polytechnic News Release**

Otago Polytechnic is about to become the first New Zealand-based institution to offer a specialised training and professional certification programme in workplace disability management, designed to plan for better management of valuable 'people resources.'

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The online Disability Management in the Workplace programme prepares professionals to facilitate a successful return to work for those living with a disability either through illness or injury. It includes disability management theory and practice, the New Zealand service delivery environment and interpersonal skills for those involved in the return-to-work process.

Workers with a disability may face significant social, psychological and financial challenges. Graduates of the programme will have the necessary skills to promote these workers returning to normal employment, and assist employers who seek to retain trained, experienced and committed staff.

Otago Polytechnic will offer the online programme on a national scale drawing on resources from their internationally-respected School of Occupational Therapy. "This programme is endorsed by the International Disability Management Standards Council (IDMSCTM) as meeting best practice for workplace rehabilitation. It complements our current programmes and we are delighted to have been granted the exclusive contract to offer the programme in New Zealand," explains Jackie Herkt, Head of the School of Occupational Therapy at Otago Polytechnic.

"It has been internationally proven that coordinated return-to-work programmes improve outcomes for both organisations and their employees and the introduction of this programme can only benefit New Zealand's businesses and workers." The Canadian-developed programme has been adopted by 13 countries around the world including England, Ireland, Australia and Germany.

The New Zealand license for the programme has been managed by a Steering Group comprising ACC, Business New Zealand, the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health, who saw that it had application for New Zealand workers affected by injury or ill-health. Otago Polytechnic was awarded the right to deliver the programme following a tender process.

The IDMSCTM has also endorsed two occupational standards - the Certified Return to Work Coordinator (CRTWCTM) and the Certified Disability Management Professional (CDMPTM). These certifications are awarded to professionals who successfully pass the professional certification examination managed by Otago Polytechnic. The examinations will be suitable for people with a strong background in the disability management field – either as a rehabilitation provider, case manager or who work in organisational Health and Safety – who are looking to gain an internationally-recognised certification.

### **Box Hill Institute News**

Box Hill Institute continues to be a dynamic, diverse place of learning in 2009, with increasing enrolments and a marked rise in school leaver applications over the summer. This has been pleasing news for the Institute in light of major changes in Government funding to vocational training providers in Victoria, where a more competitive environment between providers will ensue.

The Institute continues to rely on its excellent reputation both locally and with international students. Apart from the regular influx of international students, exchange programs will continue to run in 2009 as part of the Institute's Global Education Network.

On a sombre note, the Institute has been involved in significant fund raising efforts for the victims of the recent bushfires in Victoria. The Institute has responded both at an Institute-wide level and with numerous more specific fund raising activities and support services provided.

One of the recent highlights at the Institute was the official sod-turning ceremony of the Health and Wellbeing hub, presided by State Minister Jacinta Allen. The hub, a state of the art building comprising the Nursing Skills Centre of Excellence and the Aveda Institute, is currently in construction, and will transform the way training will be delivered.

One example of this innovation occurred recently with the exciting arrival of “Simmo” – the Institute’s affectionate name for a piece of medical equipment that takes Nursing training into the future. “Simmo” is a manikin, correctly known as SimMan 3G – a completely wireless, high-fidelity patient simulator, and the first of six to be delivered to the Institute. Box Hill Institute is the first organisation in the Asia-Pacific region to receive this amazing teaching technology. Along with other specialized high, medium and low fidelity equipment, they will be housed in the Nursing Skills Centre of Excellence.

SimMan 3G comes with an impressive range of clinical features. He can breathe, has blood pressure, pulse, cardiac rhythms and shows a range of normal and abnormal clinical signs depending on what scenario or context it is being used for. To make the learning experience almost disturbingly “real”, he can sweat, cry, leak and bleed, go cyanotic, blink, dilate and constrict his pupils, urinate, have bowel sounds, a seizure, and importantly physiologically respond to a range of drugs being delivered. Naturally, “Simmo” can also ‘talk’.

The applications of SimMan 3G are boundless. The advantages are obvious – giving students the opportunity to practice procedure in a hands-on manner before they are thrown into the pressure of a life or death situation. During the official handover, the capacity of the SimMan 3G was amply demonstrated through an emergency scenario involving an electrical maintenance worker (played by “Simmo”) who has received an electric shock, requiring basic and advanced resuscitation, stabilization and removal to definitive care. It portrayed very clearly how such simulation technology can help train tomorrow’s nurses, other health care professionals and even the public in a safe setting, helping them learn how to respond in incredibly challenging and stressful situations.

### **Sustainability: Study Alternative Energy on Maui This Summer Maui Community College News Release**

“As a graduate of UH-Maui CC’s Sustainable Technology program, I was able to get hands on experience and work directly with the innovators in Hawaii’s emerging green work force. The skills I gained helped me to land a job with a company that is leading the way in renewable energy development”- Chris Taylor, HNu Photonics

Whether preparing for a career in the emerging green workforce or just interested in becoming more energy efficient, University of Hawaii-Maui Community College (UH-Maui CC) is offering a special eight-week summer program focused on the principles of renewable energy. With ample wind, sun, and wave energy, Maui offers a rare environment to study this emerging field. Going far beyond the classroom, this short-term program offers hands-on training and field trips to some of Maui’s most innovative renewable energy projects.

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UH-Maui CC's short-term alternative energy program begins on June 8th and ends on August 1st. The program consists of two three-credit courses and one two-credit internship. Course work includes:

- Energy 101: Introduction to Sustainable Technology
- Energy 103: Energy Production System
- Energy 193V: Internship in Sustainable Technology

Students who successfully complete ENERGY 101 and ENERGY 103 are eligible to receive a Certificate of Competence in Energy Production from UH-Maui CC.

### **NAIT Finds Better Way to Analyze Air Quality In The Event Of a Chemical Attack NAIT News Release**

Dr. Ron Currie believes he has a faster, better way to analyze air quality in the event of a chemical attack – one that could save lives. That same technology could someday allow a doctor to swab a patient for strep throat and analyze the test in her office for instant results, rather than sending the sample to a lab.

Currie led a team of applied researchers who developed a prototype of an innovative column apparatus for use in gas chromatography, an analytical chemistry technique used in a variety of industries to vaporize and separate mixtures into their component compounds for analysis. The resulting prototype, says Jim Luong, a NAIT alumnus and gas chromatography technology leader with The Dow Chemical Company, has greater capacity and is more efficient than traditional column technology, resulting in faster, better and cheaper analysis of sample mixtures. In addition, the prototype lends itself to new applications using handheld devices and online analyzers in a variety of fields, including petrochemicals, military, pharmaceuticals, environmental monitoring and human health.

“The gaps (with traditional columns) are well articulated yet have no quick and easy solution,” says Luong, who collaborated with Currie on the project. “Ron has succeeded in finding a potential solution. It’s a very innovative idea.”

Currie, now associate chair of the Chemical Technology program, has taught at NAIT since 1982 and been conducting applied research for more than a decade. In 2001, he collaborated on the development of the Canadian Remote Sciences Laboratories portal, a website that allowed students to operate analytical equipment in NAIT’s chemistry labs from anywhere in the world. More recently, he turned his attention to advancing column technology.

The next phase, Currie says, is to adapt the column prototype for use as an online analyzer, which provides for continuous monitoring, and to shrink the technology from the size of a 27-inch TV to a device the size of a toaster. “The next steps will be very critical to determining its commercial success,” Currie says. And to getting the technology into the hands of those who could use it in the event of a chemical attack.

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## SAIT Update

Submitted by Irene Lewis, President - SAIT

The 2008/09 academic year has proven to be very busy for SAIT. In relation to academic programming, our proposed BSc in Internetworking and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees have taken a significant step closer to approval, with a very successful institutional site visit by the Alberta Government. This visit resulted in the government approving SAIT as a degree-granting institution. The next step is for the Alberta government to formally review the two proposed degrees themselves.

Another significant initiative now underway is aimed at significantly increasing student retention. We have created and hired for a new position - Academic Chair, Student Retention - and this position appears to be unique among Canadian post-secondary institutions. The key responsibilities of this position are to develop a comprehensive student retention plan for SAIT and to significantly improve our student completion rates.

As is the case at many post-secondary institutions, an ever-increasing number of our students are accessing Disability Services, and this trend is projected to continue. Maintaining existing service levels for this growing number of students, who are presenting with a growing range of learning, physical, and/or mental disabilities, may prove to be a challenge, depending upon future government funding levels.

Construction related to SAIT's new Trades and Technology Complex (TTC) will soon be underway. When completed in 2012, the new complex will create 675,000 square feet of new space on campus. Construction of the TTC will result in the demolition of the existing parkade (to be replaced by the new parkade currently under construction), as well as the demolition of other existing buildings and facilities. During this demolition/construction process, many programs and services will be relocated to other locations at SAIT or at a satellite location away from the main campus. Relocation plans for these programs and services are now being finalized.

We are gearing up for the upcoming WorldSkills 2009 event in Calgary, in September. SAIT will serve as the Competitors' Village for this event, which is the largest competitive event in Calgary since the Winter Olympics twenty years ago and which will see 1100+ competitors and coaches calling SAIT their home for the six days of this event. Competitors and coaches will stay in the SAIT Residence, and the start of the 2009 academic year has been pushed back two weeks into the middle of September, 2009. This event will have a significant impact on all of SAIT's services, including residence, food, and corporate communications, and security, parking, and facilities management.

Finally, our international activities continue to grow. Our Global Education Network has been busy. We will be sending students and staff to Box Hill Institute (in Melbourne) in May and to ITE (in Singapore) in June, to take part in a three-week study tour. We will also host a large group of students and faculty from our GEN partner institutions to take part in a three-week study tour focusing specifically on project management. Students and faculty will learn and apply project management concepts and principles while also taking part in cultural and social events showcasing Calgary and the nearby Rocky Mountains.

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## **\$3.1 Million in Funding Pledged To Olds College School of Innovation**

### **Olds College News Release**

The Olds College School of Innovation (OCSI) is now poised for a new period of important research, thanks to \$3.1 Million in new funding. Officially announced on February 25 as part of their newly announced College and Community Innovation program (CCI), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has committed \$2.3 Million to OCSI's *Biodiesel Production, Alternative Feedstocks and Commercial Adoption* program. An additional \$800,000 in funding and in-kind commitments has been pledged by key industry contributors, named below.

"Credit for the success of the proposal that precipitated this announcement is a function of the phenomenal work of the outstanding people associated with OCSI," says Dr. H.J. (Tom) Thompson, President and CEO of Olds College. "We are extremely proud of their dedication in addressing the bigger societal and scientific needs related to our environment."

This five-year funding builds upon previous investments of \$1.275 Million from Alberta Energy for a nearly-completed biofuel pilot plant on campus that will serve industry needs for R&D, technology incubation and lab analysis of fuel and feedstock. In February that particular work, in conjunction with other numerous community and industry supported research projects, led the Alberta Biodiesel Association to award the OCSI with a plaque of recognition "for establishing the first Alberta based integrated biodiesel applied research centre."

"This new project will focus on increasing biodiesel production for research purposes, initiating oilseed trials and investigating process optimization," says Dr. Abimbola Abiola, OCSI Chair. "In the near future we hope to quadruple the number of students and double the amount of faculty involvement as we investigate exciting new methods of fuel production and usage."

OCSI provides small and medium businesses with access to expertise and facilities for problem solving. It is one of the first recipients of the CCI award in Canada, the only Albertan institution among the eight Canadian schools named last week. This new initiative supports Olds College's ongoing renewable energy role in Alberta by creating capacity to address industry needs in a practical and sustainable manner.

## **Health Science Career Academy Will Open To Students in 46 High Schools**

### **Central Community College News Release**

Juniors and seniors in 46 central Nebraska high schools who are interested in health care careers will have the opportunity to start working toward their goals through a Health Science Career Academy that Central Community College is scheduled to launch in August 2009.

Students in the academy will complete college-level health care courses in addition to participating in job shadowing, field trips, industry tours and hearing guest speakers from the health care industry.  
Health Academy for Pin

Students who complete academy requirements will receive a certificate. Certificate requirements include 35 hours of job shadowing with specific health-related careers so students can experience the world of health care in a controlled environment, assess their interest and abilities for the field and evaluate their career choices. Certificate recipients also will complete four college-level health care

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classes provide by CCC: introduction to health Science, nursing assistant, medical terminology and human biology or pharmacology.

The project grew out of an effort by secondary schools in Educational Service Units # 7, 9 and 11 to pool federal funds each had received under the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act. Their goal was to start a career academy that would provide opportunities for students to explore career fields in a close-knit learning environment that combines career and technical education with academics and work-based learning.

**Maui Community College Named to President's Higher Education Community  
Service Honor Roll  
Highest Federal Recognition For Commitment to Service Learning and Civic Engagement  
Maui Community College News Release**

The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Maui Community College recently with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Through service-learning, nearly 100 students at Maui Community College participate in meaningful community service experiences that instill academic learning, personal growth and civic responsibility. The college has partnerships established with more than 40 nonprofit organizations, including Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, American Heart Association, and American Lung Association.

Two programs launched by the college itself for which it received recognition include a tutoring program at the nearby Harbor Lights Condominiums and a Spanish-English language exchange program. For more than two years, Maui CC students from a variety of majors provide mentoring and tutoring every week to more than 50 at-risk children who are residents of Harbor Lights. Through the Spanish-English language exchange program, students enrolled in Spanish language courses at Maui CC offer English language tutoring to Hispanic residents who, in exchange, provide Spanish language tutoring to the students.

"In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll. "We salute Maui Community College for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others."

The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is presented during the annual conference of the American Council on Education.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation administers Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America, a program that supports service-learning in schools, institutions of higher education and community-based organizations. For more information, go to [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

## **NAIT's Student Contact Centre: A First In Canada** **NAIT News Release**

NAIT is preparing to launch Canada's first post-secondary student contact centre. The Student Success Contact Centre (SSCC) is being set up to handle student queries primarily and will launch its email and online chat service on May 4 before taking calls on June 1. Kam Gill, manger of the SSCC says the centre has begun to attract interest from other post-secondary institutions.

Gill and his team of 14 agents expect to revolutionize the way student information is delivered at NAIT by providing prompt, standardized information to clients from one centralized location. "We will be the single point of contact for our students. We will be providing quick and reliable responses through email, chat and the phone. Our students are very technology savvy and we intend to use all the channels necessary to meet their needs."

The centre will provide information on a range of services including registration and admission, fee payments, parking, academic and career counseling, continuing education and information services. It will be supported by powerful software called Cisco Unified Contact Center

Enterprise solution which will allow for a seamless transition when the centre officially launches. Mary Hauge, manager of Customer Support in NAIT's Information Services Department says the software guarantees greater reliability. "We chose the software because it is very robust and the risk of it going down is very low. The SSCC numbers will be our main contact for students and external clients and we want the application to be available at all times."

The software has the added ability to route contacts through three different channels: telephone, email and web-chat. "In the past we only gave treatment to telephone calls. This application provides the ability for our agents to work on multiple tasks from different channels. These channels will have different priorities so an agent could work on the email queue but also be interrupted for phone calls and then go back to the email," Hauge says.

The email and chat services offered to students will be queued and treated as priority in much the same way that telephone calls are. The application has an interactive menu system that will prompt students to enter their identification numbers. Their client information will then become instantly available to the SSCC specialist who can then provide them with personalized service.

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## PIN People

### **Rob Turner Announces Retirement from Sheridan College** **Submitted by Rob Turner, President - Sheridan College**

Long time PIN member, Rob Turner, announced his retirement to the Sheridan College Board. His retirement will take effect on August 30, 2009 or when the new President is in place. Rob's comments to the Board were:

My ambivalence to retire is a result of my sense of honour and pride in serving as President of the finest applied learning institution in this country, while also acknowledging that after 33 years in the system - with 27 of them as president or reporting directly to one - it is indeed the right time for me to retire.

Together at Sheridan, we have accomplished all that I promised the Board and the Institution upon my appointment on April 1, 2001. I will be eternally grateful to all of you for your important contributions in moving Sheridan to its acknowledged place as a model of applied learning excellence in Canada.

Among our many accomplishments together we have:

- Achieved an enrollment growth of 32.5% with another 5% expected this year and increased our international student enrolment four fold
- Opened \$136.5 million dollars worth of new buildings (since 1999), and have an equivalent amount of future construction in various stages of planning
- Cleared our debt and posted nine straight budget surpluses
- Become degree granting and now hold about 38% of the Ontario college system's degree enrollment
- Launched 35 new programs since 2001 and have as many more in various stages of development
- Achieved a differentiated status and helped to found Polytechnics Canada.
- Hired 125 net new faculty since 2002
- In Brampton, developed and successfully implemented the Davis Plan and have revitalized that campus with 5 new buildings
- In Oakville, opened the J,H,K wings, the Animation Building, the Learning Commons; have a new student services building and residence in planning stages; and have purchased and upgraded STC
- Improved our services to students by opening the Advisement Centres, implementing diversity training, launching triage and IntelliResponse to answer student questions online
- Established many new program quality assurance initiatives resulting in the highest rating possible with our PEQAB review
- Established the Centre for Curriculum and Faculty Development and the Institutional Research Department
- Developed Emergency Management Plans that are leading the way in our sector in Ontario
- Developed exciting new international initiatives in Beijing, Shanghai and Singapore

In every iteration of our Board of Governors, we have recommitted our strategic plan to accomplish these and many other institutional improvements.

Currently, our strategic initiatives are focused on securing approval for our long-term plans for our Mississauga campus and being formally recognized as a Polytechnic.

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## **Rob MacIsaac New President of Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology** **Submitted by Rosemary Knechtel, Vice President, Academic - Mohawk College**

The architect of groundbreaking transportation and greenbelt plans who also served nine years as a mayor is the new president of one of the largest colleges in the Province of Ontario.

Rob MacIsaac became the seventh president of Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology this past February and was officially installed during a ceremony at the College April 9. Rob was hired following a national search by the College's Board of Directors.



**President Rob MacIsaac**

“I went back to school full-time in February and, like 10,000 students every year, I chose Mohawk,” says Rob. “Building successful communities is my passion and leading a college of the size and calibre of Mohawk would be a prized addition to the work I have been engaged in for almost the whole of my career. As the College grows, Mohawk will make an enormous difference to the social, cultural and economic prosperity of Hamilton, Brantford, Burlington and the surrounding communities.”

From 1997 to 2006, Rob served three terms as Mayor of the City of Burlington. During his time in office, Rob earned a reputation for his regional approach and progressive growth management ideas for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Rob led the effort to develop a vision and recommendations for a growth management strategy

for South Central Ontario which ultimately formed the basis of Ontario's award-winning Places to Grow Plan. He then chaired a provincial task force that established the founding principles for a permanent Greenbelt for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Greenbelt Plan preserves more than 1.8 million acres of forest, natural lands and farmlands in Canada's most populous region. Rob's contributions were recognized with the Canadian Urban Institute's Urban Leadership Award in 2004.

After deciding not to seek re-election in 2006, Rob became the first Chair of Metrolinx, the transportation authority responsible for governing the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area. As Chair, Rob guided the new agency through its first two years of development and was responsible for preparing the first ever regional transportation plan for the GTHA. The transportation plan, titled “The Big Move”, is the most ambitious in North America and calls for the largest transit expansion in Ontario's history. The \$50 billion plan recommends more than 100 transportation improvements over the next 25 years.

Rob completed an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Waterloo in 1984 and a Law degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1987. Rob was called to the Bar in 1989.

Mohawk College serves 10,000 full-time students, 3,650 apprenticeship students and more than 42,000 continuing education registrants from campuses in Hamilton and Brantford. Mohawk also celebrates the career achievements and community contributions of more than 85,000 alumni. Mohawk was the first college in Canada to introduce co-operative education work terms and the first to combine college and university health science education and research in one facility. In 2009, Mohawk's innovative workforce training and development partnership with three other colleges and Hydro One received a provincial Colleges Ontario award.

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## Board Appoints Dr. Jerry Weber as New CLC President

### College of Lake County News Release

Approving a three-year employment contract, the College of Lake County board of trustees last night officially appointed Dr. Girard “Jerry” Weber to become the college’s next president.

Weber’s selection was announced on Dec. 19, 2008, culminating a nine-month national search process. He emerged from a field of 42 applicants, which was narrowed to four finalists who were interviewed by the trustees in December. Weber, will assume his duties on April 4, 2009.



**Jerry Webber**

“I am honored and grateful to serve as president of the College of Lake County,” said Weber, who attended last night’s meeting. “I look forward to working with faculty and staff to advance the goals of the college and meeting with the members of the community.”

Weber was president of Kankakee Community College, a position he assumed in 2001. Before joining Kankakee Community College he served as vice president of instruction at Heartland Community College from 1991-2001 and as dean, academic support programs, at Triton College from 1989-1991.

His earlier positions included serving as director of computer-based instruction, director of open learning programs and coordinator of the Pike County Learning Center, all at John Wood Community College. His experience also includes a position as a writing instructor at Harper College. He holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration and an M.A. in educational measurement and statistics, both from the University of Iowa. He has also earned an M.A. in linguistics and English literature and a B.A. in English, both from Northern Illinois University.

### **A Former PIN Presidents View** **Submitted by John Skitt, Past PIN President (1993-1997)**

I recall my first encounter with PIN friends from the US and Canada at Coombe Lodge (the then national management and training centre for Further Education in the UK). That was over twenty years ago. It was an invigorating and stimulating experience to meet colleague principles, presidents and CEOs from across the pond, particularly with such colourful and diverse characters as Don Morgan, Abe Konrad, Roy Murray and Tony Wilkinson in attendance. Bill Warner and I were the more retiring and acquiescent members of the group!

So when in 1988 the then North American PIN axis opened its membership to the UK and there were one or two anxious voices raised, I, and in consequence Barnet College, became one of the founding Brit members. Bill and I were amongst those encouraging PIN to go global, and in the early 90s we welcomed our Australian and New Zealand partners and friends into membership.

PIN became very much part of the Skitt’s family life. Both our boys accompanied me to PIN conferences in Toronto and St Clair respectively. PIN BBQs have been held at the Skitt’s home. It was raining of course. Indeed Barnet College is one of the few Colleges to host two PIN conferences. And although I changed my life pattern over six years ago, I am still in regular contact with friends made

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through PIN. We have had wonderful experiences with the Maddock's, the Scott's, and of course Bill, in our homes and theirs. We've also recently visited Mike and Robyn Sainsbury (Canberra) and the Schafer's. Even PIN conferences still hold an allure; Audrey and I have socialised fully at the conferences in Canada and Scotland in recent years.

For me PIN has been a wonderful experience and an opportunity to share so much over many years. Perhaps more importantly, membership of PIN enabled staff at Barnet College to engage in and enjoy visits and exchanges with other PIN member colleges over a ten year period. From the time PIN introduced the staff (faculty) exchange programme in the early 1990s, at least one and often two or three of my colleagues spent time in partner PIN colleges; and we in turn benefited from the expertise of staff visiting and teaching at our college.

Initially the financial support from PIN was \$500.00 for each approved exchange. As the hosting college took care of accommodation through home stays or college accommodation, the financial contribution for any one college was not excessive; while, in my view, the gains were enormous.

Now the PIN bursary is \$1,000.00 which still means that the staffs of those colleges that participate gain invaluable experience, relatively inexpensively. I am therefore surprised and a little disappointed to note that the take up of exchanges has declined in recent years. At a time when we all need to be advocating global solutions to the massive challenges we all face, it is essential that we encourage our staff to engage in the possibly unique developmental opportunities that PIN provides.

### **PIN Faculty/Staff Exchange-Visit Program**

Applications are currently being taken for the Faculty/Staff Exchange Visit Program. The exchange and visit program is designed to facilitate faculty and staff exchanges and visits among PIN member colleges. The exchanges and visits are designed to enhance the professional development of faculty/staff and to further international understanding of two-year colleges. The colleges are expected to support and facilitate the exchange/visit process. The college and the faculty members develop the exchange or visit to meet their institutional and individual objectives.

PIN will award two \$1,000 (US) stipends to facilitate faculty exchanges and visits to each country for the academic year. It is expected that the college will match the dollar amount of the stipend. The match will be cash or an in-kind contribution.

#### **Process**

1. The Faculty Exchange and Visit Program Application Form should be used.
2. The program criteria must be addressed in the application.
3. The narrative should be no longer than 1000 words.
4. The college president/principal and the faculty/staff member must sign the application form.
5. If there is a need for assistance in identifying a host college, PIN will assist in identifying appropriate host colleges.
6. Faculty Exchange and Visit Program Application are submitted to Executive Director, Bill Warner.
7. The Executive Committee reviews all applications at the annual meeting.
8. The Executive Committee will identify the award recipients.
9. The PIN Executive Director will notify the successful and unsuccessful applicants.
10. The \$1,000 (US) stipend check will be sent to the college president, who will make the award to the faculty/staff member.

Forward your Faculty/Staff Exchange and Visit applications to Bill Warner, Executive Director.

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**PIN Executive Committee**

The current PIN Executive Committee membership includes:

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|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Australia:</b>          | John Maddock, Box Hill College (Past PIN President) |
| <b>Bahrain:</b>            | John Scott, Bahrain Polytechnic                     |
| <b>Canada:</b>             | Irene Lewis, SAIT                                   |
|                            | Tom Thompson, Olds College (PIN President Elect)    |
|                            | Ron Common, Sault College                           |
| <b>New Zealand:</b>        | Phil Ker, Otago Polytechnic                         |
| <b>United Kingdom</b>      | Craig Thomson, Adam Smith College (PIN President)   |
| <b>United States:</b>      | Clyde Sakamoto, Maui Community College              |
|                            | Joe Sertich, Sertich Consulting                     |
|                            | Greg Smith, Central Community College               |
| <b>Executive Director:</b> | Bill Warner, US                                     |

The role of the Executive Committee is to:

1. Plan and develop objectives and activities for the organization;
2. Initiate policies and implement policies of the Network;
3. Make recommendations regarding annual membership fees;
4. Review, in context, the participation of PIN members and make decisions about continued memberships;
5. Determine the budget for administrative tasks of the organization;
6. Communicate the decisions taken at its meeting to the membership in semi-annual newsletters; and
7. Facilitate the securing of external resources for PIN projects and encourage members to do the same.

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For more information about this Newsletter or PIN contact: Dr. Bill Warner, Executive Director  
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