

**REPORT TO NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
NOVEMBER 2017**

ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Anatomy activity

Submitted by Sandra Milligan, Biology Instructor

I just wanted to share a learning activity that we did in Campbell River with our 17 students in Bio 160. The best way to learn about how the body is held together is to pull it apart, so the class enjoyed a wonderful meal of Cornish hen, prepared by Cafeteria Supervisor Joanne Watson. Students had a checklist to do a self-guided tour through the chicken. When asked whether they would recommend this activity to someone learning Anatomy, their comments were overwhelmingly positive: “Yes! Learning with food is much easier than learning from a text book!” “100% yes, it was fun, messy, and really helps people who are visual learners.” “I was surprised how much connective tissue is in the body, joining bones, muscle and skin”.

Thank you to the Department for covering the costs of this unique “field trip”.

English Department Highlights

Submitted by Office of the Dean

Indigenizing the Curriculum

The English department has developed two new Indigenized first-year courses. They were approved by Ed Co in November 2016 and six sections will be offered in 2018-19. The new courses, *ENG 116: Essay Writing and Indigenous Perspectives* and *ENG 127: Indigenous Literatures in Canada*, focus on Indigenous content and incorporate Indigenous pedagogies and research methodologies. ENG 116 is a rigorous academic writing course. ENG 127 is an introductory literature course exploring Indigenous traditions, histories and experiences in this country. As well as providing an Indigenous literature option, ENG 127 is our second core first-year literature option. A key rationale for developing ENG 116 and ENG 127 was to provide culturally appropriate curricula for First Nations students. However, these courses are intended to be first-year English options for all NIC students.

We now have articulation agreements in place for all three courses at all key transfer institutions, including UBC, UVic, VIU, SFU, UBCO, TRU, and Athabasca.

Write Here Readers Series

The Write Here Readers Series hosted three readers this Fall with events at The Cornerstone Café in Courtenay, the Tyee student lounge, and the Stan Hagen Theatre, covering a range of genres including poetry, fiction and investigative journalism. Our third reading with Lorimer Shenher drew an audience of over 160 people. Seven more readers are scheduled to read between now and April. The department, the University Transfer division, and Marketing have taken extra steps this year to align their strengths in organizing and promoting the series with hopes of further engaging the community and build audiences. The turnout for the Shenher reading was a strong indication that our combined efforts are making a difference and raising the profile of the series in the community.

BUSINESS AND APPLIED STUDIES**Business Department Highlights**

Submitted by Office of the Dean

Ch'nook Scholars Award to NIC Recipient

On November 3, NIC student Jessie Gervais was in Vancouver to accept the Ch'nook Scholar award. The Ch'nook Scholars program gives Aboriginal post-secondary business students the tools and connections they need to succeed in their studies and careers, as well as a range of other benefits. The program complements post-secondary business education and works to develop leadership skills and business knowledge. Ch'nook Scholars also benefit from knowledge and advice from current industry leaders. Ch'nook Scholars is open to status and non-status First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students studying full time in a business program at a post-secondary institution in British Columbia or at the University of Calgary.

**Employer/Student Networking Event**

The Business Department faculty was pleased to work with NIC's Employment Services to facilitate the Employer/Student Networking Event at Crown Isle on November 7th. See more details below in the Employment Services update.

Fine Arts Department Highlights

Submitted by Office of the Dean

Self Portrait Exhibition in Raven Hall.

Check out this exhibition of over 20 student pieces currently on display in Raven Gallery.

In this exhibition, first year students were challenged with the task of creating a self-portrait without the use of a brush. Some students used primitive or performance based methods such as painting with their hands or fingers while others used unconventional materials such as objects from home or organic material to make their marks. An additional challenge for the students was to utilize an achromatic colour scheme that relied on their use and expansion of the grey scale.



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Faculty of Health and Human Services

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Health and Human Services

Dean's Office

It was a great start to the year for all the departments the Faculty of Health and Human Services (HHS). On September 22, HHS hosted an event at the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay. Three hundred and fifty students, faculty, and staff from the Port Alberni, Campbell River, Mount Waddington and Comox Valley campuses and special guests gathered for “A Day for Listening and Learning”.

The day started with a presentation by BSN Faculty Joanna Fraser, Elder in Residence Dr. Evelyn Voyageur, retired BSN Faculty Betty Tate, and BSN alumna Carla Grief titled “A Story of Transformation through Cultural Safety”. Next, renowned director Barbara Cranmer opened her film, *Our Voices, Our Stories*. Barbara is an award-winning writer, director, and producer of many films. *Our Voices, Our Stories* film was awarded the Best Documentary Short at the 40th Annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. This film presents a powerful account of survivors and the demolition ceremony of St. Michael’s Indian Residential School in Alert Bay that took place on February 18, 2015. It was a great honour to have Barbara Cranmer, Chief Edwin Newman, and Elder Vera Newman from

Alert Bay participate in a Q & A session after the viewing of the film.

A traditional chowder, salad, and bannock lunch prepared by local caterer Cory Frank was served and enjoyed by all. The afternoon session led by Kathleen Haggith and Lou-ann Neel saw students and faculty engaged in small circle conversations reflecting on the morning's activities.

Building on its commitment to enact the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations HHS and Aboriginal Education are co-hosting a lunch hour conversation at the Comox Valley campus titled "My Top 3 Questions about Indigenization", on November 3. Lou-ann Neel will be responding to questions submitted by students, faculty, and staff of HHS. Cory Frank will once again cater soup and bannock lunch prior to the conversation forum.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Submitted by: Karen Mason, Co-Department Chair

Faculty Achievements

Lynne Oberik and Cathy Clark successfully accompanied nine third year students to Nepal for a 6-week practicum experience in May/June 2017. Evelyn Voyageur and Joanna Fraser, along with a group of third year students, travelled to Rivers Inlet for the 10th anniversary of the NUR 410 Field School. Two faculty members, Cara Tilston and Heidi Deagle, are enrolled in the new UVIC-NIC Master of Arts Leadership Studies (Rural & Indigenous Health Focus) and Karen Mason completed MA in Counselling Psychology through Yorkville University in August 2017.



After several years of planning, the BSN Faculty participated in a two-day retreat with our degree granting partner Vancouver Island University (VIU) in order to deeply engage in curriculum development. The event was held over two days in Parksville and was well attended by faculty from both NIC and VIU. In May, ten faculty members attended and four participated through presenting at the WCHSE (Western Canada Health Sciences Educators Conference) in Parksville.

The BSN Faculty have participated in several college events that have occurred since Spring 2017. For example, most BSN Faculty attended the NIC Year End Celebration and the Teaching and Learning Committee's offering of Peter Arthur's "Scholarly Inquiry and Your Teaching". Many faculty members also enjoyed the Team-based Teaching and Learning workshop that was sponsored by the NIC Teaching and Learning Committee in June. Jim Sibley provided the learning, resources and impetus for several BSN Faculty to adopt a Team-based Learning approach to Fall classes. Joanna Fraser and Evelyn Voyageur presented "Crafting Culturally Safe Learning Spaces" at the S'TENISTOLW Indigenous Education Conference in Victoria, August 2017. Lynne Oberik has taken the role of Faculty Navigator as a support for faculty development.

Several research activities are also underway with faculty involvement and participation. *Fostering Nursing students' resilience: Can an online course help?* is a collaborative research study involving Laurie Michaud, Karen Mason and Kathleen Haggith from NIC, as well as investigators from VIU and the Justice Institute.

Kathleen Haggith, primary investigator, along with co-investigators, RaeAnn Hartman, Leslie Stuart, Karen Mason, and Martha Russell have been working with Island Health to explore the experience of patients involved in the North Island Hospital moves on September 10th in Campbell River and October 1st in the Comox Valley. The research study “Patient Welcomers: The North Island Experience” captures the rare and unique opportunity to study the transition of hospitals which is an area that currently boast one article in publication, worldwide. The Nursing 410 Advanced Nursing elective was also a focus of research this summer as evaluation of the past 10 years of this learning experience was conducted by researchers Joanna Fraser, Evelyn Voyageur and Betty Tate.

Fall 2017 saw the beginning of the first “selective entry” cohort into the BSN program which is another area of inquiry. RaeAnn Hartman, Jan Meiers and Laurie Michaud are engaged in research to evaluate the process and outcome of the new admission process and the subsequent impact on student success and attrition. There is also an appetite for additional research to explore the Mastery Model of Skills Development and Patient Simulation Technology and Pedagogy for which RaeAnn Hartman and Martha Russell have submitted a research proposal.

Student Achievements



Students and faculty involved in the field school in Katmandu, Nepal hosted a film and presentation on October 18th at the Stan Hagan theatre which was a well-attended event.

From October 20 to 22, a robust student contingent attended the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) conference in Vancouver and several student CASN directors and representatives have been involved in the planning and support of the CASN conference hosted by VIU in January 2018.

The North Island Hospital transition involved “Students on the Move” with 29 students assisting the Campbell River hospital transition and 49 assisting the Comox Valley hospital. Students have been involved with the planning and implementation of the North Island Hospital Transition team since January 2017 as well as with the subsequent research study *Patient Welcome: The North Island Experience* in partnership with BSN Faculty and Island Health.

In May, three BSN students presented at the Western Canada Health Sciences Educators Conference in Parksville. They shared their presentation titled *BSN Peer Tutors: Supporting skills mastery using a deliberate practice approach* which highlighted the peer tutor process that was implemented in 2016. In this paid peer tutor program, student tutors assist with structured skills practice on set hours weekly and are supervised by the nursing lab coordinator. Qualified third and fourth year students apply a deliberate practice model to support students to achieve mastery of the psychomotor skills taught in years one, two, and three of the Nursing program. Deliberate practice is a structured process guided by an adult learning theory that allows students to master skills with mentors who provide constructive feedback in a supportive and ongoing manner. This approach is beginning to generate a lot of interest and dramatically

influence how psychomotor skills are taught in nursing education. Benefits of this program include increased skills competency and confidence for student tutors, improved skills retention for junior students, increased collaboration across the years of the Nursing program, and financial and leadership opportunities for peer tutors. In this presentation, tutors and faculty share their experiences of establishing this successful program.

Recent and Upcoming Events

On October 3rd, the Village workshop was held in partnership with the K'ómoks First Nation at the Big House. This is the second such event and was designed to bring year one and year three students together in collaboration, leadership and learning aside from supporting community relationships. On October 10th the NIC Elders hosted the Elder's Lunch for the first year students and the opportunity to connect was created by Evelyn Voyageur, Fernanda Pare, and Sarah Lawrence.

The Practical Nursing (PN) to BSN pathway courses began October 14, 2017 with a flow of courses designed to support prospective PN students to bridge into the BSN program beginning in September 2018. This has been a collaborative effort between many NIC departments including Student Services, Mathematics & Sciences, Practical Nursing, and Student Records.

The Interprofessional Simulation event that was held on October 16th brought several health care disciplines together to explore interprofessional collaboration. As with previous events, this simulation experience was a profound success.

Each Fall, the fourth year students host a leadership conference which corresponds with the Visiting Scholar event. This year, Dr. Sheri Price is sharing her wisdom regarding transition and working with Millennials in two separate presentations for both the student population and the general community



Early Childhood Care and Education (CV Campus)

Laurie Tulloch, Co-Department Chair

Student Achievements

The new part-time Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Certificate Program in Mount Waddington launched this Fall with students from the Alert Bay and Port Hardy classrooms, their employers, and NIC support staff joining in for an evening of orientation activities. The gathering was hosted by Campus and Community Coordinator Caitlin Hartnett, Elder in Residence Maggie Sedgemore, Aboriginal Education Advisor Christy Whitmore, and ECCE Faculty Leighann Ruel and Laurie Tulloch. As the evening wrapped up, “*Grateful, Passionate, and Hopeful*” were a few of the sentiments expressed in appreciation for the support to make this program possible. It was a great start to building this new learning community who quickly connected and embraced their journey ahead for the next three years.



ECE student Hayley Ellis visits with Elders Vera Newman and Fernanda Pare at the Health and Human Services event, A Day for Listening and Learning.



Students in the Comox Valley focused their early studies on *Student Success*, a curriculum designed by faculty to bridge students into practicum with an awareness of professionalism and regulatory frameworks including the Child Care Licensing Regulations, the Code of Ethics, and communication and observation skills. The unit culminated with tours of local early learning centres and an Elder Lunch, hosted by Aboriginal Educational Advisor Sarah Lawrence and Elders in Residence Evelyn Voyageur and Fernanda Pare. Students and mentors alike report more confident, prepared students on entry to practice in October since implementing this curriculum.



Faculty Cathy Batho works through a team building exercise with students



Recent and Upcoming Events

The Comox Valley ECCE Faculty are pleased to cohost with PacificCARE “The Neurobiological Impact of Trauma” presentation by Jan Ference, on November 25th. This day long workshop will address participants as agents of change within the science of attachment, addressing the impact of chronic stress, trauma, violence and neglect on brain development and daily function. Participants will explore the impact of this growing body of science on their practice as well as in the context of society and culture.

Health Care Assistant, Certificate Program

Laurie Bird, Department Chair

Student Achievements

- Three HCA classes currently in session:
 - CV base funded offering, 10 additional seats with a total of 20 students attending
 - CV one-time only funding alternate delivery in the evenings, 10 students attending
 - PA base funded offering, 19 students attending

Community Mental Health Worker, Certificate Program

Laurie Bird, Department Chair

Student Achievements

- This one-time only offering is the third in a suite of offerings planned in partnership with the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC), with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills and Training. The Community Mental Health Worker (CMHW) certificate program was preceded by:

- A pre-health block to support students in meeting admission requirements to the Health Care Assistant (HCA) certificate program as well as returning to school
- This was followed by a HCA program offering
- Students were then offered a seat in the CMHW program. The curriculum for this program was based on the Douglas College curriculum which was revised and updated with an indigenous focus by a curriculum team made up of NTC stakeholders, NIC faculty members, and the Faculty of Health and Human Services Dean
- Currently there are 10 students, 9 are from the NTC-HCA cohort and 1 is from last year's HCA program, PA campus

Recent and Upcoming Events

- October 23, 17 a Celebratory dinner was held for the students and faculty of the CMHW program
- Students are soon to enter their clinical practice placements, and about to finish their theory component

Human Services, Education Assistant/Community Support Worker– Indigenous Focus Certificate Program - PA Campus

Kelly Johnsen, Co-Department Chair

Faculty Achievements

After completing five years as a sessional instructor in the Human Services Certificate Education Assistant / Community Support Worker – Indigenous Focus program, at the Port Alberni Campus, this Fall of 2017 has been an introduction to my new full-time position. I am finding the work-load to be challenging and a great learning experience, as I have taken on the added responsibilities of a Co-Department Chair. We have rolled out two of the planned four updated courses this year, with each having a more distinct focus on cultural diversity and awareness than their previous iterations. The students have been very receptive to the courses so far, and have been vocal in their support for further Indigenization efforts.

Student Achievements

Our student cohort have jumped in and volunteered to help organize and promote different types of activism. They are integral each year in facilitating the Port Alberni Association for Community Living's Fun Fair, and in the Alberni Community and Women's Society's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Over the two semesters, the students also participate in multiple workshops around cultural awareness, residential school healing, and the effects of FASD in our society.

Recent and Upcoming Events

Students from PA have been extremely appreciative of their invitation to the CV campus, "A Day for Listening and Learning", Health and Human Services Event on September 22, 2017. We have spent some time debriefing about it in subsequent classes, and they say that they learned so much about Indigenous culture and healing, and that they loved every part of it (especially the bannock).

Human Services, Education Assistant/Community Support Worker Certificate and Social Service Worker Diploma Programs – CV and MW Campus

Susan Shantz, Co-Department Chair

Student Achievements

The year started off well with full cohorts in all of the Human Services programs. In Port Hardy, the students in the Human Services Certificate Education Assistant / Community Support Worker (EACSW) program are in their final semester, completing their practicums in the field and in the schools. The cohort of students have been a strong group of 16 expected to graduate in the Spring.

A big thank you to Sarah Child, the instructor throughout the program. She was an incredible support to the students and provided a rich Indigenous curriculum that focused on the local Indigenous groups in the area. In the Comox Valley, we have full programs.

EACSW program was slower than usual to fill up as there is usually a waitlist of students for the program. This year the numbers applying had been somewhat less. The group of students in the program are very engaged seeking more opportunities to continue exploring the conversations surrounding the Truth and Reconciliation on Indigenous Education. In addition, new and increased learning opportunities are ongoing with new guest speakers from the community and increased community workshops that students are attending. For example, we have representatives from Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults (CAYA) and self-advocates to share about their experiences of living with a disability. We were also honored to have Dean Kathleen Haggith come speak to the group as this had been her focus of research and teaching in the past. The students will begin preparations for their first practicum in the Winter semester.

The Social Service Worker (SSW) Diploma program is robust with 19 students in the 2nd year and 12 in the 1st year. In 2nd year, we also have seven HSW diploma students who had done their EACSW certificate and wish to continue on to the diploma program. We are seeing an increase of students particularly from the Port Alberni campus looking at moving onto the diploma program. As with the EACSW program, the students seek to have more input and information on the Indigenous history of our country moving forward.

The 2nd year students are engaged in refining their skills and deepening their understanding of working in the field with courses in Program Planning, Conflict Resolution, Addictions and the Family. In the 1st year, the students are gaining a foundational knowledge of the theoretical frameworks that are prevalent in the social service field as well as developing their foundational skills in communications and support of others.

Recent and Upcoming Events

In the Department we have been working with the Canadian Mental Health Association to look at opportunities for them to deliver the workshops they offer on suicide prevention to our students and the wider community.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Submitted by: Cathy Mutis, Associate Director

Office of Global Engagement sends NIC's first exchange student to Japan

Jacob Teichrib is studying at the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies for the Fall term and has extended his stay through the Winter term as well. OGE Associate Director Cathy Mutis met with Jacob in Japan on November 7th and was pleased to see how well Jacob is doing.



OGE has three field schools planned for Spring/Summer 2018

- Bosnia/Croatia: This field school is focused on peace studies. Students receive six credits as part of this field school.
- Greece: Students receive nine credits in the humanities and fine arts for participation in this field school.
- Philippines: Students in the Social Services Diploma and Human Services Diploma programs have an opportunity to complete the practicum component of their program during this field school.

International Education Week, November 20-24, 2017

NIC is celebrating International Education Week on November 20-24, 2017. A college-wide photo contest with the theme *Go Global* with NIC is currently running, with a top prize of \$1,000 towards a Study Abroad experience or a \$500 tuition credit. Winners will be announced during a Study Abroad information fair taking place on Thursday, November 23rd.

Increase in applications from India

NIC has seen a significant increase in applications from India, for various reasons. The increase has had an impact on our ability to process incoming applications, although we are managing as best we can.

STUDENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR

NIC Webpage supporting Canadian Forces members

Submitted by Marie Ducharme, Coordinator, Assessment Services

In a joint project between the Military Advisor (Diana Fearn/Kim Kobus), Assessment Services (Marie Ducharme) and our Marketing department, North Island College has successfully launched a Canadian Forces webpage <https://www.nic.bc.ca/students/canadian-forces.aspx>. This page has received input from the Military Personnel Support Services Committee which consists of members from the 19 Wing Comox, the Military Family Support Centre, Manulife, North Island College Student Services and Access

for Students with Disabilities personnel and David Moddle, Rehabilitation Counsellor.

This new webpage allows members of the Canadian Forces to access information about the many services that College offers to active and retired members of the Canadian Forces. It also provides information on several initiatives that can allow members of the Canadian Forces to directly enter into the College. The College is also able to provide information on credit for rank and the possibility of credits through Prior Learning Assessment.

North Island College has a history of working closely with 19 Wing Comox and this webpage further demonstrates our commitment to members of the Canadian Forces. NIC strives to be a primary point of contact for members of the military when they are exploring educational and training options. The website provides contact information for our Military Advisor as well as links to Distance Course options. It also explains how work and studying can be balanced. The link to the webpage has been shared with members of the Military Personnel Support Services Committee and we look forward to welcoming more members who are interested in North Island College.

Library & Learning Commons Update

Submitted by Mary Anne Guenther, Coordinator, Library Services

The Library & Learning Commons (LLC) is happy to report record numbers of users this Fall: gate counts for September/October increased by 7,687 over September/October 2016 for a total of 40,795 entries into our libraries. The Comox Valley campus library accounts for 4,942 of that increase, which speaks as testimony to the space upgrades and services, including week-end hours, introduced in September.

LLC Operations committee recently welcomed two new faculty who were hired to provide in-person math support in CR and PA. We are now offering a total of eight hours of math support throughout the week.

During the last two months, library staff provided library instruction to 589 students and helped 532 individual students with research. Recently, Information Services Librarian Lynette Gallant teamed up with Writing Support Coordinator Erin McConomy to offer two workshops for Nursing students at the Comox Valley campus. The LLC plans to give more drop-in or scheduled workshops on specific topics, which could include annotated bibliographies, fake news and other information literacy content. In addition to the research support provided by library technicians and librarians, the two professional librarians are scheduled for four hours a week on *AskAway*, the provincial online chat reference service to answer research emails and assist students in several LEARN courses, as embedded librarians.

Student Technical Services Support Geoff Marr provides the following summary of activities for September/October:

2017-2018	Walk Ups	Phone Calls	Voice Mails	Online Form	Live Chat	Workshops	Website Visits
Sept	69	18	81	21	4	387	6,393
Oct	28	11	36	1	2	0	1,917

In an effort to promote all of the services now offered at the Library & Learning Commons, Writing Support and Peer Tutor Coordinator Erin McConomy has made close to 20 classroom and six department meeting presentations this semester to connect with and inform both students and faculty directly. In addition, digital signage and student portal announcements are regularly updated.

Peer Tutoring

Submitted by Erin McConomy, Peer Tutor Coordinator

This Fall we have 26 active tutors and almost 350 hours of tutoring completed. These tutors cover a wide range of courses and disciplines, meeting the needs of students at the Comox Valley, Campbell River, and Port Alberni campuses. Tutors are available for all levels of math and sciences, many university transfer courses, particularly Business and English, and several specific program areas including Nursing, Health Care Assistant, Interactive Media, Social Service Diploma, and Aircraft Structures Technician.

Our peer tutor training took place in late September and October with good numbers and participation from the tutors working at the time. Numerous tutors have been added since then and will participate in the full training sessions next semester. All peer tutors now have access to training materials and activities through the new Peer Tutoring BlackBoard LEARN website which is also helping tutors to stay in touch with each other and the coordinator.

With the new physical configuration of the Library & Learning Commons in the Comox Valley, peer tutors and the peer tutoring program are becoming more of a visible presence on campus.

Writing Support

Submitted by Erin McConomy, Writing Support Faculty

Over 65 student appointments have been made so far this semester and it is clear from the drop-in traffic, especially at the Comox Valley Campus, that students are becoming more aware of the service and where to find it. Appointments continue to be offered both in person and via Skype in the Campbell River and Port Alberni campuses.

In addition to the individual writing support appointments, classroom and library workshops have been offered for specific topics and course areas this semester. Workshops were given in the Automotive Service Technician and Practical Nursing programs in Campbell River and Port Alberni regions respectively. Before the end of the semester, two lunchtime drop-in sessions will be offered specifically for the Practical Nursing students in Port Alberni. Further, two plagiarism workshops for students taking ENG 115 have been offered, and two other workshops were given for first and second year Nursing students. These workshops have definitely generated further individual appointments, especially from the English and Nursing students.

WriteAway writing support has been open for submissions since September 18, 2017 and has seen 56 submissions from NIC students out of a total 1,100 submissions from 15 institutions total. Here are the comments of one NIC student on his experience of using *WriteAway*: “I appreciate how [the tutor] started with good points :) The comments made so much sense. I like how [the feedback] was mixed with general and specific comments which made me think of what possible ways I can solve or change my writing.”

Student Employment Services Update

Submitted by Anita Budisa-Bonneau, Coordinator Work Integrated Education

On October 27, 2017, we hosted our mock interview event where our current co-op students got a chance to practice their interviewing skills with real hiring managers from the local business community. We invited 10 hiring managers and approximately 20 students were able to experience between three to four interviews each and receive written feedback/constructive criticism on their performance. We were also pleased to bring in a professional photographer who took pictures of the co-op students dressed to impress that our marketing department can now use for future success stories, and more importantly, that students can use for their personal LinkedIn accounts.

The Student Employment Services office was happy to help organize the annual Chartered Professional Accountants Networking Night on November 7 that the School of Business hosts every year at the Crown Isle Resort in Courtenay. It was a very successful event that brought together students and business professionals from local accounting firms, financial institutions, non-profits and private businesses from

diverse sectors such as aquaculture and forestry. This year we had 18 employers participate from both Campbell River and the Comox Valley and approximately 50 students attended. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for students to practice their networking skills and learn more about local organizations that may be interested in hiring business students.

The Student Employment Services office was pleased to welcome a new hire over the summer months. Alex Bowman (no relation to our President) is our new Employment Services Advisor and comes to us from VIU where she held a similar position assisting students with their career goals and supporting co-op education. Additional funding from the Province in April 2017 to support co-operative education at NIC has allowed the hiring of another Employment Services Advisor, Betty Wasyliw, in October 2017. Betty has a wealth of experience providing employment services at the local WorkBC office in Courtenay and a background in teaching.

This funding has also allowed us to increase our services across the region in Campbell River, the Comox Valley and in Port Alberni. It will also allow us to provide an in-class workshop for the Indigenous Education Assistant Program in Mt. Waddington in late November. Our co-op program is growing and this past summer we had students completing four month work terms not only in nearby Campbell River and Courtenay but also further afield on Vancouver Island in Tofino, Sooke, Sidney, Victoria as well as internationally in China and at Disney in Florida.

Parent/Student Information Night

Submitted by Office of the Registrar

The Comox Valley campus hosted our third annual Parent/Student Information Night on Wednesday November 15th. The goal of the event was to give both grade 12 students and their parents, who are increasingly involved in supporting their children in the decision-making process of choosing a post-secondary pathway, the opportunity to speak directly with faculty and support services about program details, the application/admissions process and supports available to the students to help them achieve their educational goals. Attendance at the event is estimated to be approximately 125 parents and their children from the Comox Valley high schools Highland, Mark Isfeld, George Vanier, and Glacier View with attendance from Timberline and Carihi in Campbell River. As well as being directed to grade 12 students, the annual event is open to the general public for the opportunity to experience educational opportunities NIC has to offer to all member of our communities.

Connecting Communities Through Research on Vancouver Island

SPOTLIGHT: ROBOT CAMPS CLICK WITH KIDS

The NICBotCamps invaded North Island College campuses again this summer!

The camps allowed students, aged 9 to 12, to build, program and control Lego robots while learning vital science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills.

“Last year’s camps were so popular we wanted to bring them back again this year,” said Naomi Tabata, manager of NIC’s Centre for Applied Research, Technology and Innovation (CARTI). “It’s a unique opportunity for students to work closely with robotics instructors to build their own creations and learn how to code. I was inspired to see how quickly the students mastered the fundamentals of programming when presented in a fun and applied way.”

The camps began by teaching students step-by-step how to build the robots, then the students are let loose to build their own creations and program. It also gives students the chance to meet peers who share the same interests and make friends.

“Throughout the camp, students were exposed to learning how robots are used in our changing world and they continually identified new career pathways,” said Tabata.



Students learning valuable Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills at the Campbell River Lego Robotics camp this summer.

2017 NICBotCamps QUICK FACTS

- 149 Participants
- 10 Self-Identified as having Aboriginal Ancestry
- 37 Female Participants
- 2 Student Instructors
- 9 Camps
- 5 North Island communities
- 5 Community partners: Navigate, Canada Summer Jobs, Campbell River Creative Industries Council, Hamber Foundation, and Engineers & Geoscientists of British Columbia.

Click the link to go the Robotic Camp Video:

<https://www.nic.bc.ca/robots>

MCCONNELL PRESENTS AT CONFERENCE

North Island College’s Bill McConnell was a guest speaker at the 6th Vancouver International Conference at the Teaching of Psychology Conference.

Drawing on analyses of psychology students’ involvement in four Community Based Research projects at NIC during the past decade, his talk showed how students benefit from participating in CBR, addressed the importance of student endorsement of the purpose of the CBR project, and identified strategies to increase community respondents’ participation.

SPOTLIGHT: NURSING STUDENTS



NIC’s nursing students assisting in the patient move to the new Comox Valley Hospital.

A team of 48 students in North Island College’s Licensed Practical Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs supported more than 90 patients who moved from St. Joseph’s General Hospital to the new Comox Valley Hospital. Island Health said it was grateful for the positive energy and additional support of their amazing nursing colleagues.

NIC nursing students also assisted the move in Campbell River. For more information on NIC nursing programs visit www.nic.bc.ca

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Connecting Communities Through Research on Vancouver Island

RESEARCH UPDATES

ANTI-PREDATOR NETTING



Photo: Le Dau, shellfish farmer (left) and Allison Byrne, NIC researcher (right) discuss the current challenges facing the shellfish aquaculture industry.

A new NIC project is looking at the performance of anti-predator nets at a small, family-owned and operated shellfish farm on Denman Island. Oyster predators such as crabs, birds, and sea stars are natural and important components of the marine intertidal ecosystem. In some cases, the losses due to predators may not justify the various costs of installing anti-predator netting. In the last few years, however, predation of oyster seed by red rock crabs at this farm on Denman Island has resulted in almost total losses of their oyster seed investment, prompting the installment of anti-predator nets.

A relatively new strategy being adopted to protect oyster seed is to outline a section of beach with PVC-coated wire fencing, and place large clam nets over top of this area. As part of this project, NIC researchers and students will be helping install these nets as well as more traditional mesh oyster pouches. Netting/pouch condition, oyster seed survival, and crab presence will be monitored at the farm over the next few months.

This new partnership between NIC and a local shellfish farm will allow students to gain valuable experience working directly with shellfish growers, learning some of the day-to-day operations and challenges of this important food production sector.

INSTRUMENTATION TECH STUDENTS

Dr. Stephen Cross, NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Sustainable Aquaculture at North Island College, worked with two NIC students to create a winch system that drops a sonar into the ocean while it collects data. This data is sent back to a central computer via radio. The majority of the project was creating a prototype control boards and testing them in real world applications. Once approved, it will be installed in a control box which can control the motor of the winch. The entire system is designed to run automatically without any human influence, as the platforms will be spread out up and down the coast of Vancouver Island in order to collect valuable oceanographic data.

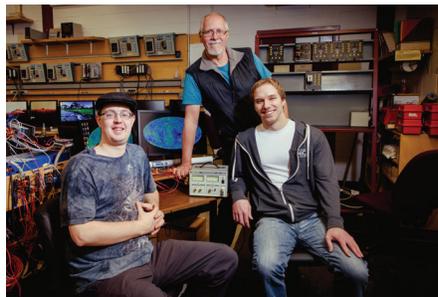


Photo: Dr. Stephen Cross (back), along with Electronics Technician students Jonathan Levasseur (left), and Aaron Vissers (right) work on a winch system that can be dropped into the ocean to collect data.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NIC Hosts Visiting Scholar Dr. Sheri Price, PhD Stan Hagan Theatre, NIC Comox

November 2, 7 to 9 pm
With over 20 years of nursing experience, Dr. Price will provide an overview of how her research on millennial nursing students, new graduates and mid-late career nurses provides great insight into the influence nurses have throughout their careers on patient care, the nursing profession and healthsystem as a whole. For more information: https://www.nic.bc.ca/about_us/events_notices.aspx?e=2530#event2530

Lunch and Culture at NIC's Campbell River Campus

November 14, 12 pm - 2 pm or
November 27, 12 pm - 2 pm
NIC's Campbell River Campus: Room C-227
Enjoy a meal together while sharing cultural knowledge such as traditional plants and healing, the medicine wheel, history of the button blanket, cedar weaving, drum making and more. For more information: https://www.nic.bc.ca/about_us/events_notices.aspx?e=2528#event2528

Upcoming Funding Deadlines

Please contact CARTI to discuss your ideas for research submissions in advance of the funder deadline or regarding any projects that may involve NIC. There may be additional funding programs that will suit your initiative. Additional information is available on the

FUNDING PROGRAM	DEADLINE
NSERC - Engage and Applied Research Development Grant	Ongoing
Comox Valley Community Foundation	2017-Oct-31
NSERC - Applied Research Tools and Instruments Grants	2017-Nov-1
Province of BC - BC Knowledge Development Fund	2017-Nov-15
NSERC: College and Community Social Innovation Program	2017-Dec-1