

FACULTY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

News & Events Update

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009



Carrying the Flame

Cia Tweel runs with the torch down Quinpool Road

Cia Tweel, Executive Fieldwork Secretary in the **School of Occupational Therapy**, had the honour of participating in the Olympic Torch Relay on November 18th, 2009. **Cia** was one of thousands of Canadians who entered the RBC "Carry the Torch" contest, and was delighted to be among the hundreds who were successful in having their names chosen. As a torch bearer, she had to give a pledge sharing her vision of "how to make Canada better" and, as a longtime fitness instructor and personal trainer, resolved to make "Canadians fitter and happier".

Cia's route took her through the heart of Halifax along Quinpool Road from Prince Arthur Street to Bloomingdale Terrace. The street was lined with supporters cheering on the torchbearers. "I feel so honoured" said **Cia** "It was amazing the reaction you got from people, just saying 'Congratulations! You're doing such a good thing.'" **Cia** purchased her torch as a memento of the event, and plans to bring it to some of her fitness classes to inspire her students. Click [here](#) to read more of **Cia's** story.

NELS ICE Event

Please join the Network of End of Life Studies (NELS) Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement (ICE) Researchers at their 2009 NELS ICE Poster Event.

Students, faculty researchers and the end of life care community will be sharing their finished, ongoing and upcoming research which relates to end of life care and vulnerable populations at the end of life. The purpose of the event is to provide a forum to meet, share work, make connections and build relationships.

The poster event will be from 12:00pm - 2:30pm on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009 in the Bethune Ballroom at 1276 South Park Street. Please RSVP to nels@dal.ca as a light lunch will be provided.

Correction

Last issue, we incorrectly spelled the name of the School of Social Work's new Program Assistant for Continuing Education, **Vander Tavares**. Apologies **Vander!**

It had always been a dream of mine to visit Africa. To have the chance to live amongst African people and experience their culture and day to day life far exceeded any expectations I had prior to my trip. I was living in Namitete, Malawi and volunteering for Consol Homes Orphan Care, which was the result of one determined and inspirational man's vision - Mr. Alfred Chapomba.

Mr. Chapomba was born in Malawi, married a wonderful woman named Yacinta and together they have eight children. Mr. Chapomba saw the poverty that surrounded him and his heart went out to the orphans and vulnerable children in his village and beyond. He started his work by creating a community centre in his own village which offered programs for Early Childhood Development and an after school program for school age children and youth. After writing numerous grant proposals and impressing many government officials, Consol Homes has grown from that one centre to 52 active centres across Malawi. Programming has expanded to offer education to grandmothers and widows to better

prepare families to care for all children.

During my time there, I developed culturally relevant lesson plans for the Early Childhood Development program and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children after school program. I spent many afternoons dancing with the grandmothers and with the youths who enjoyed my attempts to keep up with their rhythm. I had the opportunity to travel to many of the community based centres and

was warmly welcomed to all of these villages. Despite the extreme poverty and the devastating toll that HIV/AIDS and malaria have had on Malawi, I witnessed incredible resilience in each individual I met on my journey. When I went to Malawi, my goal was to learn more about African culture, working directly with children and youth in their communities and hopefully contribute something sustainable to a great organization. I learned all of this and more, and Mr. Chapomba has designated

me as the Canadian Ambassador for Consol Homes and Orphan Care, which is truly an honour. Most importantly, when I left Africa, I left feeling a whole lot closer to myself. Now the only question remaining for me is when I will be able to return to Malawi and see my African family again.

-by MSW graduate *Melissa Nowe*



Melissa with children from Consol Homes Orphan Care in Namitete, Malawi

The Difference an International Field Placement Can Make

OT Atlantic Conference honours Kelly Bang

Each year at the annual OT Atlantic Conference, the **School of Occupational Therapy** sponsors an invited lecture and lunch in honour of Kelly Bang who was a community occupational therapist and advocate. This year, the conference was held in St. John, New Brunswick and the invited Lecturer was Ms. Adeena Wiesenthal, who was recently awarded the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Award for most innovative practice. Her lecture entitled "*Occupational Therapy and Workplace Mental Health: Stepping Out of Our Comfort Zone*" challenged occupational therapists to venture out of their traditional roles and enter the workplace to apply their skills to workplace mental health issues.

Facilitating Interprofessional Education in the Practice Setting: Making it Work

On November 13, 66 preceptors/field-work supervisors from across Nova Scotia, as well as New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland gathered for a workshop entitled: "Facilitating Interprofessional Education in the Practice Setting: Making it Work." The workshop, organized by the **FHP Practice Education Committee**, featured two guest speakers from the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and the University of Toronto, Mandy Lowe and Lynne Sinclair. The focus of the workshop was the development of interprofessional student teams in the practice setting and skill development for facilitating the acquisition of interprofessional competencies. The guest speakers commented upon the engagement and enthusiasm of the participants, many of whom left inspired to develop interprofessional education activities in their own community and health care settings. Plans are already underway at a number of District Health Authorities and community agencies to establish new interprofessional student teams.



Participants during a group exercise.

Faculty of Health Professions Academic All Canadians

Congratulations to the following FHP students who were recognized as Academic All Canadians (students who maintain a grade average of 80% or better while competing in a varsity sport) at a ceremony held on November 18th, 2009:

Danielle Adam - swimming, HHP (Kinesiology);

Michael Bawol - track and field, HHP (Kinesiology);

Meagan Beaton - soccer, HHP (Kinesiology);

Anthony Bernard - track and field, HHP (Kinesiology);

Evan Bezanson - cross country, Pharmacy;

Maxwell Burt - volleyball, HHP (Kinesiology);

Valerie Christie - cross country, HHP (Kinesiology);

Amber Corkum - track and field, HHP (Kinesiology);

Alan Dalton - soccer, HHP (Kinesiology);

Michelle Easton - swimming, HHP (Recreation Management);

Emelie Ederfors - hockey, HHP (Kinesiology);

Letitia (Tisha) Evison - volleyball, HHP (Kinesiology);

ogy);

Christopher Goulet - track and field, Nursing;

Whitney Halloran - hockey, HHP (Kinesiology);

Sean Higgins - track and field, Pharmacy;

Graeme Higgins - volleyball, HHP (Kinesiology);

Renata Jaciw-Zurakowski - swimming, HHP (Recreation Management);

Jeffrey Larsh - hockey, HHP (Kinesiology);

Elizabeth Matheson - hockey, HHP (Kinesiology);

Bobbie-Sue Morgan - track

and field, Nursing;

Rebecca Reeves - cross country/track and field, HHP (Kinesiology);

Susan Sobey - track and field, HHP (Kinesiology);

Roslyn Tait - volleyball, HHP (Kinesiology);

Alexander Veit - basketball, HHP (Kinesiology);

Kaitlyn Watters - cross country/track and field, HCD (Audiology).

SHA Welcomes the “Group of Seven”



“The Group of Seven” (L-R) - Mary-Ann Hiltz, Melanie Mooney, Lorianne MacLean, Jorge Navarro, Belinda Barkhouse, Leanne Smith and Wilma Crowell.

There are many outstanding professionals who require advanced training in Health Administration, so in September 2009, the **School of Health Administration** launched the **MHA Online Program**. The program allows

professionals to remain in their administrative positions while pursuing the **Master of Health Administration (MHA)** degree. The convenient executive-style education format benefits both the professional and the employer and is deliv-

ered within a cohort-based mixed-delivery (classroom/online) format, offered over three academic terms. Professionals can complete the **MHA Online Program** in just 36 months. The first intake includes students from the Halifax Regional Municipal-

ity, Yarmouth, Western Canada and Honduras. They are affectionately referred to as “The Group of Seven.”

Sketris Elected to Board of Research Canada

Congratulations to **Dr. Ingrid Sketris (Pharmacy)** who has been elected as a Board Member of Research Canada. Research Canada is an alliance for health discovery whose mission is to improve the health and prosperity of Canadians by championing Canada’s leadership in health research. It is a not-for-profit, voluntary organization. The organization engages all sectors including government, and works collaboratively to build support for health research nationwide.

WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centre News

Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy (Nursing), Director of the WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centre for Health Workforce Planning and Research, hosted the Collaborating Centre’s first annual Summer Institute in August. Thanks to the generous support of Health Canada, with whom the Centre has contribution agreements totalling 1.2 million dollars,

the Institute attracted delegates from Brazil, Jamaica, Washington D.C. and Canada. Various initiatives are expected to come out of the week-long session, including the development of a Centre for Excellence in Jamaica, a twinning project comparing Halifax and Fortaleza, Brazil, in terms of their respective health workforce needs and strategies, and

other projects comparing how aboriginal health workforce issues are addressed in Brazil and Canada.

In other news, the Centre also recently received funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Canadian crown corporation that provides opportunities for researchers from the developing world to build healthier, more equitable, and more pros-

perous societies for their proposed project “*Evaluating the Availability of Adequately Trained Health Care Providers in Rural Zambia through Competency Assessment and Outcome Mapping*.” The project was 1 of 8 (out of 87 proposals) accepted for funding.

Interprofessional Student Poster Event



Andrea Landry (OT) and Ashlee D'Entremont (SW)



Andrea Blake (OT), Kristi Proctor (SW), Sarah Hodder (OT) and Caleb Godbout (OT)



Courtney Doucet (OT), Erica Gallant (OT), Sara Dyer (OT), Candice McQuaid (SW), Anastasia Tease (SW) and Mandy Young (SW)

On Tuesday, December 1st, students in **Social Work and Occupational Therapy** presented group project posters that highlighted interprofessional

strategies for various population health issues, ranging from children in poverty, to dementia, to sex trade and violence against women.

The event was a great success, with one student commenting "I noticed that in life, sometimes one must take a risk to create a great result. This risk was collabo-

rating with unfamiliar professionals, learning from them and learning to trust them." The student teams are pictured above with their posters.

John Eldon Green supports Scholarship Fund

The **School of Occupational Therapy** would like to thank a generous donor, John Eldon Green. John Eldon has donated \$1,000 and pledged additional funds in coming years to help build the PhD Scholarship fund, established two years ago on the 25th anniversary of the **School's** opening to support students pursuing an Interdisciplinary PhD through the **School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie**.

John Eldon Green is preparing to publish his second book in retirement following an innovative career that included ten years as Deputy Minister of Social Services on PEI. As Deputy Minister, he joined the professional association on PEI in launching Canada's first community-based occupational therapy program in a social services setting. As a result of this important initiative, PEI now has more occupational therapists in its community services system (per capita) than any other province.



OT Director Liz Townsend with John Eldon Green

Student Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kate Johnston (HHP - MA Health Promotion Candidate - supervised by Dr. Lois Jackson)** on her success in being a recipient of a 2009-2010 NSHRF scholarship (\$16,824).

Congratulations to **Karen Hall (HHP - BSc Health Promotion)**, winner of the \$5,000 Northern Resident Award from the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS), Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST). The purpose of the CNST Awards Program is to develop a cadre of scholars and scientists with northern experience and at the same time enhance the educational opportunities available for northern residents to obtain post-secondary education at Canadian Universities and Colleges.

Congratulations to the following students from the **School of Social Work** who have received scholarships, awards and bursaries for the 2009-2010 academic year:

Stacey Oliver-Farmer (BSW) - Calvin Ruck Scholarship and the J. Bernard MacNeil Memorial Award

Kendra Gottschall (BSW) - Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers Bursary

Vincent MacDonald (BSW) - Janet Lee Myers Memorial Bursary

Tionda Cain (MSW) and **Zandra Kierstead (MSW)** - Calvin Ruck Scholarship

Rebecca D'Entremont (MSW) and **Josh Myers (MSW)** - Lawrence T. Hancock Scholarship

Tionda Cain (MSW) and **Georgette Whitehead (MSW)** - Margaret Cragg Award

Benjamin Hirtle (MSW), **Carl Dalton (MSW)**, **Karen Haley (MSW)** and **Patricia Auchnie (MSW)** - Sonja R. Weil Memorial Bursary Fund

Holiday Get-Together

Many thanks to all those who attended the FHP Faculty and Staff Holiday Get-Together on Thursday, December 10th and made it a great success!

We hope that everyone has a happy and safe holiday season and a prosperous 2010!

We want your news!

If you have any news you'd like to share with the Faculty, be it (but not limited to) an event, a new appointment, an award or an outstanding student, we'd like to hear from you.

Submit your stories to **Trudi Smith** via email to fhp@dal.ca.