Simply The Best

Newest provincial Key Performance Indicators (KPI) survey results released this month identify Sault College as the number one college in Ontario as ranked by students. A celebration was held in Essar Hall to acknowledge this remarkable achievement.

Additional scores indicate that when students were asked the capstone question relating to overall quality of the learning experiences in students’ program, Sault College has led the way since 2009. With a ranking of 87.7 percent this year, the College received the highest score in the province and the highest score for the second consecutive year.

In addition to measuring students’ satisfaction with knowledge and skills gained, along with the quality of learning experiences, the survey asks students how satisfied they are with the overall quality of facilities and resources while studying at College. This is where the most significant improvement for Sault College was seen and the College received its highest ranking ever, improving an unprecedented five percent from last year, to 84.6%. The addition of Essar Hall, the Student Health and Wellness Centre and the Common Link on campus all enhance the student experience and are attributed to this increase. The various improvements were made possible through funding partnerships with provincial and federal levels of government, local business partners and community donors, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and the students, staff and board of governors of Sault College.

Sault College has also gained top scores this year relating to the overall quality of services in the College with the highest score for English speaking colleges across the province.

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to our College’s success – our extraordinary faculty and staff who go above and beyond to put students first, and the college supporters, partners and community members who have helped make it happen.
“Common Link” Complete

A plaque commending the contributions of President Dr. Ron Common was unveiled this month at the official opening of the new link on April 4th. The hub connecting two new buildings on campus is complete after the latest phase of impressive infrastructure enhancement to the Sault College campus. Staff, students, alumni, community members and College stakeholders gathered on April 4th to celebrate the grand opening of the “Common Link,” named by the students after Sault College President Dr. Ron Common in recognition of his tireless transformation of an aging campus to an inspiring place of learning with various state-of-the-art centres of excellence.

Dr. Common has had a lasting impact on the College over the past seven years, as he has transformed the campus into a sought-after place of post-secondary learning with impressive enrolment growth. He has also helped it become more invitational to all learners, concentrating on access and a student-centred approach for higher learning and career success.

The Government of Ontario and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund – Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, provided generous funding for the $2.5 million link project. As well, Tenaris contributed to the project through their donation of the tubes for the new space. The new hub connects the new Student Health and Wellness Centre to the College’s current link, creating one seamlessly integrated flow throughout the entire campus. The architecture follows closely with the look and feel established with the other impressive new buildings on campus.
Cheer for WUSC

Cheer for WUSC is an annual event put on by the Sault College cheerleading team. This is a chance for the Cougars cheerleading team to showcase their skills and talents. These men and women learn and practice high intensity routines full of jumps, dance, stunts and tumbling. The event also celebrates the WUSC committee’s efforts to bring the Refugee program to life on campus. Dollars raised help sponsor a refugee student. Hsar Wah Kae was born in Burma and lived in a refugee camp in Thailand. He's now a first-year peace and conflict studies student at Sault College.

This year’s show featured musical performances by Ashley and Jake Chapman, Cirstin Corbett, Filipino Dancers and Simone Mitchell with a “family friendly” burlesque act. This year’s Cheer team raised $1600 for WUSC. Congratulations and thank you for putting on a highly entertaining show for a great cause. Special thanks to Caitlyn Nelson for organizing the successful event.

Bird Class

Sault Ste. Marie veterinarian Dr. Scott Craig presented a controlled falconry demonstration at Sault College this month. Dr. Scott Craig is a local veterinarian who is the sole holder of an animal custodian license in the area. This is a part-time task he performs at his own expense taking in sick and injured animals and rehabilitating them to be released back into the wild. He specializes in all raptors including owls.

Scott’s presentation explained his position and duties as an animal custodian describing what it’s like to be a falconer and training a hawk in the skills of hunting for its survival. He told the ninety plus students and visitors a story about a red-tailed hawk that came to him injured eleven years ago. It was thought that the bird was a male because it was small for its species. Two years ago they discovered she was a female after she laid an egg. This is when the talk came to a most appropriate climax when Scott brought her out of her travel case. The event was presented by the college’s Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies department.
Treemendous Efforts

Sault College is once again fortunate to have students from the Level 1 Utility Arborist Apprenticeship Program attend the college. The program is a partnership between the College, Industry and College of Trades that allows students to learn and develop the critical skills to perform Arboricultural work in proximity to energized power lines.

As part of the Level 1, twelve-week program, the students are introduced to a variety of topics including Workplace Legislation, Worker Safety, Tree Identification & Biology and Work Practices, as well as practical components to develop competencies in areas such as chainsaws, brush chippers, tree removal and tree climbing. Thank you to these students for keeping our College safe.

Jer’s Vision

Sault College’s Child and Youth Worker program partnered with Jer’s Vision this month to present the International Day of Pink on April 9th. Jer’s Vision is an organization that works to eliminate bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of discrimination in schools and youth communities.

This organization looks at diversity inclusively, and reaches out not just to the marginalized/minority populations, but also to the general population such as educating straight people on homophobia, thereby engaging them in taking a proactive role in preventing discrimination by promoting diversity themselves.
Athletics Awards Night

The annual Athletics Awards night was held this month and drew a crowd of over 200 people at the Comfort Suites and Conference Centre.

The night featured team and individual awards for the nine sports that compete under the athletics umbrella and included recognition of the eleven OCAA All Academic Award members. As part of the evening Dr. Ron Common was presented with the Joe Williams Builder Award recognizing for his support and dedication to athletics and student life. Dr. Common is only the 3rd recipient of this award for Sault College.

The night also recognized the male and female athletes of the year. On the women’s side, Aislyn Ireton (Perth/BSCN) won the Female Athlete of the Year for her exploits in cross country and curling. Aislyn is the first female athlete in the history of the college to win team medals in 2 different sports in the same year (OCAA Bronze Cross Country and OCAA Bronze Curling). On the men’s side, Chris Glibota (Sault Ste. Marie/Pharmacy Technician) received the Ross Bachert Male Athlete of the Year as he lead the Men’s Curling team to an OCAA Championship and guided the Cougars to their first ever CCAA medal with Bronze at CCAA Curling Nationals. Congratulations to all Sault College Cougar athletes on an incredible season.

OACEET Engineering Technology Award

As part of the 25 for 25 Building Forward Campaign, Sault College is pleased to join all other community colleges in Ontario in supporting full-time students enrolled in an OACETT (The Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists) recognized engineering or applied science technology program.

The provincial OACETT organization has created a $20,000 endowment which will recognize one student each year who best exemplifies integrity and professionalism in the practice of engineering technology. This year’s recipient was Kurtis Barbarie of the Civil Engineering Technician program.

Scuttlebutt April 2014
Sault College Receives Funding for Unique Projects

Sault College has received a total of $799,566 to help with major College projects and enhancements to the learning experiences for students.

From the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, Sault College received $186,500 for classroom upgrades for the Digital Film Production program. The funding will assist with creating editing suites, secure equipment rooms as well as purchase new equipment.

In addition, upgrades to the program involve the creation of an exciting Industry Production Hub on campus for visiting films.

Additionally, from the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, Sault College received $347,066 for its Youth Entrepreneurship Skills (YES) Project for youth facing multiple barriers to self-employment. The YES project is slated to run from July 2014 to June 2015 and will provide high-touch entrepreneurship training with specialized mentorship for youth that will help them launch self-employment and small business ventures. The project is anticipated to provide opportunities for successful participants to access micro-grants and be implemented across seven Northern communities from East Algoma to Wawa that include four Aboriginal communities.

Furthermore, from the Ontario Women’s Directorate, a program promoting women’s equality, $266,000 has been secured for skilled trades training for Aboriginal Women. The two main priorities of the Directorate are to promote economic security for women and to end violence against women. In partnership with Garden River First Nation, Sault College will be offering a Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program for women through this fund.

Congratulations to all those involved in creating and submitting the funding applications and to Minister Orazietti, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment and The Ontario Women’s Directorate for the generous funding to keep Sault College on the leading edge of post-secondary learning.
Mark your Calendars
Convocation is coming home! For the first time in years, spring convocation will be returning back to the Sault College campus in the Health and Wellness Centre.

Three ceremonies have been planned:
Thursday, May 22 at 2:00 p.m. - School of Health, Wellness and Continuing Education
Friday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. - School of Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies
Friday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m. - School of Environment, Technology and Business

On Thursday and Friday morning the keynote speaker will be Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish a Palestinian doctor and infertility expert who was born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He is the author of the bestselling book “I Shall Not Hate,” which chronicles his life growing up in Gaza and the development of his outlook on peace in Israel and Palestine. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and received many awards for his contribution to the fight for peace in Gaza. He is the founder and President of the “Daughters for Life Foundation” which strives to advance the education and health of girls and women in the Middle East.

On Friday, May 23, 2:00 p.m. the keynote speaker will be Robert J. Deluce, President and Chief Executive Officer of Porter Airlines, one of Canada’s most knowledgeable and respected airline owners and operators. His involvement in the aviation industry includes White River Air Services, norOntair, Austin Airways, Air Creebec, Air Ontario, Air Manitoba, Air Alliance and Canada 3000 Airlines. He has been President of Deluce Capital Corp. since 1987, and is currently President and CEO of both Porter Aviation Holdings Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary Porter Airlines Inc.

CYW W.A.L.K
The 14th annual W.A.L.K (We All Love Kids) event filled the Common link with smiles and laughter this month as Child and Youth Worker students hosted their annual W.A.L.K. This year’s W.A.L.K raised $4,000 for Rainbow Camp, one of Canada’s first camp for LGBTQ teens that allows campers the opportunity to be themselves among friends. Algoma University Professor, Deborah Woodman, helped plan the camp curriculum in which campers have the chance to discuss sexual health, gay rights and how to create safe spaces. Great work students!
Dual Credit Success in Level One Hairstyling Apprenticeship

There is much to celebrate this year in Sault College’s Hairstyling Program, as success is being realized by dual credit students, thanks to the School College Work Initiative.

When promotional materials were released last year to local secondary schools in the Algoma district describing dual credit opportunities for the upcoming school year, it didn’t take long for the Level One Hairstyling Apprenticeship (OYAP) project to get the attention of some very interested students.

Lexi Hall, Ema Harding, and Mila Faught were just a few of the students who jumped at the opportunity to begin their career path in Hairstyling, while earning secondary credits towards their OSSD.

Lexi always dreamed about being a Hairstylist, and knew it was the career for her; she looked at the opportunity as a great way to transition to college, as well as to gain some expertise in the field. Ema was inspired by what she learned in her high school cosmetology class, and her teacher encouraged her to give the OYAP program a try. Finally, Mila was somewhat convinced it was her destiny to be a Hairstylist, but needed reassurance.

While involved in Level One Hairstyling Dual Credit program, these young women excelled. Not only did they complete their Level One with top marks, they also solidified the idea of pursuing a career in the trade. All three decided to return to Sault College in the fall of 2014 to pursue their dream. Once they secure their Red Seal certification, these young women have great aspirations. Lexi plans on working in a salon, and possibly one day getting involved in the film and movie industry. Ema would like to work for a salon to gain experience, and pursue her dream of becoming a teacher of cosmetology either at the high school or college level, and Mila plans to operate her own Hairstyling salon.

Congratulations Lexi, Ema and Mila. We’re glad you’ve joined us and we wish you continued success in all your dreams and endeavours!
Mr.Roboto

With the recent funding announcement, Sault College will purchase two industrial robots complete with grippers, vision, welding capabilities and the related programing and simulation software. Typical industrial applications for these robots include: palletizing and packing, measuring, materials handling, dispensing, machining, measuring, assembly and welding and cutting applications making it relevant to most companies in the region. A full-size industrial robot will be installed in the electrical engineering lab located in the B-wing. Use of the robots begin during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The new Lab will significantly expand the College’s proven capacity to partner with and assist the many local companies who are challenged to constantly improve their productivity through the adoption of advanced manufacturing processes. It will provide a local, accessible resource where companies can collaborate with faculty, student researchers and technicians to simulate, test and develop effective solutions to their automation challenges. This development and simulation work could be completed and demonstrated prior to the company having to purchase the equipment for their business. The result will be a shortened timeline and reduced costs for implementation, making process upgrades that would otherwise be unattractive, very feasible. With the addition of this equipment, Sault College aims to create the ideal platform for innovation, industry collaboration, and learning with the goal to produce the best possible, highly qualified personnel with advanced skills in the field of robotics for Canadian industry.

Congratulations to all those involved in this exciting initiative.

Students Get Ready to “Crush It”

Young students are preparing to “get crushed” as Sault College hosts its 25th Annual Bridge Building contest on Saturday May 10th in the Multimedia Centre. The grade 5 and 6 division – the youngest of the four divisions, will get underway first beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Multimedia Centre at Sault College. Bridge Building is a great way to introduce young minds to the world of civil engineering. Local schools have embraced this event, incorporating the contest into their bridges and structures curriculum.

Civil and Architectural engineers from the community will be on hand to judge the construction of each bridge for aesthetics and structural ability. The bridges are then scored during a process of being crushed to test their strength. All are invited to witness the excitement when the bridges “get crushed!”
A Tribe Called Red at Sault College

Sault College Native Students’ Council in partnership with Passport to Unity are bringing the Juno award-winning trio, A Tribe Called Red, to Sault College’s Student Health and Wellness Centre this Saturday, May 3rd. The show will kick off at 8 pm and will feature local support from Outspoken, and the Algoma Hip-Hop outfit, Locals. The supporting acts competed for the opportunity at Odeno and were chosen by a panel made up of prominent members of the arts community.

A Tribe Called Red is an aboriginal EDM act mixing electronic music with sounds from their culture. They have just won a Juno award for Breakout group of the year and are playing concerts across the globe in support of their most recent full-length album Nation II Nation (2013).

Outspoken (John Corboy) is no stranger to performing with big names and has shared the stage with acts like Choclair and Lazo. He has been an integral part of the burgeoning Hip-Hop scene in Sault Ste. Marie, has worked alongside a number of local artists and has been a fixture at Soo York City Hip-Hop shows.

Locals consists of Sault artists DJ Seith- a vinyl only Dj who hosts a number of events in the north and spearheads all Soo York City shows, JFK, and Mic Swiff- an Alberta born artist who moved to Algoma at the age of 11.

Tickets are $20 and can be found at Smokes Poutinerie, The Rad Zone, Sault Community Career Centre, Big Arrow Convenience or from members of the Sault College Native Student Council. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience. See you there!

Meet Waub Rice!

Waubgeshig Rice will host a meet and greet with A Tribe Called Red on Saturday May 3 at 2:00 p.m. in Enji Maawnjiding at Sault College.

There will be photo opportunities, an autograph session with the band as well as a discussion with Waubgeshig Rice immediately following the meet and greet.

Space is limited so please arrive early for this amazing opportunity. This free event is for all ages.
Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 1: Deadline for prospective students to confirm offer at Ontario Colleges

Thursday, May 1: Student Recruiters participate in College Dialogues at Fleming College

Friday, May 2: Student Recruiters participate in College Dialogues at Centennial College

Saturday, May 3: A Tribe Called Red concert and Passport to Unity workshops at Sault College

Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6: Sault College Student Recruiters will be attending in the Ontario Technological Skills Competition in Waterloo Ontario.

Monday, May 5, Tuesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 7: Grade 8 tours at Sault College

Saturday, May 10: Bridge Building Competition at 10:00 a.m. in the Sault College Multimedia Centre

Tuesday, May 13: Student Recruiters participate in College Dialogues at Lambton College: Nursing Alumni Dinner at Sault College Teaching Restaurant

Wednesday, May 14: Networking Event for Women in the Trades located in Teaching Restaurant at Sault College

Thursday, May 15: Student Recruiters participate in College Dialogues at Cambrian College

Monday, May 20: Victoria Day, College is closed, College summer hours begin after this date. Please refer to the “Hours of Work” policy on the Human Resources website.

Thursday, May 22: School of Health, Wellness and Continuing Education Convocation at 2:00 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Centre

Friday, May 23: School of Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies Convocation at 10:00 a.m. and School of Environment, Technology and Business Convocation at 2:00 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Centre.

May-June: Profession Development for Sault College staff and faculty.

Friday, June 13: Sault College Annual Staff and Retiree Luncheon

We hope you enjoyed the April issue of Scuttlebutt. Thank you to those who submitted stories and story ideas. This will be the last issue until September when we welcome back students and faculty. Thanks for a great year, have a safe and happy summer and we’ll see you in September!

Please send your articles and comments to Tessa Pino, Communications Officer, at tessa.pino@saultcollege.ca