

Mathis Instruments ready to grow

by Ben Conoley

A small Fredericton company is preparing to nearly double in size after receiving \$7.5 million in financing.

Mathis Instruments was founded to market the TC Probe, a device that measures thermal conductivity. Mathis announced last week that the money, which is the second largest equity, based financing venture capital investment in Atlantic Canada in the last year.

The timing couldn't have been better according to co-founder and president Nancy Mathis as they are preparing to celebrate their seventh anniversary. "It's been a tough year for this type of investment; it's been quite a coup to do this."

Four organizations donated the money: Canadian Science and Technology Growth Fund Inc., a labour-sponsored venture capital fund is donating \$2 million; BDC Venture Capital, a division of the Business Development Bank of Canada, also

giving \$2 million; the New Brunswick Workers Investment Fund is donating \$500,000; and finally a "new investor from Atlantic Canada" - a group whose identity Mathis was unable to announce at press time - is contributing \$3 million.

Mathis says they plan on using the money develop and market a "killer application" of the TC Probe. This version of the device will be specially made for use in drug manufacturing, and will be built into huge blending machines, some of them three stories tall. Before you get excited about home production, they're only for drug companies to mix medication ingredients with.

As well as its sheer size, the machine will be able to pick up the thermal conductivity, or heat produced by each substance, in order to identify the concentration of ingredients.

The fund will allow Mathis to hire 15 to 18 new employees in addition to the present team of 19. Some will be sales representatives who will work near potential customers and others

will research and market out of Fredericton.

This is the second round of venture capital financing Mathis has received. In October 1999, they were given \$1.5 million with equal portions coming from the Business Development Bank of Canada, and the Canadian Science and Technology Growth Fund.

Mathis came up with the idea of the TC Probe while doing her PhD research and the pharmaceutical application of the device while giving a talk about thermal conductivity at the offices of drug giant, GlaxoSmithKline in New Jersey.

"I told them I had nothing to speak about because thermal conductivity has to do with the pharmacology environment," she said.

However, an official from GlaxoSmithKline explained the company was facing the challenge of keeping a close eye on the concentrations of ingredients in blenders, and since then they have been in close collaboration.



Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

The staff at Mathis Instruments includes, from left to right (sort of), Geoff Blackmore, Jeff Bryenton, Mark Staples, Richard Schriver, Robert Cole, Juan Morales, Chris Mathis, Jennifer Dubois, Brad Canney, Michael McCullough, Brad Detchevery, Nadine MacDonald and Christina Appleby.

ARCUP a success: organizers

by K Brookland

The Atlantic Region Canadian University Press conference was deemed a success by delegates, presenters and organizers alike.

The success of this conference was due in large part to the three aforementioned groups - they worked hand in hand to ensure the positive

outcome.

Anyone who has been involved in a conference at any level knows there are many volunteers who work behind the scenes, performing innumerable tasks and seeing to it myriad details are taken care of.

The staff of *The Aquinian* and *The Brunswickan* are to be congratulated for their time and efforts as well as all those who offered to billet the visiting delegates. While there are far too many

staff members of these two publications to mention by name their work to secure the success of this conference was invaluable and is greatly appreciated.

The presenters, Noel Chenier, Peter Haggert, Grant Kerr, Phillip Lee, and Ed Thomas. David Leibl from the Canadian University Press office in Toronto also came and aside from

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Fashionable News Shorts

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

The provincial unemployment rate has dropped due to a record number of New Brunswickers working along with the largest labour force recorded.

The labour force in New Brunswick stood at 384,900 this year over 376,600 at the same time last year. That makes 8,300 more people either working or looking for work.

According to Statistics Canada, the New Brunswick seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February stood at 11.2 per cent, down from 11.5 per cent last year.

"The fact that we continue to see the most people in our province either working or actively looking for work shows our people have confidence in our economy," said Norman MacFarlane, Minister of Training and Employment Development. "I am particular optimistic for the future as we were the only province that managed a decrease in its unemployment rate and we lead the country with the highest percentage increase in the number of employed on a year over year basis."

SUMMER CAREER PLACEMENT GRANTS TO HIRE STUDENTS

University departments and individuals interested in receiving partial funding to hire students for the summer of 2002 may drop off project proposals to the Summer Career Placements Program.

On Friday March 8th booklets containing application forms and their instructions will be delivered to all department secretaries, and will be photocopied for your use. They may also be downloaded from the Student Employment Service website: "www.unb.ca/employment"

Noted should be to carefully read the instructions and the two deadlines. For more information, please contact the Student Employment Service at (506) 453-4620 or email at "employment@unb.ca"

INNOVATION PAPERS HOLD KEY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) says the federal government needs to follow-through on recommendations put forward on Canada's Innovation strategy by the two papers released on February 12th, including The Knowledge Matter - Skills and Learning for Canadians, and Achieving Excellence - Investing in People, Knowledge and Opportunity.

"This government is very aware of the fact that the more educated Canadians become, the stronger our economy becomes," says Liam Arbuckle, National Director for CASA. "When low-income and average-income Canadians are given opportunities to upgrade their skills and education, they make more money. The more money they make, the more money they have to spend in the Canadian economy; they pay more taxes, giving this government the ability to put more money back into social programs like healthcare and education and paying down the debt."

STUDENTS OCCUPY BC PREMIER'S OFFICE

Sixteen post-secondary students have occupied the office of Premier Gordon Campbell to demand that the freeze on tuition fees be maintained after the government's announcement for their de-regulation.

Since 1995, tuition fees have been frozen in British Columbia. This freeze brought on a 6.4 per cent increase while the rest of the country decreased by 2.7 per cent, giving them the rank of second in participation rates.

BC also has the second lowest fees in the country, being beaten out only by Quebec. Tuition fees have been frozen, in that province, for all but five of the last 30 years, and the first few years are free, being provided through CEGEPs. The average participation rate there was 50.2 per cent in 1995-96, while the rest of Canada was 36.9 per cent.

In Ontario, fees for certain programmes have doubled and tripled since their de-regulation of fees for graduate, professional, and post-diploma programmes. Evidence is constantly being developed to show access to higher education for students from lower to middle income families, is being compromised by the increasing fees.

EUROPE ON A BUDGET

Travel Cuts will be holding a presentation on Backpacking in Europe in room 103 of the University of New Brunswick Student Union Building between 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm on Wednesday, March 20th

The presentation will be held in order to help traveling to Europe become safe and easy through the understanding of airfares, finding inexpensive tickets, reserving accommodations and renting vehicles.

For more information go to "www.travelcuts.com"

UNB TEAM WINS 2002 LASKIN MOOT COMPETITION

The team from UNB Law has won the Laskin 2002 Moot Court Competition held February 28 to March 2 in Quebec City.

Eighteen law schools from across Canada sent teams to the competition which is named after Chief Justice Laskin.

The team from UNB was comprised of law students, Michelle Brun, Shiva Galbarasingh, Kitty Maurey, Amy Sakalauskas, and coach and law prof, Tom Kuttner.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The UNB campus recreation program is seeking students who require employment in the 2002-03 academic year.

Campus recreation is looking for convenors and referees-in-chief. Applicants must have strong skills in planning, organizing, and communication, experience in sport management, the availability to work some evenings and weekends and must be self-motivated and able to work both with minimal supervision and part of a team.

Applications for the 5 hour, 26 week job offers are available at the L.B. Gym Campus Recreation office between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Deadline for applications is March 22.

11th ANNUAL IVAN C. RAND LECTURE

The 11th Annual Ivan C. Rand Lecture will be held at 4:30 pm on March 21 in Room 2 of Ludlow Hall.

Professor David J. Mullan, from Queen's University, will deliver the lecture, entitled "Unwritten Constitutional Principles: The Legacy of Justice Rand."

The public is welcome to attend.

For more information contact John McEvoy at 453-7701.

CASTING CALL

Do you want to be a star? Auditions will be held on Monday, March 18th from 6-10pm at Gallery Connexion (behind the Justice Building) for a 5-minute film production.

Actors needed for these characters: 2 men, 2 women, a male bartender, a shopkeeper, a young boy, a homeless man, coffee shop employee, and a cab driver.

Please phone Whitefeather at 452-6360 between 9-4:30pm to book an audition time, or email snazzy@unb.ca by Monday, March 18 @4:30pm.

-Compiled by: T.J. Essensa

Writing for The Bruns is like eating a triple-decker peanut butter sandwich - fulfilling, as well as filling.

The Capital

Sunday St. Patricks Day: Caution Jam
(In the Spirit of the Grateful Dead)

Check Out Tuesday's

Acoustic Forum

Hosted by Chris Nettleton



\$2 Draft & Liquor
9 - midnite



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