

Ghana trip to cost \$11,000

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I just think it's going to be one of the biggest challenges that anyone could ever have in their life," said Keeler.

After searching online for volunteer teaching experiences, Fevens and Keeler applied to The Global Volunteer Network for the opportunity to experience another culture firsthand.

The Global Volunteer Network was launched in December 2000 by New Zealand native Colin Salisbury. After spending time in Ghana, Salisbury was determined to provide quality placements for volunteers. Interested participants can now find placements in China, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Nepal, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Thailand and Uganda.

According to The Global Volunteer Network, "volunteering is a great way to contribute to the global community and gain experience, and also fosters personal growth."

The couple added that Ghana is one of the safest places to volunteer. Although the official language in Ghana is English, many speak other languages including Ewe, Ga, Twi. Fevens, who will be teaching English, said the possible language barrier shouldn't be a problem.

Fevens and Keeler estimate that the trip will cost them \$11,000, with less than \$600 American in actual program fees. Fevens said the remaining money goes to non-program related expenses.

"The real killer is the [cost of the]

flight, the passport, the Visa, the immunizations, and the various other supplies that we're going to need," he explained.

In order to raise the rest of the money, Keeler and Fevens have been fundraising through a letter writing campaign to friends and family, and through raffles. They hope the UNB community will also contribute to their cause.

"We both want to be teachers so this is an excellent experience for both of us to go over and teach underprivileged children," he said.

Fevens, who will be graduating this year from UNB, said he's anxiously awaiting the university's response to his Education application.

"I've always wanted to have a chance to shape and affect the lives of the next generation; I feel like it's such an awesome responsibility," he explained.

"I really think it's important to broaden your horizons as much as you can as a teacher," said Keeler, a third year UNB student.

Keeler spent last summer working at Camp Rotary, an organized summer camp for children with disabilities. She said she's always had the desire to teach children and credits this to her father. Keeler said she was influenced by her father's powerful teaching presence and his energetic approach to subject matter.

Fevens currently serves as a teacher's assistant at a group home for mentally challenged adults every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. The couple said they have the desire to experience all types of



Brendan Doyle Illustration/The Brunswickian

People have the opportunity to teach in schools throughout Ghana thanks to The Global Volunteer Network.

teaching before making their final decision on what they want to teach.

According to Fevens, he's "just an ordinary guy trying to help out underprivileged people."

Their placement starts June 15th in Dawhenya, Ghana, at Jesus Grammar School and comes to an end August 15th. Both Fevens and Keeler want to teach English while there.

"A lot of people have had mixed reviews, like you should go when you

have more teaching experience, but I think when you're young and you feel it then you should just go for it because you can gain a lot of experience before you actually get inside the classroom," she said.

To contribute to Fevens and Keeler's trip, contact Fevens at s64nc@unb.ca or to learn more about the Global Volunteer Network, visit their website at <http://www.volunteer.org.nz>.

They don't sell green beer in Ireland

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One story that is widely retold about Saint Patrick is how he stood upon a hilltop, with only a wooden walking staff by his side, and banished all of the snakes from Ireland.

Although this story is fiction, and somewhat exaggerated, it actually has some truth behind it, but only as a metaphor. The snakes represent the pagan ideology that was held by many of the Irish, and the triumph Saint Patrick won for Christianity is the

banishing of these snakes.

Saint Patrick made it his life's work to speak the Gospel to as many of the Irish as he could. Many people believe that he influenced this country to its present Christian foundation.

March 17th marks the death of Saint Patrick, but also a national celebration for Ireland which is "similar to our Canada Day, but conscious very much of the great diaspora (dispersion of people from their homeland) and the children it has sent out over the world," says

St. Thomas professor Dr. Stewart Donovan, a PhD graduate from the National University of Ireland.

Donovan believes the biggest misconception of St. Patrick's Day to be, "an excuse for a drunk on green beer, which you cry in, and perpetuate the myth of Irish sentimentalism."

Donovan believes that St. Patrick's Day is a perfect example of how capitalism and culture are often seen as one. "Identity politics are inclusive when they go beyond ethnicity to culture. Ireland has been spoken and written about as a first world country

with a third world memory. But there are dangers. The culture must be genuine, something which it is increasingly hard to be in late 20th century capitalism when culture and commerce are seen, sold, and consumed as one. The James Joyce Pub at the Beaverbrook is a classic example. Would you like a pint with The Portrait or will that be a Bushmills with Bloom?"

Although green beer and "Kiss me I'm Irish" hats are fun, St. Patrick's Day should be remembered for its history first. It is a day for Ireland to celebrate its heritage, for them to honour a man who gave up his life to help others find God.

So this St. Patrick's Day, when you are about to slip into your green garb and head downtown for a night of Celtic music and Guinness beer, you can truthfully say that you now know why March 17th is a day of celebration.

NEWS SHORTS

compiled by Graham Cox

Environmental impacts & computer production

A new study conducted for the United Nations indicates that the production of computer parts is an incredibly wasteful process.

The report, which was put together by the UN University, states that the production of a computer and monitor produces 10 times its weight in fossil fuel and chemical waste. One computer will produce the waste equivalent to the production of a light truck.

This study is part of a larger mandate examining and publicizing the "environmental impact of the information technology revolution."

The authors have called on governments to give incentives to companies to extend the life of their computers.

Ex-inmates of Guantanamo Bay tell all

Three wrongly accused Guantanamo Bay "enemy combatants" that were released back to their native England have told *The Observer* of London their experiences at the camp.

The ex-inmates have stated that they were interrogated by UK and US intelligence officers about 200 times since their capture in 2002, sometimes while kneeling on the floor with guns to their heads.

Their statements reveal that the UK intelligence agencies have access to the prisoners in Guantanamo and that both the US and UK governments are using the legal "black hole" the prisoners are in to conduct interrogations that would not be carried out in normal circumstances.

Shell deliberately overstated its oil reserves

Reports emerged in the last few weeks that Royal Dutch/Shell Oil had overestimated its known oil reserves causing some turbulence in the oil market. It now seems clear that the company knew that it was overstating its known reserves two years ago.

Shell is the third largest oil company in the world and was overstating its proven reserves by 3.9 billion barrels.

The news marks yet another company which balanced its books to please investors instead of reporting the truth.

An investigation is likely to be launched by the American Securities and Exchange Commission over whether the company broke the law in its seemingly deliberate overstatements.

Russia takes action to nationalize Yukos Oil

Company executives of Yukos, a Russian oil company, has had their Swiss bank accounts frozen on orders from the Russian government.

The funds add up to approximately five billion dollars.

This move is being seen as a continuation of Russian President Putin's goals of nationalizing the oil companies and other large capital makers that were privatized in the 1990's.

Reports from inside Russia have stated that the general public is in favour of these reforms, much to the displeasure of the liberal elite in and outside the country.

Newfoundland & Labrador heading for ruin: PWC

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), a left of centre economic policy group, has called for the re-examination of a commissioned report carried out by PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC).

The PWC report states that Newfoundland and Labrador is heading for economic ruin and therefore must cut social spending.

The CCPA has expressed concern over the conclusions of the PWC report that predicted the province's deficit will reach \$700 million by 2008 and that drastic measures of cutting social spending would be needed to reach a balanced budget.

A CCPA report has concluded that the \$700 million dollar value is over twice as large as predicted using economic standards of the major Canadian banks.

Policy Alternatives said this "less pessimistic" deficit of \$300 million, using the Canadian banks' figures, would be better managed by bringing the province's taxation system in line with other Atlantic provinces and leaving social programmes intact.

IRISH SAYINGS:

"Ní bhíonn an rath ach mar a mbíonn an smacht."
"There is no luck except where there is discipline."

"Cuir síoda ar ghabhar agus is gabhar i gcónaí é."
"Put silk on a goat and it is still a goat."

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