

Engineers coast through once again



The 34th annual Coaster Derby was held this weekend by the Student Society for Mechanical Engineers. Engineers stuck it out through the rain to showcase their skills.

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Gentlemen, start your coasting.

The Student Society for Mechanical Engineers held their 34th annual Coaster Derby this past Saturday. Through Saturday's damp weather, five teams and a handful of spectators and volunteers gathered to support the race.

The day began at 9:30 a.m. at the top of Mackay Drive with practice runs and time trials leading up to a free barbecue

for all at noon. The afternoon brought head-to-head slalom and closed around 4 p.m. with a free for all race.

The winner of the competition received \$500 and ultimate bragging rights, with second and third place finishers getting \$300 and \$150 each.

This year's winner was Nick Stillwell, a mechanical engineering student driving the vibrant "General Lee."

This year's participants included four cars from mechanical engineering and one from biomedical engineering, which came in second place. Cars are welcome from faculties across campus, as long as they pass a

safety inspection.

As racers aim to be "King of the Hill" the scent of competition is in the air, but as SSME Event Coordinator Lee Everett can attest, it's all in good fun.

"Even though there is a cash prize everyone is there to have fun. People are more worried about increasing the performance of their car and testing their driving skills. It does get a bit heated when there's more than one car on the track, and sometimes the paint from one car may find its way onto another," he says.

Driving skills are truly put to the test as they coast down the 900 metre street with a 13 metre drop in elevation. Tires line the roads

in places that the vehicles have potential to hit, but also as obstacles in the road so that steering skills are necessary.

Throughout the race there were three cars damaged to the extent that they could not race. Thankfully they were surrounded with people equipped to fix and even after the Biomed team's car careened into a brick wall, it was still fixed in time to finish the day.

Despite the rain, Everett still sees the event as a success, "Even though everyone was soaked from the rain, the only thing I heard was how much fun driving was with everything wet. We're even joking about having the next derby in January with hopes of snow."

EARL DENVER MONTAÑEZ
THE BRUNSWICKAN

With more than 110 employers and over 200 recruiters, the 2008 Fredericton Fall Career Fair is anticipated to be the largest career fair ever to be held at UNB. The event, organized by UNB's Student Employment Service, will be held at the Aitken University Centre on Friday, October 3.

The career fair will showcase a mix of local New Brunswick companies as well as companies from across Canada. Anne Soucy, manager of UNB's Student Employment Service, reports that most employers are coming from the province of New Brunswick.

"[More than] sixty percent of the employers attending the career fair are from New Brunswick," says Soucy. "[This is because] we are trying to retain [and maintain] recent graduates and students to work here in the province," she adds.

Soucy says that the UNB Student Employment Service wanted to expand the career fair to offer various opportunities for each faculty. Students from all faculties can benefit from the career fair, she says.

"In our past career fairs, the employers were usually geared towards engineering and computer science," says Soucy. "This year, there is a bigger mix of employers coming from different professional disciplines," she says.

There will be a variety of employers that come from corporations, and multinational companies that present job opportunities in various fields of business, forestry, education, science, arts, nursing and several other work settings.

"We wanted students to get involved and come to [this occasion], even first year students," says Soucy. "[However,] we are targeting particular students, specifically the graduating students and recent alumni of UNB, to attend the career fair because it is their chance to meet with a recruiter one on one. This is a student's opportunity to network and speak directly with recruiters and let them know how they can be an asset to their organization," she says.

Students will be able to engage in conversation with representatives from big oil

corporations like Exxon Mobil, Shell, and Irving Oil, as well as banking corporations like Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Canada Trust.

There will also be representatives from the local, provincial and federal government, such as the Fredericton Police Force, RCMP, NB Population Growth Secretariat, the Government of New Brunswick, & the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

"I am excited to go to the fall career fair and discover my options when I finish my degree," says Danielle Maynard, a Kinesiology student at UNB. "I want to know more about the companies that I am interested in and being able to talk to recruiters first hand," she adds.

The UNB Student Employment Services offers assistance to students who are planning to attend the career fair. Workshops are held weeks prior to the event to prepare students on how to present themselves to the employers they are interested in.

"[The first thing I would suggest to a student] is visit the UNB Student Employment Services website and browse the different exhibitors who are attending the fair," Soucy says. "There is a better chance of knowing what [a student] is looking for and for them to prepare a list of relevant questions for those companies they are interested in."

Several companies that will be setting up booths at AUC will be accepting resumes on-the-spot and others will direct students to their website.

"It is essential that a student or alumni should prepare an up-to-date professional resume," Soucy advises. "Some companies ask you to follow up by sending a resume and cover letter referring to the date and location of the career fair. This helps the employer remember you and for you to keep track of your contact with the organization," she says.

The fall career fair is a formal, professional event that encourages those who attend, especially students, to dress appropriately and abstain from wearing scents of any kind. "Students should know the importance of presenting a professional image," says Soucy.

The career fair starts at 12:00 and ends at 4:30 pm on Friday, Oct 3. For more information, contact employment@unb.ca or call 506-453-4620.

UNB makes its mark in Malawi

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Five UNB students from five different faculties have recently returned from a 12 week internship at the University of Mzuzu in the southern African country of Malawi. Four of the students received financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency. The group included Amy Welsh from the faculty of Kinesiology, Katie Scott from the faculty of Nursing, Amanda Colford from Forestry, and Tristan Goulden from GGE.

Each student received \$10,000, which covered travel expenses, living, and fieldwork expenses

from June 1 to September 1. They were placed in different faculties at the University and supervised by faculty members from both UNB and Mzuzu.

Welsh, Scott and Colford met with the Brunswickan to discuss their experiences.

The three women decided to "live as much like the local people as possible," making the conscious decision to avoid the cafeteria. Instead, they bought food at the local market, attempting to concoct local dishes, and trying to become as integrated to local life as possible.

They did indeed become a part of campus life, picking up on African lifestyles.

"You become a whole new person," says Scott. "North Americans have it so easy." As a

nursing student, Scott had always wanted to visit Africa in order to help with the promotion of health and nursing. "It was a paid trip, so why not?" says Scott.

Welsh held a job as team manager for a women's basketball team, organizing a tournament which included teams from 11 different African countries. She worked with the sports administration on campus, trying to get students involved with sports. She looked at how sports can change and educate people, fostering healthier lifestyles. This was translated to students in Malawi.

"I looked at how sport can influence the lives of Africans. They do have a hard lifestyle," she says.

As a forestry student, Colford helped to incorporate the issue of climate change into the forestry department at the University of Mzuzu. She traveled throughout Malawi, gathering support for her cause.

All of the participants agreed that the experience made them appreciate being Canadian, as well as forcing them to question some of our North American ideals.

The most marked cultural difference, agreed the interns, is the use of time. They said people in Malawi have no sense of time.

"They don't even know what stress is," says Welsh. They do not make appointments, they don't rush around according to schedules as we do in North America. "Time doesn't control their day," says Scott.

There is also a strong sense of community. The interns agree that there is a friendly atmosphere in the African country. People invite

strangers into their homes, treating them as friends.

"They have nothing, but would do anything for you," says Scott.

The program encourages independence and growth as a person. Of Malawians, Welsh says, "they think you have a lot of knowledge. They rely on you to do your thing. There's no guidance."

People in Malawi implore Westerners, "teach us," Welsh says. From a cultural perspective, it looks like they have more to teach us.

CIDA, the group that funded the students, is well-known to Malawians. Scott, who taught in a primary school, picked up a book one day that said "Funded by CIDA" on the inside cover. "People know what Canada is doing for them," says Welsh. "Canada is present in Malawi," says Welsh in closing. "There's a good connection there."

"Coming home was more of a culture shock than arriving in Malawi," says Scott. "When we hit Paris we all started to feel weird. We were walking around in dirty clothes, and there were all the Europeans in their high heels."

Veronica McGinn, Project Coordinator of UNB's Centre for Property Studies, says, "if there's something you want to do, you have to take initiative. There was a huge selection process this year. The students had to have a high GPA or we couldn't send them abroad," she says. "They had to be interested and come to me. I don't go chase students, or what are they going to do in Africa?"

Of students from the University coming to study in Fredericton, McGinn says "it will come one day."

Beavers return

FROM BEAVERS PAGE 1

kill beavers, thus eliminating wetlands? "Beavers are remarkable in their engineering abilities," says D'Arcy.

D'Arcy holds the opinion that development has something to do with the beavers being killed.

Tanaka says that all trapping was done outside of the development area.

The UNB woodlot takes up 3500 acres, says Tanaka. "Only 8% of that is slated for development," he says. "50% of the area is protected forever. That percentage will never be open to development of any kind."

D'Arcy explains that in the 1800s, the Aboriginal Peoples of northern Canada hunted beavers in great numbers. "The percentage of water in wetlands dropped from 8% or

9% to 3%," says D'Arcy. "This one animal has a huge effect on maintaining viable wetlands."

"All of the storm piping in the world will never replace what nature is doing for free," says D'Arcy. "Beavers find a source of water, maybe a trickle, and gosh darn, the little creatures will turn it into something beautiful."

Currently, the evicted beavers are slowly coming back to live in the woodlot. "No one has seen any change in the policies of UNB's administration" to protect the remaining beavers, says D'Arcy.

Tanaka notes that, in spite of the trapping that occurred in 2006, beavers have remained in some areas of the woodlot.

"Wetlands are a fairly special, unique habitat. They need to be protected," D'Arcy says gravely. "If you want to manage the wetlands in the woodlot, you have to manage the beavers."

Miss Mom's Cooking?
You don't have to anymore

Davida at the Cabin Restaurant says she could cook better than your mom ANYDAY

The CABIN
Restaurant, 723 Woodstock Road, 459-0094

10% OFF
With Valid Student I.D.

Dr. Richard E. Lee
Optometrist
406A Regent St. 458-1580
(2 buildings past Harvey's Hamburgers)
New Patients Welcome

the brunswickan.
story & photo meetings,
wednesdays at 12:30 in
SUB room 35. show up.