

Dal day camp breaks science stereotypes

BY JANET FRENCH

In a world where science and technology is becoming more important, it is crucial to inspire the future job holders in these areas — our youth.

Supernova, a society formed by undergraduate students at Dalhousie and DalTech, is ensuring that Nova Scotia's youth become intrigued by careers in these areas of study. One of 26 members of YES-VAC, a national organization promoting technology camps and programs to youths, Supernova is in its third year of operation and is thriving in popularity.

Aimed primarily at young people in grades three to nine, Supernova's message is that science is both intriguing and important.

Supernova members travel all around Nova Scotia to elementary and junior high schools for demonstration days. In this school year alone they have presented their demonstrations and displays to approximately 12,000 people. A variety of hands-on demonstrations are used — such as mine dust explosions (simulated with corn starch), and cleaning up small scale simulated oil spills — to introduce problem solving in a captivating and lively

way.

Other areas recently promoted by Supernova are food science, building structures with forces, forensic science, and the science of sports.

Apart from merely enlightening youths on the wonders of science and technology, Supernova also aspires to break though traditional stereotypes held by people about science and engineering. John Hoben, the current coordinator of Supernova, says that the image of people who research and work in science is as important as the actual subject itself.

"We want kids to go home to

their parents and say 'science is cool'," Hoben says.

Men have traditionally dominated the field of technological research and another objective of the program is to get as many girls involved as boys. There is a discount available to campers when a boy and a girl register together.

Hoben also emphasizes that the staff, all being undergraduate students, are enthusiastic about science but are also well-rounded individuals and work hard to break that "geekish professor" stereotype often associated with these fields of study.

In addition to visiting Nova

Scotia schools, Supernova also provides teacher training services and runs popular weekly day camps during July and August. These day camps help youths explore the many fascinating projects and opportunities that careers in science and technology hold.

Registration begins in two weeks, and registration information for kids in grades three to nine can be found by calling the Supernova office at 420-7993. The weekly summer day camps run from July 6 to Aug. 21.

YOU'RE NOT DONE VOTING YET!

The Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie (NSPIRG-Dal) will be elected April 6 and 7, with all full-time Dalhousie students eligible to vote. This organization is student-funded (ie. YOU pay for it, so vote) and (mostly) student-directed and works on social justice and environmental issues. Currently there are six working groups within NSPIRG: Burma Support Network, EcoAction, Economic Justice, Humans Against Homophobia (HAH), People for Animal Welfare, and the Womyn's Health Collective. NSPIRG also runs a food cooperative and an organic community garden, Seymour Green, on campus.

The Board of Directors work on a consensus basis to carry out the administrative work of the organization. They set the budget, make decisions on project proposals, initiate research projects, give support to working groups when needed, perform outreach activities, and do whatever else is necessary to keep the wheels of social justice humming along.

There are nine positions available, and the following nine folks are looking for your support on election day.

NSPIRG Nominations



Farah Mukhida: "I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only findsthatthereare many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment,...I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended." --Nelson Mandela



Madeline Morris: I am a 3rd year biology/women's studies student and am running for another term as an NSPIRG board member. I bring experience as well as a personal commitment to the types of community action that PIRG supports. I believe that NSPIRG and its working groups are a vital part of Dalhourise University and the Halifax community.

Meghan Smillie: "Knowledge alone does not suffice. It has no heart. No aount of knowledge will nourish or sustain your spirit. It can never bring you ultimate peace or happiness. Life requires more than knowledge - it requires intense feeling and constant energy. Life demands right action if knowledge is to come alive." --Dan Millman



"Hello Everyone, my name is Micheal Young and I am running for the NSPIRG Board. As a member of the Board my goal would be to free al of the tortured and captive vegetables. I remember this young brave sould once told me "that his evangelist goal in life was to spread the word of exploited vegetable". My goal is vaguely similar. There are many social issues forgotten by mainstream media and politics that affect our lives just as much as Bill Clinton's bedroom or the gold mining in Indonesia. I feel strongly that the collective resources PIRG brings together and the input I can give will be helpful in raising awareness of various social and environmental issues. Thanks for your consideration.

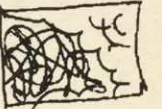
Terri Rutty: I am interested in getting more involved with NSPIRG because I feel that the type of research being done by this organization is vitally important. I also feel that with my diverse cultural background and wide range of interest I can bring in a whole new perspective to the organization. There are also a lot of working groups within PIRG that I am not yet involved with and this would allow me to have a chance to find out more about what each gorup has to offer. I hope to have this chance to bring a lot of new knowledge to the group and in return gain some as well.

Lisa Moffat: I am a third year International Development Studies/Social Anthropology student. I think that pig is an incredible way to form a connection with the community and to give something back. This is the way to make a difference.



"Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead
"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." --Bette Reese

Hi my name is Colin Lake, and I'm running for the NSPIRG board of directors. I was a member of the board of direcors in the 1997-98 term and I found it to be an interesting and fulfilling experience. I work with the Community Organic Cooperative Garden and the Economic Justice working groups. Plant some seed and stick it to the United Food Growers Association!



Dave Garrow: Ecology of the Village Sweet was the sound when oft at evening's close, Up yonder hill the village murmur rose; There as I passed with careless steps and slow, The mingling notes came softened from below; The swain responsive as the milk-maid sung, The sober herd that lowed to meet their young, The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the pool, The playful children just loose from school, The watch-dog's voice that bayed the whispering wind, And the loud laughthat spoke the vacant mind, These all in sweet confusion sought the shade, And filled eadh pause the nightingale had made.

This poem describes that change is needed to create a world in which everything is in harmony. This is what we as humans must strive to achieve. NSPIRG is a means to make our world a better place, and more importantly a better place for our children. I want change to come about, and for this reason I would like to become an intricate part of NSPIRG. Change is needed, change is good, change is happening!

Greetings! my name is Mike Bulthuis, and I'm going for the NSPIRG Board of Directors (hence this little blurb). I'm at Dal with one year to go in IDS and political science. With this kind of coursework we're certainly reminded of the 'global-ness' of pretty much everything these days. But in the midst of a global village still lies a fundamental need for a strong local community and local initiative! Through working collectively within Dal-Halifax community, our actions promoting justice, stewardship, and equality will naturally impact the larger community itself, and even the global village that looms so large...because hope is never lost.



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