



The WEEKLY

WISE

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Taking a Stand for the Right to Learn; Brave women risk their lives for some small shards of an education

By Nicole Morris

Under the rule of the Taliban, women were under strict regulations and had almost no control over their own lives. Rules were in place that denied women the right to work and attend school, and were only allowed limited medical care, just to name a few. The Taliban terrorized the women and girls living in these towns, treating the women as though they were simply objects put here on Earth to please the men. And in many cases this attitude ended in acts of violence against the women, including rape, abduction and forced marriage.

But, for some very brave women, enough was enough. Over the course of the Taliban's rule (1992-2001) women were treated as though they meant nothing. They were not allowed to get an education past the age of eight, and this little education consisted of studying the Qur'an, the Muslim book of worship. However, a small group of women determined to have a future took a stand. They were determined to pursue their right to learn even if it meant getting killed. And so, the Golden Needle Sewing School was founded in 1994. The women would meet in the underground school three times a week, right under the Taliban's noses. To their husbands and neighbours they were simply learning to sew, but really they would gather and listen to lectures given by those who used to be professors at Herat University. "We would arrive with bags full of materials and scissors but underneath there was always notebooks and pens. We would pretend to be learning to sew but really be talking about Shakespeare, James Joyce, Dostoyevsky and our own writing."

These women are an excellent example to all women in today's world. To stand up for what you believe in and to never give up. Herat University campus was in one of the most oppressed areas of the Taliban controlled countries. And yet these women risked their lives to learn, so that they may have a future beyond all the oppression.

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NEWSLINE

Reminders:

- ~ Taxi receipts need to be passed in to us ASAP.
- ~ You should be finishing up your presentation and summary (due Aug. 17th)

Upcoming Events:

- August 17th
Husky Day & SSEP Fun Night
8:45 am Eng. Lobby
- August 20th
FINAL PRESENTATION DAY!
8:30 am R. Gushue Hall, Junior Common Room
- August 20th
Farewell Event
7:45 pm Eng. Lobby
- August 21st
Final Day of Work!!

The Systems of the Human Body Joining Forces

By Julie Critch

Have you ever wondered how all the parts you need to survive fit inside of you? Of all the 206 bones, over 11 systems, and the 10 trillion cells in our body, how do they manage to fit inside us? If you were to stretch your entire digestive system, it would stretch to about 9 metres. Now imagine you could line up all your arteries, veins, cells, organs, nerves, and so on - could you even imagine how long they would be?

Everyone's body is different: different sizes, different shapes, and different anatomy all together. At times, it is possible for some people to not have certain necessities that we need to survive but our body can find ways around that. For example, I have a friend where she does not have one of the main veins in her legs but her body responded to this by having smaller veins running the length of her legs to transport the blood that the main vein would carry. The body has a way of "reformatting" its arrangement so that the jobs that were not being performed can be changed and the tasks required can be done to the best of their abilities. Our bodies are able to adjust to infections and unwanted diseases by coming together to fight off the unwanted creature lurking inside us.

So how do our bodies really work? Do our systems only involve certain parts to keep functioning or is it a deal made between all systems to work in sync to get the job done right? All our systems are intertwined. For instance, our cardiac system can be linked to almost all other systems. In simplest terms, our cardiac system pumps the blood throughout the body. This blood carries white blood cells that are used in the immune system, lymph that is important in the lymphatic system and nutrients that have been absorbed through the digestive system.

Essentially, we need all the parts of our body to maintain its equilibrium or to fight off an unknown and unwanted intruder. Our systems come together to do this. It's not simply our immune system that destroys the invader, but it's our entire body working as a team. So why would you want to destroy it?

The Annual Summer Student Symposium for the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, August 12th. Three SSEP participants, Stacey, Nicole, and Jennifer presented at the poster fair. Great job, girls!

WISE SSEP participants were also invited to the event to view the posters, meet the students and learn about the exciting research being done at MUN! The girls also voted for a "WISE Choice Award" which was given to the student who was best able to explain their project to the general public.



NASA Space Programs

By Melissa Winter

NASA has been sending the current Space Shuttle design into space since April 12, 1981, when they sent Space Shuttle Columbia to orbit the earth 37 times before returning on April 14th. Since then, the Space Shuttle has been used to launch satellites, deploy and maintain the Hubble Space Telescope, perform experiments and bring astronauts to and from the International Space Station. The current Space Shuttle Design will be retired in 2010. Orion, a possible new design for manned missions will hopefully be completed in 2014.

Although manned expeditions are currently unable to reach other planets, unmanned missions (rockets & satellite) are able to orbit around them, as well as land robots on them (such as the Mars Rover) to explore.

Using technology and observations from earth and unmanned missions, we have learned much of what we know about space! For example, did you know that with a very thin atmosphere, the surface temperature of Mars can fluctuate between 20 and -140 degrees Celsius? We also know that there are 2 distinct types of planets: Terrestrial (small, dense planets like Mars & Earth) and Jovian (large gaseous planets like Jupiter & Saturn), and that Pluto, not fitting into either of these categories, is no longer a planet but a “plutoid”!

Earth’s space exploration is continuing to grow, just like the international space station! More and more countries are getting involved, developing their own space programs and participating in the International Space Station. Mission STS-127 just completed the exposed facility in the Japanese Experiment Module. Right now there are over 10 astronauts at the International Space Station! It is a great example of international cooperation and communication.

Going up into space is a very risky business, anything could happen, but with all the right precautions they can have a safe journey! Astronauts are willing to accept these risks because they know how important it is for us to learn about the other planets and space. This can also help predict what might happen to our Earth. Venus’ atmosphere is full of “green house gasses”, so people can’t live on it. If Earth built up enough of these gasses, perhaps it would no longer be able to sustain life.



“The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers; he’s one who asks the right questions”
-Claude Levi-Strauss



On Monday, August 10th, SSEP participants were treated to a visit to Memorial University’s School of Medicine. In the Anatomy Lab, we had the opportunity to see and feel real plasticized bones and organs. We also visited the Histology lab and learned how samples were prepared and tested, as well as used a Transmission Electron Microscope to look at a sample!

A highlight of the visit was meeting “STAN”, the adult robot in the Medical Simulation Unit. Stan imitates a real patient and can be used to simulate a huge range of medical emergencies. He breathes, blinks, has a pulse, and reacts to drugs. He even pees!!!

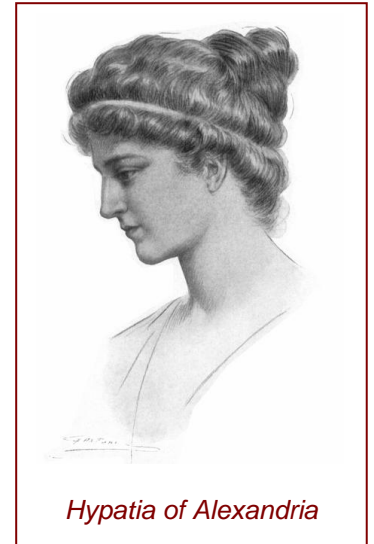
WISE Moment in History

By Jana Whalen

Alexandria, March AD 415: Hypatia is murdered. She was a great scientist, mathematician, teacher, and was involved in politics in ancient Greece. She was one of the first women in the ancient times to become involved in such scholarly things. She eventually became a manager of the largest library of all ancient times, and published one science and two mathematics books. She wrote commentaries on the works of both Diophantus and Apollonius. She also published a set of astronomical tables in which she computed the positions of the planets. The day that she died is often referred to by women's history professors as "The end of free thinking for woman until the 20th century"

"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing"

-Wernher Von Braun



Hypatia of Alexandria

Elbert Hubbard, 1908

Woman of the Week: Erin Brockovich

By Michelle Ward

Erin Brockovich was by all appearances, an average woman. She graduated high school and completed college to get a business degree.

Throughout her adult hood she was in and out of jobs, and marriages. In the end she was left as a single mom with three kids to raise. Her luck was running out fast, and she was later seriously injured in a traffic accident. Her and her kids moved back to Southern California where she got a job as a file clerk at a law firm making just enough money to get by.

After sorting through countless files day after day she came upon one file, a real estate file, which contained medical documents that intrigued her. In her spare time she looked into the file further and further knowing that something wasn't right. It turns out that in the town of Hinkley, California, hundreds of families were becoming deathly ill in the 1960-80's without any reason why. She then took it on as her own case with the help of her boss, a lawyer.

The case went on for months. She learned that the nearby Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Compressor Station which resided in the same town, was the reason for the illnesses. The station was leaking Chromium 6 into the drinking water of the town; a highly toxic substance, Chromium 6 causes cancer and other illnesses. She wasn't a lawyer and that's what made her clients trust her. She was on a personal level with them; she knew their story and related to them. This is why they trusted her and were willing to work closely with her. Her hard work and determination is the reason she was so successful in this case. She had no education in law, had never been a lawyer, but her perseverance is what brought her to the top. She surprised everyone (even her boss) when she sued PG&E, a billion dollar company that spent thousands trying to hide their mistake. In 1996 after the largest direct action lawsuit of its kind, the company had to pay the largest toxic tort injury settlement in U.S. history: \$333 million in damages which was split between more than 600 Hinkley residents. She then went on to become a public figure and to have a self titled movie highlighting this case and her life.

SNAPSHOT



Jana, Jamie, April, Caiti, Julia & Melissa all enjoying the sun in the basketball court. This was taken behind R. Gushue Hall in the residence courtyard following the Summer Student Symposium. Only one week left!

Hannah, with Julie looking on, admires STAN in the Medical Simulation Unit. He can be programmed to do just about anything! The medical students use him for training



A mushroom walks into a bar. The bar tender says, "Get out! We don't serve your kind!"



Disappointed, the mushroom says, "Why not? I'm a fun guy!"

Check this out!

By Jamie Sweetland

Med Quest is an exciting summer program for students in grades 10-12. It is a career-oriented program, specially designed for students in Newfoundland and Labrador. During each Med Quest session, students are introduced to many health professions such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy. These health careers and special topics are presented through lectures, demonstrations, experiments, guest speakers, research projects, job shadowing, role playing, small group sessions, and tours of health facilities. Application forms are available at high schools or available through the Med Quest website. Ask your principal, guidance counselor or science teacher. Applicants are selected based on the following criteria: academic achievement, interest in a health career, school recommendation, and extra-curricular activities. For more information, or to apply, check out the Med Quest website: www.med.mun.ca/StudentAffairs/Med-Quest.aspx

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