



September 10, 2008

HALIFAX, NS – The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) launches the second season of *The Life Changers*, Sunday, September 14, 12:30 p.m. (ADT) on ‘A’.

The Life Changers is a television series on ‘A’ comprised of half hour programs featuring research and development (R&D) in Atlantic Canada’s universities. Atlantic Canada’s universities attract more than \$500 million annually in R&D investment and they are responsible for close to 65 per cent of R&D conducted in the region. Research led by Atlantic Canada’s universities has a huge impact on lives and communities here and around the world.

Produced by the AAU and hosted by award winning broadcaster George Jordan, the second season of *The Life Changers* features five programs about cutting edge R&D conducted at Memorial University, St. John’s, NL; Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, and, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS (see attached Backgrounder for program details).

A partnership between Nova Scotia’s Dalhousie University, the Capital District Health Authority (CDHA), and the IWK Health Centre is featured in the premiere episode. The partners have recently opened the new Skills Centre for Health Sciences at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre. The Skills Centre is the only facility in Atlantic Canada that provides health care professionals with an environment in which they can develop their skills in a virtual environment before taking them to the bedside.

‘Honing skills. Helping Patients.’ will be broadcast on ‘A’ across the region, **Sunday, September 14, 12:30 – 1:00 pm.**

The Life Changers is also supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC-Atlantic) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). For more detailed information about *The Life Changers*, visit <http://www.atlanticuniversities.ca/TheLifeChangers>

The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) represents the interests of universities across the region, ensuring public visibility for the important role they play in preparing future leaders of our communities, in path-breaking research and innovation, and in contributing to the economic prosperity of life in Atlantic Canada.

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BACKGROUND



The Life Changers is a documentary series of half hour programs that features cutting edge research undertaken at Atlantic Canada's universities.

Traveling to universities across the region, this series highlights extraordinary work, groundbreaking research and Atlantic Canada's most innovative thinkers who are committed to solving the greatest challenges of this new century.

The Life Changers is produced by the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) www.atlanticuniversities.ca on behalf of its 17 member institutions. *The Life Changers* is generously supported by: Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC-Atlantic).

Throughout the series, we will meet the researchers, their students and the people directly affected by health, environmental, scientific and lifestyle challenges.

The Life Changers tells compelling stories about the region's top researchers and their lifelong dedication toward providing a better future for Atlantic Canadians and their communities.

The second season of *The Life Changers* features five episodes (described below).

Sunday, September 14

Honing skills. Helping patients.

Halifax, Nova Scotia's Dalhousie University, the Capital District Health Authority (CDHA), and the IWK Health Centre have recently opened the new Skills Centre for Health Sciences at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre.

The Skills Centre is the only facility in Atlantic Canada that provides health care professionals with an environment in which they can develop their skills in a virtual environment before taking them to the bedside.

Sunday, September 21

Listening to Trees

Dr. Colin Laroque of Sackville, New Brunswick's Mount Allison University and his student researchers work in the field of Dendrochronology – the dating of trees and heritage buildings. Their cutting edge work is leading to breakthroughs in better understanding the affects of attendant climate change on our environment.

Sunday, September 28

Mending Broken Hearts

Medical scientists at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, have led the research into a gene discovery for the condition of Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC). The discovery means a test can now be done to determine exactly which members of the affected families carry the gene. ARVC is highly prevalent among certain families in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sunday, October 5

Sailing the Virtual Sea

Memorial University's Centre for Marine Simulation is part of the Marine Institute's School of Maritime Studies. The Centre provides the most comprehensive suite of marine simulators in Canada. It includes a full mission ship bridge and simulators for all other critical aspects of marine operations.

Sunday, October 12

Weight No Longer

An obesity boot camp led by a health psychologist, an endocrinologist, a surgeon and a clinical dietician from Dalhousie University, focuses on the multiple medical and emotional issues of being overweight. Boot camp participants who struggle with their weight analyze their personal lifestyle, eating and coping behaviours with the help of the Dal team.