

NEWS

News Editors: Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Newsbits

UNB Finance among the best

The number-1-ranked finance journal in the world has ranked the finance area in the Administration Faculty at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton in the top 25 per cent in North America.

In its December issue, the *Journal of Finance* published an article entitled Finance Research Productivity and Influence that ranks all 661 business schools in North America.

"According to the ranking, derived on the basis of scientific methods, UNB has done extremely well," said Muhammed Rashid, a finance professor in the Faculty of Administration.

The authors of the article considered research papers published in 16 leading finance journals from 1989 to 1993 in making their comparison. Out of the 331 business schools that published in these journals during the period, UNB was 149th.

"UNB was the only business school in Atlantic Canada and one of only 22 in Canada that made the ranking," said Rashid. "Among non-PhD Canadian business programs, UNB ranks third."

The article shows a high correlation between the size of the finance area within a business school and research output due to a possible synergistic effect among colleagues. "UNB has one of the smallest finance areas in the country, yet we rank quite close to those of the large business schools at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Waterloo," said Rashid.

The analysis of the article also suggests that high quality research is required to make a business school one of the leading ones.

SU Health Plan usage report

Trish Davidson, Vice-President (Student Services), has released a report detailing the usage of the Student Union Health Plan during the months from September to December.

Students have made 1,050 claims on the Health Plan. Davidson reports that there have been no complaints reported about the reimbursement or claim process.

Prescription drugs accounted for 63% of all claims. 27% of claims were for vision, and 10% were for "extended health benefits," which include chiropractic, homeopathic and other types of health services.

A full 52% of all drug claims were for oral contraceptives. An average 85 prescriptions were issued on a monthly basis.

The insurance provider, Morneau and Associates, reports that 75% of premiums have been paid out in claims to date.

New Arts and CS degree

In response to the growing use of computers in nearly every facet of human endeavour, the Faculties of Arts and Computer Science at the UNBF have announced a new concurrent degree program. The program, which allows students to earn two degrees in five years, will officially begin next September.

"This degree will combine the broad skills associated with an arts degree with the specific skills of a computer science program," said UNB Dean of Arts Peter Kent. "I think this will be a very attractive option to students who look at the current job market and recognize the need to be versatile and well trained."

Officially registered in both faculties, concurrent degree students will meet the diverse requirements of the liberal arts program, qualify for majors or honours in any discipline offered in the humanities, social sciences, or languages, and complete the necessary course work to earn a computer science degree.

"This is the only program of its kind in Canada," said Dana Wasson, Dean of Computer Science. "It is designed to help Arts students use computers creatively and Computer Science students acquire a broader educational base."

Black History Month

Premier Frank McKenna has proclaimed February as Black History Month in New Brunswick.

"The history of the Black Community in New Brunswick is as old as the province itself. Many blacks came to New Brunswick with the United Empire Loyalists following the American Revolution. They, like the Loyalists, fought on the side of Britain and had to leave the United States in order to remain loyal to the Crown.

"More than 4,000 blacks, both free men and slaves, arrived in New Brunswick in 1783 to make a new home. But, they encountered discrimination and prejudice. Black leaders had to fight for 80 years before the Charter of the City of Saint John was amended to allow blacks to freely live within city limits. These leaders, and their descendants, have been an important part of New Brunswick's history and culture ever since.

"I urge all New Brunswickers to join with proud members of our Black Community in celebrating Black History Month during the month of February."

NBSA launches "Put it in writing, Roly" campaign PCs, NDP sign NBSA pledge



Linda Gionet, NBSA President and Kelly Lamrock, UNB SU President
by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

New Brunswick's opposition leaders have signed the "promise to students," kicking off the New Brunswick Student Alliance's campaign to get written guarantees from the New Brunswick government on the future of post-secondary education.

Bernard Valcourt, leader of the Official Opposition and the Progressive Conservatives, congratulated the NBSA for the initiative.

**"You deserve no less."
- Bernard Valcourt**

"The students of New Brunswick have got to know that they can find in the government of New Brunswick a partner for their future, and I guess that's all you're asking, and you deserve no less," he argued.

Elizabeth Weir, leader of the New Democratic Party, thanked the NBSA for its efforts, too. "I think [this] is a pledge and a course of action... that genuinely invests in the future of New Brunswick students," she stated.

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- Elizabeth Weir**



Weir makes the pledge.
Photo: Mike Dean

Valcourt emphasized that the NBSA's proposal had one element which was key, and that was the "student pledge of responsibility."

"This is about really telling New Brunswickers that we have a student force in this province that is responsible... because not only are they asking for the government of New Brunswick and for its Minister of

Advanced Education and Labour, and the leaders of two political parties of the Legislative Assembly, to sign an undertaking to the people of New Brunswick but they also have their own pledge of responsibility."

"If the students are ready to live by that pledge of responsibility, I can assure you, that, as long as I am the leader of the Progressive Conservative party I shall live by my promise to the students of New Brunswick."

The pledge entails actions by student unions and actions which will be encouraged in students themselves.

Lamrock also emphasized the importance of the pledge, which he signed. "It talks about what Student Unions do as community-based organizations."

"One thing that we try to do as a student movement is to make it clear that we're not simply making demands on the system, that we are prepared to work in partnership with the government to make things happen."

"The chair that we set aside for Minister MacIntyre is still there if he wants to sit down at the table and talk about what we can do together. If we share the same values and keep New Brunswickers in school."

"We, more than any group of students, I think, provincially, have come forward and said, we're putting workable policy forward, that we're prepared to do our part to back them up. When we sign this, what we're really saying is it's time for the government to join us at the table and take their own pledge of responsibility."

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- Kelly Lamrock**

"I get very concerned when somebody says, 'reasonable levels of tuition? we can't sign that.' Well, what are we looking at—unreasonable levels?"

"I think that present levels are reasonable, if, *if*, there is a student aid program which comes about with some of the reforms we've been talking about. Two years ago \$2,500 was reasonable,

but now, when the government takes 80% of what students *dare* to earn, maybe it's unreasonable. For two years now we've been promised a new student aid package, and it hasn't happened."

Between now and February 15, there will be a series of smaller campaigns, such as the *Reach out and Touch Roly* campaign. "Each university has chosen a day where they will have phones going around campus and even in their residence encouraging people to call and ask the minister if he is willing to put it in writing," explained Gionet.

According to Lamrock, on February 7th, UNB will be hosting a street fair. This will "show [students] how the government's gambling with their future, [and] they'll have a chance to put a few gambles on the government."

The campaign will hit its height on February 15, when an anticipated 400-500 students from UNB and St. Thomas will march from STU to a rally on the front lawn of the Legislature.



Valcourt signs eagerly.
Photo: Mike Dean

Former Bruns Editor Dies

In a telephone conversation held this Wednesday, former Aquinian Editor Lois Corbett informed *The Brunswickan* that Editor-In-Chief from 1984 to 1985, David Mazzerole, died from AIDS on Tuesday.

Mazzerole, as he wrote in an editorial, was a "desperate believer in free speech and the public right to know."