

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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Earth and Atmospheric Science

York introduces new Department

York now has a Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science — an outgrowth of the former program in earth and environmental science. The structural change, approved by the Board of Governors on December 14, was prompted by a need to give the existing program more impact outside the University.

"Teachers in the schools, employers and other professional groups seem to comprehend and relate to the department structure more readily," explains Robert Lundell, Dean of the Faculty of Science. "We perceive for example that our recruiting can be enhanced by the presence of another Department."

While York is now well respected in industrial circles for the quality of its Earth and Environmental Science graduates, its impact in the field would likely be greater if its visibility were higher. Indeed, the program has offered a highly marketably BSc degree, and the better students have had to choose among three and four job offers. Without exception all of the graduates are placed in jobs within weeks of graduating each year; they have found employment in recent years with such organizations as Scintrex, Northway-Gestalt Corp., Questor Survey Ltd., Gulf Oil, and Chevron Oil. Average starting salary is reported to be in the range of \$20,000 to

\$25,000.

A new Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science would be responding to a pressing need within Canada for people trained in the geosciences. The geosciences are experiencing considerable growth, both nationally and internationally, because of a general world-wide demand for earth resources and a growing concern with the detrimental effects of by-products and waste material.

The new Department arises from the earth and environmental science program begun at York eight years ago. Enrolment in this program has steadily increased, and this year there are 94 full-course-equivalent honours-student registrations,

according to Dean Lundell.

Acting Chairman of the new Department, Professor Keith Aldridge, emphasizes that its creation "will give us visibility externally, both to new undergraduates and in terms of jobs". He adds that a visible "Department" of Earth and Atmospheric Science should attract to York those students who are from the outset seeking a degree in the field but are unaware of the present York offerings.

Another significant interface between the Faculty of Science at York and the high school departments of geography will be forged with the establishment of a Department. Further it is expected that the attractiveness

of the Faculty of Science to the graduating grade 13 student interested, initially, in other areas of science will be increased.

Dean Lundell points out that York's physical location is appropriate for the new department, because it is in proximity to the Atmospheric Environment Service (AES) on Dufferin Street near Steeles. In addition, York will benefit from the presence of Professor B. Boville, adjunct professor, formerly with the AES.

The proposed initial membership in the new Department includes eight professors, all of whom are very active in research and many judged by their peers to be national and international leaders in their field.



Brenda Williams, York Foreign Student Adviser

Foreign student adviser eases transition to new country and new university

When the 1982 winter/summer foreign students arrive at York in two weeks they will undergo an orientation session organized by Foreign Student Adviser, Brenda Williams, to introduce them to life in Canada with information ranging from the idiosyncracies of the Canadian climate to the more delicate dealings with immigration officials.

Ms. Williams describes the newly created position of Foreign Student Adviser as a "two-way job" — providing information to foreign students and to potential foreign students, and assisting York students wishing to study or work abroad.

The service set up shop this year in order to facilitate communication between the students, the University, and the government, as well as to respond effectively to the recent increases in foreign student enrollment. This year about 1500 students have made their way to York from 15 countries, including Iceland, Ireland, and

Hong Kong.

She eases the foreign students' transition into a new country and a new university by helping with housing, financial questions, tuition deferrals and by furnishing them with practical information on life in Canada. Much of her work consists of referral to other areas of the University, and by developing contacts within government and other agencies, she is able to act as an unofficial ombudsman in the face of red tape.

For students at York interested in working or studying abroad Ms. Williams has collected reference material on universities and information from embassies and will help in organizing a student's best approach to these activities. She has also established a liaison with CUSO for those interested in volunteering.

Maintaining close contact with the different ethnic student groups on campus is another of Ms. Williams' responsibilities. "I would like to see an

international students club on campus," she says. "There are students of some nationalities with very little representation who don't have a strong sense of support in the University community."

The nature of the position of Foreign Student Adviser allows for experimentation and suggestions to determine what services can be realistically provided, Ms. Williams explains. Yet it is also an area subject to the shifting winds of government policy and world politics, requiring constant adaptability to global changes in tuition costs and visa regulations.

Her personal approach is such that it can make the difference between a bureaucratic imbroglio and a satisfying educational experience for students coming and going.

The Foreign Student Adviser's Office is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 4:30 in Ross S102, and in Winter's College Rm. 274 every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30. Telephone 667-2226.

Education Faculty and Career Centre present job series

At a time when high-level job search know-how is essential for students wishing an edge in an increasingly competitive job market, the Faculty of Education and the York Career Centre have joined forces to present a program of career orientation for education students, established teachers, and interested members of the community. For the last three years the career series has aimed to respond to the need for practical information regarding the job market and specific requirements for prospective employees in the field of education. A survey of last year's graduating class indicated that 88.5 percent of the respondents were successful in obtaining positions in education.

Another Faculty and one department are also in the planning stages of creating career programs unique to their disciplines.

"Our motivation was primarily that a need was recognized to have formal co-operation between ourselves and the Faculty in order to have an informative and well-rounded program," says Jayne Greene-Black, a career counsellor with the Centre. A committee of representatives from the Faculty of Education, the Career Centre, and the student body provided input into the design of a series that would meet the particular needs of a group of students entering a highly professional field with a fluctuating market.

They will present a seminar of Interview Techniques on January 19, and Continuing Your Education on February 2 with a panel from York's Department of Continuing Education and other Faculties of the University. Later sessions will be announced in the near future.

STUDENTS! NEED CASH?

Students needed to sell tickets (on percentage) for University-sponsored charitable cause. Please call 667-3441 for further information.