

Although UNB President, Robin Armstrong is sometimes out of focus, The Bruns is always crystal clear. Photo by Señor Bray

Dance-a-thon to benefit AIDS

Brunswick News

Students at the University of New Brunswick's Lady Dunn Hall will be wearing out their dancing shoes in a benefit for people living with HIV/AIDS in New Brunswick.

Lady Dunn Hall, a women's residence of approximately 225 students, are staging a 24 hour dance-a-thon to benefit programs provided by AIDS/SIDA NB for persons living with HIV/AIDS and to assist a student AIDS awareness/prevention program on campus.

Beginning at 7 pm on Friday, January 27th, the event is a great demonstration of student-initiative towards community social programs. "They're certainly an active, generous group of young people," commented Joseph Gauthier, De-

velopment Officer at AIDS/SIDA NB. "We're thrilled to be working on this awareness campaign that not only assists us in the provision of valuable AIDS services but also promotes peer education to university students."

The 24 hour "Dance until Your Dunn" is a pledge dance with components of Karaoke, line dancing, live disc jockey music, door prizes and other initiatives to keep people on the dance floor.

The event is open to the entire residence community and proceeds will go towards the emergency fund for persons living with HIV/AIDS and the AIDS peer education program at UNB.

"The PWA Fund is very unique," said Gauthier. "It provides money for basic living necessities such as nutritional supplements, medication, and housing as-

sistance."

The PWA Emergency Fund, available only to those living with HIV/AIDS, assists in providing necessities not otherwise covered by private drug plans, income assistance, or other social programs.

The UNB "Sex Without AIDS Today" (SWAT) program is the other benefactor of the dance-a-thon. Administered through the UNB AIDS program, SWAT teams have been in existence since 1988 providing AIDS peer education to thousands of university students each year.

For additional information on the "24 hour Dance Until Your Dunn" AIDS Benefit, please contact Kim Beck at Lady Dunn Hall (506-450-6598) or Joseph Gauthier (506-459-7518) at AIDS/SIDA NB.

• Spotlight on culture •

Instructor Exchanges Language and Culture

UNB Press Release

There is more to communicating with people than simply learning their language.

This is the claim of Michiko Nishijima, a Japanese exchange instructor who is currently taking and offering courses at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

"When we learn the language of other people, we must also learn about their culture. The two should go hand in hand," said Ms Nishijima.

"Without this knowledge we will miscommunicate even if we speak the language fluently," she added.

Ms Nishijima knows where of she speaks. Her past work experience includes eight years as a travel guide accompanying groups of Japanese tourists to over 50 countries, and another five years instructing Japanese students to speak English. This latter work was done at Japan's largest private school of English with over 2000 branches throughout the country.

"Japanese youth receive six years of instruction and grammar during

their schooling," said Ms Nishijima. "Many people wish to continue improving their communication skills even after they graduate from high school, so they take lessons from one of the private schools."

Ms Nishijima's trip to New Brunswick is part of the Japanese School Internship Program. This exchange program is available to qualified individuals who would like to go abroad and teach Japanese while taking advantage of learning opportunities in the host country.

"Exchange does not mean that I am changing places with an actual individual," says Ms Nishijima. "It refers to the fact that I am sharing my own language and culture and learning new things in return."

Ms Nishijima is enrolled in a graduate education course and an introductory French class. "Taking a language class has been helpful because it reminds me of what it is like for my own students when they try to learn a new language."

To fulfill the other part of her obligation to the internship program, Ms Nishijima teaches Japanese 1013 and

1023 through UNB's department of extension and summer session. Along with language instruction, the course includes information about Japanese history, society and customs. To expose students to the culture, Ms Nishijima has even prepared authentic Japanese food for her students.

"The students in my course have learned to read and write basic Hiragana, use greetings and common phrases," says Ms Nishijima.

Originally from Yokohama, Japan's third largest city with a population of 3.4 million people, Ms Nishijima finds teaching and living in Canada a very different experience.

"Where I come from, pollution is a terrible problem and the pace of life is very rushed. I find Canada more relaxed and spacious," she said.

"My students are also different. I find teaching is more interactive experience here. Students are very responsive and we discuss a lot of the ideas raised in class".

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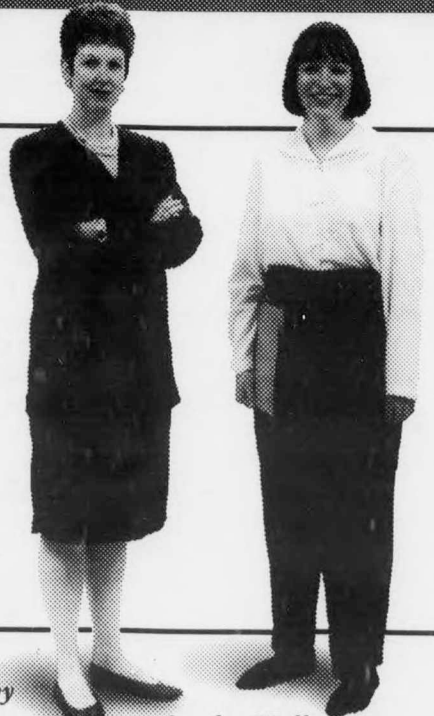
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