

Morgenstern appointed researcher

E. Kristian Morgenstern has been appointed to the new chair in forest tree improvement at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. The position is supported through a \$400,000 grant to UNB by a group of eight of the province's major forest product companies.

The appointment was announced this week in Fredericton by UNB President James Downey. He was addressing a group of forest industry executives and other professionals at a luncheon hosted by the provincial minister of natural resources, J. W. Bird.

Although Dr. Morgenstern was in the capital city for this meeting, he will not take up his post full-time until January 1, 1981.

A native of Germany and a Canadian citizen, Dr. Morgenstern received a bachelor's degree in forestry from UNB, a master's from the University of Toronto, and a PhD from the University of Hamburg. His graduate dissertations focussed on the genetics of red and black spruce.

Since 1959, he has been associated with the Petawaw Forest Experiment Station operated by the Canadian Forestry Service (CRS) -- first as a graduate assistant and most recently as a research officer and scientist.

In addition to a distinguished scientific background, Dr. Morgenstern comes to UNB with many years of practical experience working in the woods, as a forestry apprentice and ranger school student in Germany, a laborer with forest industries in Ontario, and as a student assistant in the Ontario and Alberta forest services.

His work in genetics during 1960's and '70's culminated in 1977 with his appointment as leader of a genetics and tree breeding project involving close to two dozen scientists, technicians and field workers. He is accustomed to heading co-operative experiments with forest industries, federal and provincial agencies, and universities.

Dr. Morgenstern has served as a referee for grant applications submitted to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and has participated in numerous projects at the international level.

He is the author, co-author or editor of 65 scientific papers, is the author of 19 unpublished reports, and the translator for the English version of K. Stern's *The Genetics of Forest Ecosystems*, published in New York. One of Dr. Morgenstern's publications is widely used by universities in Europe and North America for basic training, and has been translated into Spanish.

His activities with professional organizations, his chairing of a national study of tree seed production and tree improvement needs in Canada, and his consulting for both industry and government attest to the wide recognition of Dr. Morgenstern's expertise in tree genetics.

The forest industry grant, payable to UNB over five years, covers hiring Dr. Morgenstern and a technician, and such research costs as travel and computer time.

The companies participating in this project with UNB include Acadia Forest Products Limited; Boise Cascade Canada Ltd.; Cana-

dian International Paper Company; Consolidated-Bathurst Limited; Fraser Inc.; J.D. Irving Limited; MacMillan-Rothesay Limited; and St. Anne-Nackawic Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.

Negotiations to create and fill this forestry post were begun in 1978 by former UNB President John M. Anderson. The project was carried through by his successor, acting President Thomas Condon, who expected it to enhance the application of advanced science and technology to ensure

a continuing and improving forest harvest.

UNB Forestry Dean J. W. Ker notes that 88 per cent of New Brunswick is forest land, and the province relies on wood based

products for more than 60 per cent of the value of its exports. He says that government and industry accept intensified forest management as to the best route to guaranteed quality and quantity of the wood harvest. But tree breeders, an essential link in any management scheme, are in short

supply in Canada, the dean says.

The J.D. Irving Company has been trying to hire a top-level forest geneticist since 1978, the dean reports, and the provincial governments of Ontario and British Columbia list a dozen

openings in the tree improvement field, having Dr. Morgenstern at

UNB will enable the university to prepare foresters to fill these posts, and to go on to graduate study in tree genetics, Dean Ker says.



ANNE KILFOIL Photo
UNB President James Downey was one of many who attended a football game between UNB and St. Francis Xavier University last Saturday. St. FX defeated UNB

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