

AASA Conference will have a regional focus on issues

Press Release

A lively debate of regional issues will be the key feature of an upcoming conference co-hosted by the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and St. Thomas University.

The Atlantic Association of Sociologists and Anthropologists (AASA) will celebrate the 30th anniversary of their organization at the annual conference scheduled for Oct. 12-14. All events will be held at the Wu Conference Centre on the UNB campus.

Conference participants will address a number of regional concerns including health care, the environment, native issues, family violence and criminal justice. They will also engage in a discussion of theoretical issues facing today's social scientists.

"The conference attempts to link institutions, so that people in the field can share information," says UNB graduate student Alex Iverson, a member of the conference organizing committee. "It is an opportunity for debates in the social sciences to be made public. The focus is predominantly regional."

One of the highlights of this year's schedule of events is a keynote address by Helena Znaniecki Lopata, a well known sociologist from Loyola University in Chicago. Dr. Lopata will speak in the Chancellor's Room at the Wu Conference Centre at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 12. She is a recognized authority on housewives, widowhood and occupations.

Among the many sessions offered at the conference are two by Christopher McCormick of Acadia University. He will present one paper on the media and sexual assault based on his examination of news accounts

of a string of 1993 stranger-related sexual assaults in Halifax, and a second on the social construction of arson in the news. Nancy Nason-Clark of UNB's Sociology department will present a paper exploring the nature and extent of clerical advice to abused women.

For the first time, AASA conference organizers are assembling a CD-Rom version of all the presentations made at the conference and of information from various publishing companies.

This year's organizing committee is made up of faculty and graduate

students from both UNB and STU. Members include Lori Beaman-Hall, Heather Fowler, Tammy Greer, Kim Hughes, Hester Vair, Alex Iverson, and co-chairs Will van den Hoonaard and Mohammad Zaman.

Since its formation in 1965, the AASA has tackled topical issues at its yearly conference which is hosted by different universities around the region. Anyone interested in regional issues is encouraged to participate. For further information, please contact Alex Iverson at 453-4849, ext. 6263.

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