

# Courage is Downey Leadership Award Winner

GORDON LOANE  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Arts student and Student Union Vice-President Anoushka Courage was the big winner as some 150 student leaders gathered Wednesday night for the annual SU gala and awards dinner.

Courage received the Dr. James Downey Student Leadership Award and a Gold Activity Award for outstanding commitment to student activity and campus life.

Courage, an international student from Great Britain, graduates this Spring with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

"I'm very proud, very surprised, and I want to blame Shona Bertrand for nominating me for the Downey Leadership Award," said Courage following the Awards Banquet.

For Courage, the Student Union has served like a home away from home.

"I think with student leadership, you get a lot of leeway in what you do because there are no specific rules."

"I think it is amazing how many people get involved," she said.

"There are so many people worthy of awards."

Courage also realizes that student leadership is not for everyone, but notes that it is really worthwhile.

"You meet a lot of great people, probably the greatest people who are around."

For Jeff Melanson, involved on Student Council and as Chair of the Orientation and the Red 'n Black Revue, being the recipient of a Gold Activity Award is a nice recognition.

"You just do it because you want to," he said. "It is even nicer when someone recognizes and takes note of the efforts you have made."

Shona Bertrand earned her Gold Activity Award with involvement in student affairs for four years while both a Business and Law student.

Most recently, Bertrand has been Chair of the Board of Directors of the company which oversees the operations of the Cellar Pub, a position she has held for three years.

"I've probably learned more from my involvement in the Student Union than a million years of school have ever taught me," she said following the Awards Banquet.

"I've learned a lot about people, how we communicate with each other, how we interact."

"It really has been valuable - totally worth it," she said. "You get from UNB what you put into it, and I think I have been fortunate and privileged to have been put in a position where I could contribute more than the average student."

For student activist and former Student Union President Kelly

Lamrock earning a Gold Activity Award feels "fantastic" and "worthwhile."

"There is always a small group of people who do things," he said. "It is sometimes risky to go out and try to propose things and make things happen when it would be easier to sit back and criticize those who do reach a little higher," Lamrock said, pausing to take a draw on a long cigar following the Awards Banquet.

"I've also learned first of all, that over time, if you believe in certain things, they will gain acceptance."

"I've learned in a lot of ways that being able to live with yourself and your principles is worthwhile," he said.

Trish Davidson took home a Gold Activity Award after two years of serving as Student Union Vice-President (Student Services).

Uncharacteristic for Davidson, she offered a "no comment" to The Brunswickan when first approached following the Awards dinner.

But, eventually, Davidson sat back, took a few puffs from a long cigar, and offered the comment that she was very happy.

"The number one thing I've learned is that you cannot please everyone all the time."

"You can only try your hardest, you can only do your best," she said.

Over the last two years



SU Gold Activity Award Winners, (standing from left) Jeffrey Melanson, Kell Lamrock, (in front, from left) Trish Davidson, Anoushka Courage, Shona Bertrand. MARIA PAISLEY PHOTO

Davidson's job has taught her how to fill-in health plan opt-out forms.

"It's also taught me that the best things in life are underpaid."

Other award winners Wednesday night included Blair Larsen and Rodney Chiasson who took home

Silver Activity Awards for an outstanding contribution to student life in a variety of areas during a limited part of their time at UNB.

Merit Awards, to a graduating student who has made a contribution to student life which is worthy of

recognition, went to Erin Brien, Cathy Clark, Aaron McIntosh, Melanie Quigg, and Mark Atkinson. Darren Thompson, Engineering Representation on the Student Council, was named Student Union Councilor of the Year.

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back up to 7 hours per day.

Geoff Black, Science representative, sparked a divisive debate when he moved that Council discontinue the practice of awarding gold and silver rings at the annual Student Union Awards Banquet. He cited figures quoted from Davidson in *The Brunswickan* as the reason for his concern.

"When I read that it's \$348 for a men's gold ring, [I thought] it's just excessive," he said.

The motion was seconded by Monique Scholten, who disagrees in principle with the practice. She added that the activities which are awarded the most points also receive honouaria.

Vice-President (Student Services) Trish Davidson responded with some restraint. "There will be five gold, two silver, and 5 merit awards. The people who get these awards put in so many

hours it makes me sick. Two examples I can use are Shona Bertrand [Chair of SUBS Inc] and Kelly Lamrock [former SU President]. They were always the type of people to volunteer."

Vice-President External and President-elect Anthony Knight responded to Black's comments with sympathy. "I had the same attitude as you, Geoff, when I first came [to the SU]. But I know Shona [Bertrand] and Kelly [Lamrock] and I can't express to you the value of the wisdom and experience they have."

Bertrand and Lamrock both received gold awards at the banquet on Wednesday.

"You have to treat your good people good," he said. "As funny as that sounds, it's true: if you don't, you won't have them."

Arts councillor Shelley Wells asked councillor Black what sort of substitute

he could make.

Black was less clear on this. "I was thinking about this. I don't really know, but something cheaper."

Rochelle English, Kinesiology representative, asked what other schools did.

Knight responded with "Look at what athletes get: gold trophies."

Knight might be interested to know that the athletes honoured at UNB's \$1,900 Athletic Banquet (who didn't even get served a meal this year) do not get to keep their "gold trophies" and, in fact, only get their names engraved upon a trophy which stays at the University.

"Not rewarding [good people] is short-sighted," Knight continued. "What's next? No honouaria?"

Councillor Wells added that since students can't receive their activity award until they graduate, they don't

know they are receiving one when they start volunteering.

The motion was defeated 4 to 11, with four abstentions, including Davidson, who also received a gold award.

A subsequent motion to review the point schedule and the awards themselves was passed.

Two grants came to Council. One was turned down; the other was tabled.

An application from Catherine Atkinson for a grant to study abroad was turned down, and Anoushka Courage recommended that Scholten tell Atkinson that the Dean of Arts has funding available for high academic achievers to study abroad.

The second grant was for the Student Society of Electrical Engineers. Apparently, although a previous grant application for funding of an Electrical Engineering Technical Tour of Ottawa

was turned down by the SU a few weeks ago, the SSEE gave money for the tour. The matter was tabled until next week's Council meeting.

The \$24,000 honouaria schedule went off with few changes. Vice-President (Finance & Administration) Scholten presented Council with a three page document outlining the awards made this term.

Scholten's comments were limited to the honouaria for Jeff Clark (President of Grad Class, member of the UNB Foundation for Students, and Anti-Poverty Coordinator), Ian Johnstone (Chair of the UNB Foundation for Students) and Darryl Kent (Cellar Bar Manager and acting Activities Director). Clark did not receive any of the allotted \$250 for anti-poverty coordinator, and according to Scholten, he did not apply, and "there was absolutely nothing done" in that area. Clark also did not receive full honouaria for the Foundation for Students because it did not meet this term.

Although Ian Johnstone has refused honouaria, and did not apply, Council made the award. "Ian doesn't believe in honouaria," said Scholten.

Shona Bertrand pointed out that last year, Johnstone turned around and donated his honouaria as Student Advocate to a student in need he had met in the course of his stint as Student Advocate.

Darryl Kent was allotted the \$500 because he fulfilled the duties of the Activities Director, in addition to his job as Cellar Bar Manager, a job for which his salary compares quite unfavorably to the bar manager of the Social Club.

The honouaria budget for the year came in about \$4,000 under, largely as a result of fewer Councillors being awarded honouaria than budgeted. According to Scholten, there were provisions for as many as 18 to receive \$250 each, but only 10 did.

Councillors recognized include: Susan Shaw (Arts) \$125, Darren Thompson (Engineering) \$125, Cathy Clarke (Law) \$125, Matthew Hanrahan (Business) \$115, Rochelle English (Kinesiology) \$115, Shelley Wells (Arts) \$105, David Teskey (Business) \$90, Christina Walsh (Engineering) \$90, Sarah Mullaly (Arts) \$85, Richard Williams (Arts) \$80, Daniel Malley (Arts) \$85, Sarah Trew (Education) \$47, and Tara MacIntosh (Kinesiology) \$35.

The honouaria committee also awarded \$25 each to the following Councillors who did not apply, but had, in the committee's opinion, earned it: Rodney Chiasson (Computer Science), Jonathan Penney (Engineering), Blair Saulnier (Forestry), Megan O'Brien (Education), Gilles Comeau (Computer Science), Geoff Black (Science), Tim McEwan (Engineering).

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