

# NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

## Orientation '92 executive elected

by Heather MacKinnon

The new Orientation executive is as follows: the Chairperson for 1992 is Jeff Bujold, Vice Chair will be Traci Brannen, the Treasurer is now Jen Lawson, the new Secretary is Stephanie Thompson, Public Relations is the area of Wally Ismail, Promotions will be handled by Jeff Gillis, and Kerri Larsen will handle High School relations.

The position for Shinerama Director has yet to be chosen, and written applications for this position are being received until October 11th. The position will be chosen on October 13th.

The smell of hot popcorn will soon be attracting people to Loonie Wednesdays. The executive will be selling the popcorn to raise money for the committee. Other fundraising events will begin early in the year, so don't forget to support Orientation '92.

Each year, a National Orientation Directors Association conference is held and representatives from universities all across North America are in attendance. This year, the conference will be held in Costa Meca, California. From

UNB's Orientation Executive, Jeff Bujold and Traci Brannen will participate in workshops and group-planning sessions from October 17th to October 26th.

Shortly after they return to Fredericton, having had some time on the plane to digest the ideas and info devoured at the conference, they will relate their experiences with the rest of the executive.

Plans for the 1st General Meeting at MacLaggan Hall, room 105, are underway. Anybody who is presently a student at UNB can attend this meeting. The meetings are not only informative, but also exciting and quite hilarious.

If you have any interest whatsoever in Orientation '92, please attend the 1st General Meeting on November 3rd at 7:00pm. The Executive is looking forward to seeing a large turnout of enthusiastic, hardworking. Potential Orientation Committee members.

Executive and committee members can usually be found in room 106 during noon hours Monday through Friday. If you have any questions about Orientation '92 please don't hesitate to visit the office in the SUB.



Pat Fitzpatrick photo

**New Orientation executive:** (L-R) Jeff Gilles, promotions; Wally Ismail, Public Relations; Traci Brannen, Vice Chairperson; Kerri Larsen, High School Relations; Jeff Bujold, Chairperson; Jennifer Lawson, Treasurer and Stephanie Thompson, Secretary.

## Higher education report released from AUCC

## STU enrollment tops 2000

(STUPRI) enrollment at St. Thomas University has topped 2,000 students for the first time in the institution's 81 year-old history.

University registrar Lawrence Batt reports that preliminary enrollment figures show 1,727 full-time students were registered in the university's three degree programs - an increase of 12 per cent over last year. Another 300 students were enrolled part time.

Batt says the university experienced a 17 per cent increase in the number of full-time students entering first year. Full-time enrollment in first year totals 664 students, up from 552 a year ago. According to Batt, women account for about 67 per cent of all full-time students at the

university.

"Our enrollment has been increasing steadily in all but two of the last 11 years," says Batt. "New Brunswickers, who account for the vast majority of students, appear to be voting for St. Thomas with their feet. That's especially true of women who continue to make up about two-thirds of our full-time enrollment."

Batt says the university's policy of maintaining small classes may be one reason for the institution's growing popularity. "Despite our growth, we've had a practice of keeping classes small - even in first-year courses." Batt says that most classes at St. Thomas have no more than 60 students in them. The figure is much lower in upper level courses, he says.

(STU PRI) St. Thomas University president Daniel O'Brien says a report released today in Ottawa on the state of higher education in Canada "will help drive the university's plans for building excellence in undergraduate teaching".

A commission of inquiry set up in August 1990 by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has put forward a list of 63 recommendations aimed at strengthening Canada's institutions of higher learning. The report calls on universities to place a greater emphasis on teaching, to be more innovative in designing curricula, to pay closer attention to attrition rates and to undertake a series of initiatives aimed at increasing participation rates among groups that are currently under-represented at Canada's universities.

The commission was headed by Stuart Smith, former chair of the Science Council of Canada and current president of Rock Cliffe Research and Technology, Inc., an Ottawa-based consulting firm.

At a news conference held today in Ottawa to mark the release of the report, the AUCC announced plans to set up a task force of university presidents to study the report and advise the association on a course of action in light of its

recommendations.

Says O'Brien, "On balance, we're encouraged by the report and it's clear that much of what we do here at St. Thomas is already in keeping with some of Dr. Smith's recommendations. We attach a lot of importance to undergraduate teaching. Our classes are small. We have a fair representation of students who come from groups that have been traditionally disadvantaged in terms of higher education. And, as a community, we have a history of caring for our students that places us in a very advantageous position. We're convinced that we can improve our performance, especially in the area of curricular innovation and this report will help us to achieve that objective."

O'Brien says many of the concerns raised in the commission's report coincide with the university's plans to take a fresh look at teaching and the university's role as a centre for liberal education.

"Dr. Smith has called for greater faculty development and more innovation with respect to curricular design," says O'Brien. "This fits in well with our agenda and we plan to consult with the authors of the report to see how best to adopt their recommendations to our particular circumstances here at St. Thomas."

O'Brien points out that St. Thomas will be launching a major fund raising campaign early in the new year aimed at promoting teaching excellence. He says the report's recommendations will "be an invaluable asset" as the university defines ways of achieving its goal of becoming an innovator in liberal education.

"Our development plans are built around the goal of improving undergraduate teaching. From our perspective, this report could not have come at a better time. We want to be accountable and we want to be able to measure our performance. Dr. Smith suggests a number of ways that we can do this and we intend to look at his recommendations very closely as we proceed with our development plans."

For more information contact: Daniel O'Brien, president (506) 452-0537 or Mark Giberson, director of university relations and alumni affairs, St. Thomas University (506) 452-0521.

For more information about the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education contact Michelle Albagli, chief, media relations, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (613) 563-1236

## Blueroom renovations

by Kelley McDermott

Approximately \$2100 will be spent by the SUB on the installation of seven new fans in the "Blue Room" as a result of the stifling heat and the consequential odor that has become associated with it.

Kim Norris, the Director of the SUB, hopes to have the fans installed as soon as possible, but before anything can be done, the SUB advisory

board must first give their O.K. The board exists to advise the Director on building policies, such as what the SUB is being used for and whether changes should be made. Norris hopes to receive their approval by next week.

Once the installation of the fans begin, it will take approximately three weeks and it will hopefully be completed by early November.