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STU 2000 fund: how it began

(STUPRI) St. Thomas University has a long history of living within its means and making effective use of limited resources. The university has never had an operating deficit. Since relocating to the Fredericton campus in 1964, it has mounted only one public appeal for funds--a \$3.3 million fund-raising campaign undertaken between 1982 and 1985 which resulted in a modest addition to one of the university's academic buildings and which led to the establishment of chairs in Catholic theology, gerontology and native studies.

General operating expenditures per full time equivalent student are the lowest in New Brunswick. In 1989-1990, the latest year for which figures are available, they stood at \$4,241--less than half the provincial average. Tuition fees, while the lowest in the province, account for a larger percentage of general operating income (32.8 per cent in 1989-1990) than at any other New Brunswick university.

St. Thomas University faculty members teach more students, per capita, than do their counterparts at other provincial universities. In 1990-1991, the ratio of fulltime students to full-time faculty at St Thomas was 18.9 to one--nearly 25 per cent higher than the provincial average.

The university's impressive record of sound fiscal management is complemented by an equally impressive history of enrollment growth. Over the last decade, the full-time growth in enrollment at St. Thomas has exceeded that of any other university in the province. In 1980-1981, enrollment stood at 724 full-time students. By 1990-1991, it has more than doubled to 1,496 students.

Women account for a significant portion of this growth. In 1990-1991, 67.2 per cent of all full-time students at the university were women, well above the provincial average of 52.2 per cent.

Not only is St. Thomas serving a larger proportion of women students than any other institution in New Brunswick, it is also responding to the educational needs of a larger proportion of the province's economically disadvantaged. St. Thomas students who receive financial assistance through the Canada Student Loan program are among the most needy in New Brunswick.

The St. Thomas University community is proud of its accomplishments--of serving a distinctive clientele with cost effective, high-quality programs that lead to successful careers and, for an increasing number of its students, to further academic achievement at the graduate level. It is a community that is committed to enhancing the quality of undergraduate teaching and learning.

The St. Thomas University 2000 fund responds to the university's critical need for additional teaching space. It establishes a fund for teaching excellence to allow for innovation while enhancing the quality of undergraduate learning. And it provides for a scholarship fund to assist St. Thomas students with special needs.

Assertiveness Training with UNB Counselling Services

Press Release

If you're uncomfortable saying "no" when friends ask for favours, telling your partner what you need, negotiating with professors, dealing with family who persistently try to take charge of your life, or starting social conversations, then you may be interested in the Assertiveness Training Group offered by Counselling Services.

Assertiveness is the ability to express one's preferences, opinions, thoughts, and feelings in direct, honest and appropriate ways. It also means standing up for your own rights without violating the rights of others. When someone asks you out and you don't want to go, being assertive means negotiating a solution that takes into consideration what you both want. When you're angry at your partner, being assertive means telling your partner that.

The first part of the workshop involves brief lectures, demonstration of various assertive skills, and practice where participants learn "by doing" in role-played situations. Participants also receive constructive feedback so they can gradually change their behaviour. The importance of non-verbal communication is also emphasized early in the workshop. You may want to tell a friend that you need to study instead of continue talking, but the verbal message can get diluted by an overly soft voice, frequent pauses, or lack of eye contact.

Participants also learn what stops them from being more assertive. They learn to identify and explore the thoughts and feelings that make it difficult to respond assertively in specific situations. Sometimes being afraid of hurting a friend's feelings or losing a friendship can make it difficult to be assertive. But not talking directly to a friend can also hurt the relationship because, as resentments build, they can get expressed indirectly as sarcasm.

The group starts January 28, 1992 and will meet Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:00 pm for seven weekly sessions. It is free and open to any interested full-time or part-time student of UNB/STU. Interested persons will need to have a preliminary interview prior to attending the group. For more information or to register, contact Counselling Services at 453-4820.

