

UNB professors win award

Press Release

An article co-authored by three UNB sociology professors has received an award from the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education.

Brent McKeown, Allan Macdonell and Charles Bowman received the 1993-94 Sheffield Award for their article dealing with new ways of approaching and understanding why failure rates and dropouts rates in post secondary education are so high.

"It is a pleasure to receive this kind of recognition-as it always is when your work is judged in such a positive way by scholars of national stature," said McKeown about receiving the award.

He was also pleased to see the recognition because the paper deals with such an important area of study.

"In North America, the percentage of students who enrol in university but do not complete their studies ranges normally between 30 and 40 per cent," explained Bowman. "Higher education costs a lot of money. There is often an emotional cost as well for people who enrol but do not continue."

The three are looking at the rea-

sons students leave, their view of the consequences, and the effects on their later education and work experiences.

"The practical implications of the research will be important to several sectors," Macdonell said. "They will of course be of scholarly interest. The research may help identify predictors for successful completion of programs."

The findings may, in this way, also help public school and university policy makers.

The 20-page best article, which appeared in 1993 in the second issue, volume 23, of The Canadian Journal of Higher Education, was several years in the making.

For years the trio had noted the large numbers of dropouts before getting together in 1990 to try to figure out why the students were leaving. The paper is a much rewritten version of a presentation made in 1991 at the Learned Society meetings at Queen's University.

The three professors received a three-year grant totalling \$25,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in 1993 to conduct a more comprehensive study.

The Sheffield award is given to

the authors of the article judged to be most excellent of those published in the Canadian Journal of Higher Education during the year.

Among the selection criteria are overall contribution to Canadian higher education and accuracy and coherence of interpretation and conclusions.

In selecting this year's winner, committee members Naomi Hersom of the University of Ottawa, Dan Land of the University of Toronto, and Janet Donald of McGill University noted that the article was particularly well written and demonstrated that "originality is not a lost treasure."

"The authors seem to have reflected deeply and to have conducted their investigations with great thoroughness. The results challenge readers to consider new ways of looking at the world of post secondary students and to question conventional wisdom," they said.

This award honours the lifetime work of Edward F. Sheffield, first director of research for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, first editor of University Affairs, and a professor of higher education at the University of Toronto.

Nurses, from page 5

nationwide who form the National Advisory Committee for the duration of research.

During the first year, two sets of questionnaires will be distributed to the eight schools across Canada; one survey to first-year nursing students and the other to fourth-year students. This process is intended to discover changes in perceptions between those entering nursing schools and those with more experience.

"We want to find out what they perceive as abusive. They don't expect to be put in violent situations, so how do nurses learn their techniques?" said Theriault.

"We want to find out what they perceive is beneficial and what is lacking in the curriculum," said Ericson.

The group expects the first surveys back by January, and the second set back by spring 1995.

A second part of the study involves the formation of focus groups, which will be assembled at the respective schools of the NAC students.

In focus groups, members will discuss their personal encounters, how they handled things, and

what they learned through experience. This data is expected back by next spring as well.

"This project has really united the undergraduate and diploma schools," said Emery.

The final year of the project will be dedicated to the compilation of the data, and forming recommendations for curriculum changes to be sent to the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing.

"So we have a congruency between students and what's being taught," said Ericson.

The results will also be used to educate the public on these issues.

"Society needs to be aware that its not OK to lash out at nurses," said Ericson. "It isn't what nurses are there for."

In the meantime, the group will present updates at the next annual CNSA conference at Laval University in Quebec City this January, and at the Canadian Nursing Research Conference in June 1995.

They will present again in January 1996 at the CNSA annual which will be hosted by a school in Ontario.



Wet/Dry, from page 1.

change in status of the liquor licensing was at last week's Spirit of the West concert.

In the past, this oft scheduled band has played before a wet/dry audience. This year the SU planned to run it as a wet event under a Special Occasions Permit. However, it was pointed out to the SU and the NBLCB by a student upset about the failure to include underage students that the advertising for this event was illegal. As a result, the Student Union was forced to make it a dry event.

Estabrooks noted that in addition to cutting into expected revenues from the sale of alcohol, this also added to the expense of holding the concert.

"We had to add CPs when it went dry," he said. "Dry events encourage an abusive type of consumption.

One guy called to ask, 'Can you show up loaded?'"

The Student Union hosted another event last weekend under the Special Occasions Permit which did not cause the distribution of a petition as did the Spirit of the West concert.

This was Youth in Transition, which was moved from the SUB Ballroom to The Cellar last Saturday night because of poor ticket sales.

Estabrooks is unwilling to place blame on anyone for the failure to understand the laws of the Special Occasions Permit.

"We used the same process as for Jimmy Flynn last year," he said.

The Jimmy Flynn show was a wet event with no underage students allowed to attend. For this event the NBLCB allowed approved advertis-

ing. No attempt was made to have the advertising approved for the Spirit of the West concert this year.

It remains unclear if UNB's administration will attempt to reach some accommodation with the Student Union on this matter.

Roy Brostowski, Director of Housing and Food Services for UNB, is currently on vacation and is unavailable for comment.

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