

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesday at 12:00 noon. News Desk: 453-4983

UNB to open violence research centre

by Jonathan Stone

UNB has been selected as one of five universities for the creation of a permanent centre for research into family violence.

"We are very fortunate, because now when we do research, instead of saying it has to be over and done with in five years, we're going to be a permanent centre, so we can then do research the way it's supposed to be done," said Sandra Byers, the director of the new centre.

The other four universities that were chosen are: Western, UBC, Manitoba, and Montreal.

UNB's centre will be called The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation for Research into Family Violence, and will be associated with the Faculty of Arts.

What makes this centre different from the other five is that it will reflect the Atlantic provinces.

"One of our focuses is going to be research in rural areas and small and isolated communities, which is particular to the Maritimes," Byers explained.

According to her, this theme will be a guideline for much of the centre's research.

"Most of the research has been done in large, urban settings, and that's not the same story. The so-

lutions are not the same," she said, "We need 'Made in Atlantic Canada' solutions, and this is a centre for all of Atlantic Canada."

One of the centre's projects will be a longitudinal study which will follow children and families for many years to gain a better understanding of the cycle of violence. In this instance, the data will be collected in the community, and will be organized and analyzed on campus.

The new centre will provide students with a chance to become involved.

"Part of the goal of the centre is training students in family violence research," said Byers, "There will be an opportunity for students in any number of departments who want to be involved with the research as part of their programme; other students may be involved in the research as a hired research assistant."

She expects the centre to attract an array of backgrounds for projects, including those studying psychology, sociology, law, nursing, education and women's studies.

Students are not alone in their interest in the centre.

"We already have more than 30 faculty who want to be involved

in the research of the centre, so, this is really going to be a university-wide research endeavour," stated Byers, "As we get more faculty, we may be able to offer more courses in the area."

The centre will provide an information resource centre, which will be added to the library's existing collection on family violence.

The push for such centres came after the murders of 14 women at L'École Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.

Health and Welfare Canada and the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada responded by issuing a call for pro-

posals from any interested post-secondary and community organization partnerships.

From 43 applicants, an arms-length selection committee evaluated each one to determine its excellence with respect to the objectives and criteria of the program, then short-listed 13.

After a second evaluation, the final five were chosen.

According to the selection committee, "the successful submissions showed on-going collaboration between the community and academic components of the research centre; demonstrated the ability to impart research training opportunities; planned to

communicate their findings to policy makers and the general public; and will be financially self-sufficient within five years."

Health and Welfare Canada and the SSHRC have granted each centre \$500 000 over five years.

As well UNB's centre will receive an additional \$25 000 a year, for five years, from the provincial government.

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation has launched a fund-raising campaign with a goal of \$2.5 million.

After five years, the interest on this amount will sustain the operations of the centre, Byers said.

Consumers' Guide to UNB

by Laurie MacLean

The Student Union is putting together a handbook designed to help students choose their courses. The book will be called "The Consumers Guide to the University of New Brunswick" and will include information about courses and instructors which was gathered through surveys of UNB students.

The guide is intended to allow students to learn the opinions of other students before deciding to sign up for courses. This is meant to give students additional information to that found in the course calendar.

The idea for this guide came

from a similar project at University of Toronto. For the past 10 years the Anti Calendar has been published at the University of Toronto with much success.

This year at UNB students from 110 courses in the Arts and Engineering Faculties were surveyed and will be included in the guide. The Student Union hopes to expand the project to include more Faculties in coming years.

The surveys used to gather information contained two types of questions. The first section asks students to use a ranking system to rate the course in the areas of difficulty, work required,

and personal interest. Instructors are rated in terms of their marking system, accessibility and teaching skills. The second section allowed students to make comments and suggestions concerning the course in which they were surveyed and the instructor.

The results of the rating section of the survey will be compiled by the Student Union. Someone from outside the university will be hired to compile and edit information received in the comment section of the survey. The guide will be published in August and will be available for students who will be attending UNB.

News Notes

Grad Class Project Set

by Mark I. Minor

The Brunswickan has learned that the class of '93 project has been finalized. The chosen project involves the purchase of library books for the UNB library system. Class President Mary Dable says that each graduate's donation will contribute the price of a book but will probably not cover the complete cost as books range between \$35 and \$80 on the average.

The Graduate Donor's name will be placed inside the books cover in order to recognize the contribution. The class executive is working on procuring corporate sponsorship for additional recognition for those generous grads who choose to participate. Dable asserts that the project is much needed in light of the current deterioration of the library system's book collections.

Dable comments that the Project vote which was held through a ballot published in the Bruns yielded the following results: Library Book Project, 46%; Bricks and Mortar, 30%; Playground Trust, 24%. The total number of ballots cast was 74.

Information sessions held on MUSIC system

Changes have been made in the system by which students will get their marks. A new information facility is available for students on the UNB Fredericton campus. For example, with the new system students can

- display their status in the library circulation system, i.e., review a list of any library books borrowed and any outstanding fines,
- display the courses in which he or she is enrolled for the current term along with the marks when they are available,
- display the examination timetable, and
- display UNB transcript

Other options may be available at a later date.

This information is available via the UNB Student Services menu in MUSIC. MUSIC is one of the primary computer services offered at UNB. Every fulltime student on the Fredericton Campus is assigned a MUSIC logon id and password during registration.

If a student has never used MUSIC before, he or she might want to take advantage of one of the seminars coming up next week (November 30-December 4). Each seminar will tell where one can access MUSIC, how to get a MUSIC id password (if the green sheet given out at registration has been lost), how to logon to MUSIC, how to access the student services menu and how to log off. The 45 minute session will be repeated every day between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm (bring your lunch) in HC11, Head Hall.

What: Accessing the Students Services Information Menu

Where: Room HC11, Head Hall

When: November 30-Dec.4 12:30-1:30 pm

For information, contact computing services at 453-4573.

Debate held between UNB&STU classes

by Erin Fellows and Laurie MacLean

On Saturday, November 21, a debate was held between Dr. Daizal Samad's UNB classes and his STU class.

Samad is a professor of English at both universities and it was his goal to try and bring the two universities closer together with this debate. The topic of discussion was: be it resolved that one full year of teacher training be added to the graduate program of those who wish to be university professors. UNB, as the government, debated for the issue, while STU opposed it.

When asked why such an event was undertaken, Samad pointed out that the experience gained by the classes was invaluable.

According to Samad, "The students used the library, interviewed fellow students and professors, did surveys, and sought out relevant specialists. They also learned to argue logically, coherently, and clearly. Many of these skills will hold them in good stead later on in university."

He claims that the classes are never the same after events like these: "There is a greater closeness, a sense of sharing with and caring for each other" that includes everyone. Samad hopes to see more of this sort of activity being encouraged formally - especially first year classes.

The perimeters set by the government included teaching a light course load as well as

attending classes, seminars and conferences to improve teaching skills.

STU countered with a series of questions including: who would teach the students in this program to teach?, where the money for such a program would come from?, and why change an

already good system?

The judges, who were Dr. Ian Fraser of STU, Dr. Anthony Boxill of UNB, and Dr. Eve Galloway of Midland Walwyn Capital Inc., must have had a hard time in determining the winners. In the end, however, STU as opposition prevailed.

SUB expansion...continued from page 1

"Communication with the Graduate Students' Association has been a bit difficult," Burchill says. "They just don't seem to answer our enquiries."

SUB Director Kim Norris, a member of the SUB Expansion Advisory Committee, says the university is always looking to improve student services and facilities.

Norris says since he became SUB Director in the mid 1980's there have been five general complaints about SUB facilities, mainly from students.

"Tenants and student groups have been complaining about the lack of storage space and they're right," Norris says. The second big complaint comes from student groups organizing events.

"The SUB Ballroom is too small and the Cafeteria is too large and ill suited for some events. We really need a facility that will accommodate about one thousand people," he comments.

Complaint number three centers around the lack of meeting rooms, Norris says.

"Only three rooms are available for group meetings and they're usually booked solid sometimes weeks in advance."

"I've heard many students express a desire to see all of UNB's student services located in one building especially the Health Centre," he says.

"And the fifth complaint is one of access and lack of a public elevator. We've helped solve access problems to all floors of the building for physically challenged students by issuing them keys to the elevator, but they cannot gain access to CHSR-FM or Student Union offices on the second floor of the office wing because there is no elevator on a stairs in this area. It's an unsolvable problem," Norris says.

"Last year a local service groups wanted to promote funding an outside elevator for the building but that costs over 100 thousand dollars," said Norris. "Maybe we can help solve all of these problems if SUB expansion gets the go ahead from students."