

# the Riviera

club which takes excursions to the heart of the French Alps. During weekends and holidays, Blythe & Company sponsor excursions to various places, including Paris, Barcelona, Corsica, Italy for biking, Christmas in Africa, Morocco, or Greece. All of the excursions are at an extra cost, but reduced rates through Blythe.

With Blythe & Company taking care of the organizational aspects of the venture, Laurentian covered the administrative duties. "Laurentian had the infrastructure to contact the other universities in the country and the government organizations concerned, to set up a curriculum for the school, and to plan



*The main gates welcome you to UCF*



the admissions and enrollment procedures," said Shaw.

Because this is the first year for the Universite, the curriculum is quite limited in the courses it offers. There are only courses in humanities and languages, with very little selection between them. It is an eight month program, two semesters, with a five course load per semester.

Although there are quotas per province, they are very flexible. Said Shaw, "The numbers are there only as a guideline to ensure across Canada representation."

There is also no need to be worried about straight A's to get accepted. The admission requirements are a complete year of study at a Canadian university with a C plus average or better. "But we believe that not just marks are indicative of a student's ability," said Shaw. "Especially in this kind of environment. You need a strong, independent person who can handle living in a completely different culture. Someone who cannot only offer something to the school, but also get something out of the program. Your average 90% student isn't always the one who can do that."

The Application Committee, headed by Assistant Registrar of Laurentian University Matthew Brennan, is made up of both Laurentian people and representatives from Blythe & Company. The deadline for applications is March 1, and students will know within three weeks whether they are accepted. "The students need to know right away, but we need to know who our committed students are also," said Shaw.

**"Neither organization could have done this without the other. Especially the way university monies are being handled these days."**

Of course, the other major worry is money. How can anyone afford to go to school in the south of France? This is where you have to prioritize. The fees do run a bit higher than typical education costs. Tuition is \$1503 and travel and accommodation are covered by \$5192. On top of that, there is a \$300 damage deposit, a recommended \$275 for extra health insurance available through the university, cost for books, supplies, spending money, and food.

Since the Universite is a Canadian institution, federal and provincial loan programs do apply. Plus the Universite itself will offer scholarships and bursaries.

According to Shaw, although other university administrators have tried to set up their own campus in Europe in the 20's and 50's, "This is the first time they've got through the red tape and made this sort of an institution happen."

*By Sherri Ritchie*

*Photos courtesy of Blythe & Company*