

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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ATHLETICS, THEATRE, COUNSELLING

New academic programs are established

In the October 9th issue of *Excalibur*, we reported on two new academic programs at York University: science journalism and mass communications. In this issue, we present three additional new academic programs: those offered by the department of physical education and athletics; the rehabilitation program offered jointly by York and Seneca College, which opens in 1981-82; and the graduate level program in theatre performance.

York's department of physical education and athletics now offers certification programs in coaching, advanced coaching, and sports administration to both degree and non-degree candidates. Faculty of Arts degree candidates will receive their certificates in addition to their BA degrees.

Ruth Grogan, associate professor of English, and associate dean of the Faculty of Arts, explains: "These new certificates in

coaching and sports administration should be seen, first of all, as a response to government sports policy and to social needs. The need for special expertise in these fields is evident when one looks at the increasingly complex organizational structure of Canadian sport. It includes a network of government agencies at the federal, provincial, regional and local levels, supportive alliances with business corporations, organiza-

tions concerned with sports medicine and sports sciences, and many sports disciplines with uncertain or non-existent communication and organizational links. Further complicating this world is its recognized basis in voluntary efforts."

The certification idea was a natural outgrowth of the specialization "streams" that had already existed for years in the department.

Among other certificate programs in physical education proposed for the future are: fitness assessment and exercise counselling, sports therapy, and leisure studies.

For more information on the new programs, contact the Department of physical education and athletics.

personnel in the early 1950s, when he worked for many years in the field of rehabilitation counselling.

Current faculty members in the departments of psychology and sociology will give the theoretical courses at York. New applied courses will be mounted at Seneca for the maximum of 25 students who will be allowed to enrol initially.

Students would be eligible for admission to the joint program after two years of a BA program; it involves four years of study for an ordinary degree, five years for a general honours. Graduates would hold both a BA in psychology from York and a certificate in rehabilitation counselling from Seneca.

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Another first in Canada will be the graduate level program in theatre performance. Coordinator of this two-year MFA program will be internationally recognized voice expert David Smukler. Professor Smukler, formerly head of voice and speech at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, has lectured at the Lincoln Centre and taught voice at New York University's School of the Arts.

The graduate program in theatre is for those interested in advanced and applied studies in performance, directing, design, production/management, playwriting/dramaturgy and/or criticism.

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The program in rehabilitation counselling offered jointly by York and Seneca College will start accepting applications this November for the 1981-82 academic year. It is the first university level program in rehabilitation counselling in Canada; until now community colleges, such as Seneca or Humber, provided training.

Prof. Hy Day (Psychology), who was instrumental in the creation of the new joint program, says "The lack of adequate training in rehabilitation counselling is startling and disquieting." He first realized the need for better trained

She's a 'top' teacher

The Toronto Star recently asked its readers to nominate Canada's top professors and published the eleven best responses. One of the favorites mentioned was a part-time lecturer here at York. Laura Ruderfer has been teaching English and Theatre Arts since 1972, and is currently doing a Ph.D. on Tennessee Williams.

In an interview with Ms. Ruderfer, she defines her attitude towards teaching: "dedication...a passionate interest in learning and communicating ideas...psychology...stimulus...pleasure...empathy...mentor..."

The first hurdle with students is to loosen their minds from high-school-bred "intellectual taxidermy," she says. At the start of the year, she tells her students: "It's an odyssey now, I want to teach you how to think." Students might write a poem on an object in the room; and throughout the year share films, art books and sometimes theatre.

She says she has no formula. "I try to be myself. I try treating the students as human beings, as individuals." While she is "fair and demanding," humor and enjoyment are key ingredients. The academic year is usually punctuated with an informal get-together at Ms. Ruderfer's home.

While not teaching, Ms. Ruderfer acts for theatre and film. She muses about the time she arrived in class still in costume—as a hooker. In a more serious vein, she adds how this impromptu event helped to reinforce the spontaneity and enjoyment she aims for in the classroom.

Ms. Ruderfer's desire to teach began during her undergrad years at Waterloo Lutheran University. While living in an apartment there, the superintendent's wife invited her for tea and cookies one day, and confided that she wished her husband 'Herbie' would better his grade six education and get a good job. On a separate occasion, when 'Herbie' came to fix Ms. Ruderfer's radiator, he too confided that he would like to better himself.

'Herbie' later asked Ms. Ruderfer if she could help him with his grammar, should he decide to return to school; she complied. The story ends on an astonishing note: 'Herbie' is now a chartered accountant with a prestigious firm, living in an exclusive part of town. It was discovered he was mathematically gifted.

Ms. Ruderfer says she hadn't even thought about teaching until the Herbie incident, adding that her



Laura Ruderfer

own contact with York professors while studying towards an MA provided further inspiration. "They (York professors) took an interest in me...I found a mentor."

Other experiences played in important role. Seven years as a don of Bethune College facilitated an empathy with students. There is also a love of the theatre. "I try to be the director and the class is the ensemble." Her eyes light up when she talks about the "transformation" in her students towards the middle of the year when they become more independent and emerge from their "cocoon of fear."

Here is the Toronto Star essay written by Frank Bruzzese reproduced in full:

"Whatchya taking?" asked a friend.

"An English course," I replied with a smile.

"Ugh! How can you stand it?" he said, pulling a face. "I thought you had more sense."

CCO opens season Nov. 17

In celebration of York's 20th Anniversary, the Community Chamber Orchestra of York University (CCO) will open its 1980-81 season with the world premiere of Fanfare, Prayer and Alleluia for Symphony Orchestra, a new work by Canadian composer Milton Barnes.

The 55-member CCO, under the direction of music professor James McKay, performs baroque, eighteenth century, early nineteenth century, and twentieth century pieces. Its members include both amateur and professional musicians of all ages; one-quarter of them are York faculty and students.

Three CCO concert programs have been planned for this year.

The first, for mid-November, includes the Barnes work, and also Concerto in G Major for Viola and String Orchestra by Georg Philipp

I might have said the same, until I came across BC145 at York University, instructed by Laura Ruderfer, a vivacious woman concerned for her students and intensely fired with life and learning. It was obvious that teaching meant more to Laura than droning through dusty texts and coming to consciousness in time to hustle to the bank clutching her pay cheque.

"Fasten your seatbelts," she said. "You're about to fly with some stimulating ideas." And we did. We flew from English to mythology to philosophy to psychology, relating, reflecting, challenging, questioning, and discovering—usually more and more about ourselves. In all our proceedings, she had the flexibility, sensitivity and determination of a ballerina, while encouraging and demanding our best. In her sincerity and devotion, she gave and gave unselfishly at 100% knowing all the time she would never have it returned. We worked, trusted, and listened, accepting treasures that could not be measured, weighed, or taken from us. Laura left us something that took her a lifetime to collect—ideas and interpretations that would now encourage our own. To Laura, who said, "If I can help only one person, it will all be worthwhile," I can only say, "Thank you." (I returned to school unsteadily after a 10-year absence. Laura's example has encouraged me to stay in.)

Telemann (Donald DiNovo, soloist), and Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92 by Ludwig van Beethoven. The Orchestra will play these pieces on November 17 in McLaughlin College's McLaughlin Hall, on November 23 downtown at the Church of the Holy Trinity (behind the Eaton Centre), and on November 24 in Theatre Glendon at Glendon College.

The Orchestra's second program, made up entirely of works by Franz Schubert, takes place on February 15 and 16—first in Burton Auditorium and then in the Church of the Holy Trinity.

The third program includes works by Arnold Schonberg and Richard Strauss, to be performed April 12 in the Church of the Holy Trinity, and April 13 at Burton Auditorium.

All concerts take place at 8 p.m. Admission is free and no tickets are required.

Footnotes

CUSO holds meeting Wednesday, Nov. 19 in Ross, S869

CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) is now looking for teachers, business specialists, and environmentalists for work in Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific. Cam Bowes, CUSO recruiter for Toronto, will host a general information meeting at York on Wednesday, November 19 at 4 p.m. in the faculty lounge in S869 Ross. At this meeting CUSO representatives will discuss their many different projects overseas in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific; a slide show will also be shown by a former CUSO worker.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with CUSO either abroad or as an on-campus representative, but is unable to attend this meeting, can contact Mr. Bowes at 978-4022.

CUSO, a private, non-profit organization, was formed in 1961 to coordinate the overseas volunteer programs of various Canadian universities. Since then some 7,000 CUSO volunteers have been recruited to fill manpower gaps in developing countries.

Upcoming graduates of York's Faculties of Education (particularly those with English as a Second Language training) and Administrative Studies, are invited

to apply, as are those from the Faculties of Arts and Science who have concentrations in English, Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry. It is not necessary to have a teaching certificate to teach in secondary schools in most of these countries. It is only necessary if the volunteer will be teaching teachers.

Mr. Bowes says that salary offered by CUSO will be comparable to that of a similarly qualified teacher in the host country. This may be very low compared to Canadian salaries, but adequate to maintain a modest, comfortable lifestyle. Other benefits include a pre-departure orientation program, airfare overseas and back, complete medical and dental coverage as well as housing in most cases.

Socialism talk on Tues. Nov. 11 Bethune, Rm. 320

The first talk of the Socialism and Democracy discussions will take place in Bethune College, Room 320 on Tuesday, November 11. Sociology professor Ioan Davies will speak about "Civil Rights or Civil Society." The second talk, "The Emerging Christian Left," will be given by Gregory Baum from U. or T. on November 25. The series of six talks will run until February.