

Universities have new information base

As a result of just answering the questions in a nationwide study, universities now have an information base on policies and practices in continuing education.

"It's the first charting of the waters for continuing education operations in Canada," said John Morris, director of extension and summer session at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. One of the primary investigators of the report, Dr. Morris has nurtured the idea of an information base on organizations, structures, personnel, financing and programs in continuing education since 1978.

"There was no single source of information for people in the field of continuing education to consult," he explained. Every time universities wanted information for planning purposes, they would have to conduct their own survey of other universities. For example, if university officials wanted to know how their age requirements for adult learners stacked up against those at other institutions, they would conduct a telephone or mail survey.

At first, Dr. Morris envisioned the report on policies and practices in continuing education as an Atlantic region study. "But as I began to identify the topics, it became clear that the need for data was just as strong at the national level." When the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education became interested in the idea four years ago, Dr. Morris became a member of its project advisory committee, and the project "took off from there." Funding was provided jointly by the association and the Secretary of State.

One of the more time-consuming aspects of the project was developing the survey questions. "Continuing education means so many things to so many people," Dr. Morris observed. Some universities are devoted mainly to continuing education, and others not nearly as much. One university in the survey group was totally dedicated to distance education, that is, courses offered at off-campus locations. "We had to make the questions meaningful for universities with differing emphases."

A summary report of the

responses from the 45 institutions that participated in the survey has just been published by the association. The answers to the questions have also been coded and fed into a database that is stored at the association's Ottawa headquarters. Members can ask for selected data to be sent to them electronically, and they can do cross-tabulations of data. As future studies are done, such as a projected follow-up in 1990, the information in the

database will be updated. New kinds of information, for example, data on financial assistance for part-time students across the country, will be coded and married with the original data.

Michael Brooke, assistant director of the extension department at UNB, also served as a primary investigator with Dr. Morris. Members of the advisory committee included Larry Devlin of the University of Victoria;

Herb Kindred, University of Regina, and Mark Waldron, University of Guelph. Research assistance was provided by Wendy Watkins and Ken Innes of Carleton University, Ottawa.

"We spent a lot of nights and weekends during the past year doing the report," Dr. Morris said. If the queries, positive comments and requests for copies from various sources since its release are any indication, it was time well spent.

Birren to deliver STU Creamer Lectures

Dr. James E. Birren, Ph.D., D.Sc., internationally renowned gerontologist, will deliver St. Thomas University's annual Dr. T. LeRoy Creamer Lectures in Gerontology, March 21-23.

"Autobiography: The Study of Lives" is the title of the lecture which he will deliver Monday, March 21 beginning at 8:00 pm in St. Thomas University's Edmund Casey Auditorium. In this lecture Dr.

Birren will discuss the significance of life review and the technique of "guided autobiography" as an approach to research in the psychology of aging.

A pioneer in the field of aging, Dr. Birren's career in gerontology has spanned more than forty years. He is currently Director, Institute for Advanced Study in Gerontology and Geriatrics, at the University of Southern California

Prior this appointment, he served the university for 21 years as Dean, Leonard Davis School of Gerontology; and as

Executive Director of the Andrus Gerontology Center, one of the world's largest and most comprehensive gerontology facilities.

The public is invited to attend the 1988 Dr. T. LeRoy Creamer Lectures in Gerontology.



SUPER LADIES NIGHT

At the Arms
from 7 - 8 pm

Thursday
March 24th

Comedian Robert Labreque
Free Admission

ICS XTE:



- Intel 8088 - 2 CPU
- turbo 8 MZH Speed
- 640 K RAM
- Hercules - Compatible MGC
- 12" TTL Monitor
- Parallel/Serial/Games Ports
- Clock/8 Slots/150 WPS
- Full Year Warranty-CSA Approved

System with one Floppy and
20 Meg Hard Drive
\$1499.00

Star WX1000 Printer
\$399.00

MS DOS 3.2 or Higher
\$149



554 Queen St.
Fredericton, N.B.
458-8858

Interactive Computer Systems Ltd.