

NEWS

News Editors: Cynthia Kirkby and Joe FitzPatrick Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Newsbits

UNB CS in SE Asia

The University of New Brunswick's Computer Science program will reach Southeast Asia within the year.

"Starting next September, students in Japan and China will be able to take the first year of UNB's computer science program in their own country," said Robin Armstrong, President of UNB. "If they are successful, we will guarantee admission to the second year of the program in Fredericton." This arrangement is a direct outcome of Armstrong's visit to Southeast Asia last spring.

"The courses will mirror the content of those offered at UNB and have the same academic standards," said Dana Wasson, Dean of the Computer Science faculty at UNB. "As the only Computer Science Faculty in Canada, we have a lot of credibility with international students."

"North America is leading Asia in software development and, at UNB, we can offer Asian students a more up-to-date education in software than they can get at home." He adds that because of fierce competition for admission to universities in Japan and China, many qualified students are unable to pursue computer science degrees there.

Current and future students at UNB will also realize benefits from this agreement. "We expect anywhere from 25 to 50 students from Southeast Asia to enter the second year of our program in September 1997," said Wasson. "This will mean adding extra sections to our second-year courses which will result in our average class size going down."

New major: Law in Society

The relationship between law and society forms the basis of a new program offered through the Faculty of Arts at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Law in Society combines courses from numerous disciplines and three separate Faculties allowing students to major in this subject area.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program is reflected by the composition of the program committee. It includes co-ordinators Jack Iwanicki, Philosophy Department and Linda Neilson, Sociology Department; plus administrative committee members Beverley Smith, Faculty of Law; and Stephen Law, Economics Department.

Courses offered through the program are ones that already exist at the university, but have not been previously organized as a field of study. "UNB has a great deal of expertise at the undergraduate level in terms of academic legal studies," Neilson explained. "Students have been combining, but not receiving credit, for this natural cluster. Unfortunately, because they couldn't declare this as a major, it was difficult for some students to take as many selections as they wanted."

Students are eligible for the program after completing 60 credit hours or two years towards an Arts or Administration degree. Arts participants must combine their major in Law and Society with a major in another discipline. Courses are drawn from a comprehensive list of core and elective selections.

UNB Nursing in Sweden

Sondra Johanson and Ulrika Sandell are completing the practicum requirements for their nursing degrees at Pine Grove Nursing Home in Fredericton. When they graduate in the new year, they will receive their degrees, not from the University of New Brunswick, but from the College of Health and Caring Sciences in Umea, Sweden.

They're part of an ongoing exchange program between UNB's faculty of Nursing and the college in Umea. Through the exchanges, participants aim to learn different nursing practices and new teaching techniques, as well as draw on the successes of their respective health-care systems.

Both students see many similarities between the two countries' approaches to health care and to the education of nurses. "The differences are mostly small, although tuition in Sweden is free," said Johanson. "Our teaching terms and vacations are structured differently."

Earlier this year, UNB Nursing professors Valerie Gilbey and Dianne McCormack traveled to Umea to gather information from health-care instructors there, share their own expertise, and facilitate future exchanges. A further faculty exchange is planned for this spring when UNB Nursing professors Mary Dupuis and Roberta Ellingsen will travel to Umea to teach, observe, and discuss research potential.

Sustainable forests, by UNB

Four researchers at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton are helping ensure Canada's continued leadership in forest stewardship and environmentally responsible forestry practices as part of a new nationwide network.

The network, which is headed up by the Environmental Research and Studies Centre at the University of Alberta, brings together a diverse and geographically dispersed assemblage of Canadian scientists and industrial participants. Awarded almost \$11 million over four years, its researchers will investigate forest industry energy and waste management in addition to ecosystem-aware forest management techniques and forestry practices.

Tony Diamond, Glen Jordan, Dan Keppie, and Ian Methven, all members of the faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management at UNB, will provide research support in areas critical to the success of the network, including spatial forest modeling, software engineering, forest landscape patterns and ecosystem processes, ecology, and ornithology.

Council kills deal with Zoomers

Brunswick News

The Student Union Council has unilaterally ended its four-year agreement with the Continuing Adult Mature Part-time University Students organization. The agreement, signed by former SU president James vanRaalte was adopted by Council in 1992.

The agreement was meant to be a solution to the problem of SU members having to pay the CAMPUS fee when they took intersession and summer session courses. The agreement had the Student Union pay the CAMPUS fee for each full-time student enrolled in intersession and summer session; this made Union members eligible for the CAMPUS part-time scholarships.

Duncan Fulton, during the meeting at which this decision was reached, told Council "CAMPUS allocation - nobody knows what this is."

The Brunswick has learned that prior



Duncan Fulton crunching numbers.

Photo by Mark Bray

to the budget meeting, Fulton had asked the Recording Secretary, Joe FitzPatrick, about the allocation, who relayed the details of the agreement to Fulton.

"I knew what it was because last year I had found the agreement in the Council Minutes for 1992-3. I remember distinctly

Duncan asking me what the allocation was for, and why we had it," said FitzPatrick. "I thought I had explained it to him and that he understood what it was for."

When asked why Fulton did not relay this information to Council, FitzPatrick declined to comment.

Food Services petition circulated

by Gordon Loane
Brunswick News

A petition has been circulating on the UNB campus since late November calling for improved food service in the Student Union Building on campus.

The petition, initiated by UNB Student Union VP Trish Davidson has collected several hundred signatures to date.

The petition notes the lack of nutritional content in food selection, the lack of availability with regards to vegetarian and low fat menu items, the high cost of nutritional items versus high fat content items (i.e. cheaper to buy fast food items) and

the limited hours of operation of certain SUB food services.

"The petition is a culmination of complaints I've been receiving since at least last summer," said Davidson.

Just as an example, Davidson cites the needs of International Students. "There isn't a big selection available to them at certain hours in the SUB because many do not eat meat," she said.

Davidson sits on the Advisory Committee on the Food Service Contract and thought the petition would be timely.

"We have a decision to make about food services and I thought the petition would provide input to the Committee. This is certainly not

intended to bash Beaver Foods, the current food services provider," she said.

"This petition is meant as a positive gesture but it also sends a message to me. The number of names on the petition seems to indicate that there is room for improvement in the food service being provided at the moment."

"Perhaps it also indicates that over the last couple of years there are new customers with different eating habits."

Davidson has stopped circulating the petition and hopes to have it collected for presentation to the Advisory Committee in about two weeks.

New Grad Class Project chosen

by Gordon Loane
Brunswick News

Better lighting on the UNB Campus was the top vote-getter when 25 graduating students turned up at a meeting in early December to select the 1996 Graduating Class Project.

Despite the low turnout on a snowy December night just before the end of classes and exams, project chair Tareq Islam says everything will move forward.

The lighting project was one of ten proposals on the ballot.

Just where the lighting will be located once fund raising is completed is still undecided, according to Islam.

"Physical plant has been asked to assist us with location, cost, purchase of equipment and installation. We should have some preliminary information within a couple of weeks and the Grad Class Executive will then be in a position to make a final decision on location and costs," he said.

Islam said the project will have a financial limit of \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Cost was the major factor behind a decision to scrap a projection voted on earlier. That decision, made in early fall, would have had an iron archway built across the University gates.

"Once physical plant estimated the whole project would cost some \$25,000, it was decided not to proceed," said Islam.

"Fundraising will proceed quite quickly. We will be meeting with Grad Class Faculty representatives very soon. Each graduate will be asked to contribute \$25 to the project," he said.

"Rick Cuthbertson of UNB's

Development office will be helping us with the fundraising campaign."

Each graduate will be receiving a letter and a follow-up phone call and parents will be asked to support the project as well.

Islam said a plaque will also be installed mentioning the names of all those who contributed to the success of the project.

Venture gets Xmas bonus

UNB is \$2.1 million richer thanks to three separate donations to the Venture Capital Campaign.

The Irving family will provide \$1 million towards the construction of a new Biology and Engineering building on the Saint John Campus. They have also donated \$500,000 to the Harriet Irving Library on the Fredericton Campus.

"The Irving gift represents the largest contribution UNB has ever received from a private sector donor," said UNB President Robin Armstrong.

Meanwhile, John Teskey, the Director of Libraries at UNBF said that the Irving gift could not have come at a better time. "Our acquisitions budget has been under pressure for many years now," he said.

"Interdisciplinary programs are continuing to grow and new courses and programs appear annually. The Irving gift will allow the library to build the collections necessary to support [them]."

In addition, the Weston Foundation has given \$500,000 to the Venture campaign to support the relocation of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering. The Institute is set to be moved to the Provincial Tertiary Rehabilitation Services Centre to be constructed at the DEC Hospital in Fredericton.

Finally, UNB Alumnus Bill Lewis (BScEE '62) has donated \$100,000 to provide long term, stable support for the musician-in-residence program.