

Renaissance College admits a diverse group of students

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB's newest academic program, Renaissance College, has managed to attract a diverse group to its inaugural class.

The 22 students come from all parts of New Brunswick and from such provinces as P.E.I., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and Ontario.

Attracted to the first undergraduate leadership-based academic program in Canada, the typical Renaissance College student had "A" level grades in high school and received good scholarship offers from several other universities.

Many were student council presidents or executive members, valedictorians, captains of an athletic team or two, involved in charities or community groups, and had travelled while in high school to student conferences - or had taken excursions internationally.

Most were directed to apply to Renaissance College by high school principals or guidance counsellors as well as UNB Alumni.

"I'm proud to say that three of our students this year are holders of Canadian Merit Scholarships," said Terry Haggerty, Dean of Renaissance College. "Two of them were recently in Calgary with 20 others from across Canada meeting with the Prime Minister."

Another student just returned from Calais, France, after participating as a member of the Canadian Biathlon team while another mature student was a few days late arriving this Fall after giving a talk to a farmer's group in Boston and travelling to Ethiopia as a delegate for Oxfam.

"We have students interested in Business, Physics, English Literature, languages and pre-Med," Haggerty explained.

Needless to say, choosing students for admission to Renaissance College was not an easy task, given the number of exceptional people who applied. The Committee of Admissions, composed of the faculty members teaching at Renaissance College, established three main criteria upon which to judge applicants.

Three main questions were asked, according to Haggerty: "What can the College offer the student, what can

the student offer the College, and what can the students offer each other?"

In addition to high school transcripts, each applicant was asked to submit a resume and outline his/her educational and career goals. As well, Haggerty and Assistant Dean Dolores Furlong, talked to prospective students throughout the admission period and the summer months, sometimes for up to one hour each.

While the Committee of Admissions was quite selective in admitting students to the program it seemed to pay off. "In some programs, you make offers of admission to students and sit back and see who accepts the offers," Haggerty said.

"We were pleasantly surprised when 22 of the 24 students who were offered admission accepted. One other accepted our offer but deferred admission until next year for personal reasons, while the other decided not to come mainly for financial reasons," Haggerty said.

Faculty members at Renaissance College, who are called Faculty Integrators, were chosen from among current professors and staff at UNB Fredericton or UNB Saint John. "We sent out a call for Faculty from those who had expressed an interest beforehand, and from those who had been involved in the organization of Renaissance College from its beginning in 1998," Haggerty explained.

Since professors for Renaissance College were being seconded on a full or part-time basis from other Faculties on both campuses, Haggerty said an arrangement had to be made that was mutually beneficial.

"We worked out an arrangement where we are able to provide the cooperating faculties with enough money that they could use to hire a professor at the assistant level," he said.

For the current year, two professors (three next year) will receive 100 percent of their salary from Renaissance College, three receive 50 percent and one 33 percent. Others will receive salaries for teaching certain modules or for other involvement.

The Faculty Integrators chosen this year include Dr. Gerry Clarke and Dr. Jennifer Pazienza, Faculty of Education; Dr. David Rehorick, Faculty of Arts; Dr. Al Sharp, Dean

of the Faculty of Science; Dr. Pierre Zundel, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management; and John Valk of the Campus Ministry team.

Officers of the College include Terry Haggerty, Dean; Dolores Furlong, Assistant Dean, and Kate Rogers, College Co-ordinator.

Students at Renaissance College this Fall are taking such courses as Comparative Study of Cultures and World Religions, Concepts of Enhancing Personal Well Being, and Power of Images and Images of Power.

Students also take one other elective at UNB and participate in two Renaissance College Integrative Forums.

Most courses at Renaissance College are held in the late afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. but every Thursday, one forum begins at 2:30 until 5:30 p.m., and resumes at 7:00 pm after a dinner break and continues until 10:00 p.m.

During the Winter term, students will enroll in courses on Citizenship and Community Issues, Natural Science, Technology and Society, Mathematical and Economic Approaches to Problem Solving, take one elective course at UNB and participate in two more Renaissance College Integrative Forums.

This Summer, students will participate in a 10 to 12 week internship in various organizations, mostly in the Maritime provinces, and take a Summer course in Leadership Theories and Concepts.

In year two, students will be introduced to various public policy special topics, Leadership in Theory and Practice, and Directed Studies in Interdisciplinary Leadership as well as take seven electives throughout the year.

In the Summer of 2002, students will participate in a global Cross-cultural Perspective of Leadership course before embarking on a 10 to 12 week International Internship in a non-English speaking country.

In third year, students take eight electives as well as four other Renaissance based courses in Leadership, Public Policy and Community Problem Solving and Research.

The three and a half year program leads to a Bachelor of Philosophy in Leadership Studies.

UNB Professor played part in International Archeological dig

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

The Brunswickan

A UNB professor in Geodesy and Geomatics has played a fundamental role in an international archeological project involving the oldest and most completely preserved of the oasis cities along the Silk Route in central Asia.

Dr. Peter Dare joined the International Merv Project in Turkmenistan (North of Iran) to create a geodetic control network infrastructure connected to the International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS) by use of International Global Positioning System Service (IGS) data.

Simply put, it is the creation of a set of markers within the established, internationally-recognized, reference points on Earth.

To accomplish this, four permanent anchors outside the immediate area of interest, plus one close to the accommodation had to be installed. To increase the chances of permanency, decoy earth anchors were established near to the earth anchors of actual interest.

Three of the points had long period observations carried out to provide the link to the international network.

Another aspect of the plan was preparation for highly detailed imagery from the Ikonos satellite (www.spaceimaging.com/ikonos). This commercial satellite has the highest publicly available resolution and orbits the earth every 98 minutes at an altitude of 400 miles (680 kilometres).

According to Dr. Thierry Toutin, a research scientist at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa, "The high-resolution imagery that Ikonos provides will theoretically have unlimited uses in a number of markets (including state and local government), and in various applications such as mapping, agriculture, forestry, and emergency response."

This satellite was designed to take both black and white images with one-meter resolution and colour images (including near-infrared) with 3.2-meter resolution.

The satellite will pass over the Merv site in April 2001. Accurate positioning information within 50m or less is required, as well as local topography to adjust for distortion, making Dr.

*Special to The Brunswickan*

One of several global positioning markers set in place by UNB Professor Dr. Peter Dare in Turkmenistan.

Dare's role crucial to obtaining successful imagery.

Dr. Dare explains that while only five points were needed, each point was doubled up to provide a choice of points once the image is obtained.

The Ikonos image will be used to create a base map of the site allowing individual isolated maps of the site to be related together on one common coordinate system.

A United Nations World Heritage Site, the remains of Merv and the surrounding oasis span four thousand years of human history. A number of monuments remain visible, particularly from the last two millennia.

Merv, along with Baghdad, Cairo and Damascus, was for eight hundred years one of the most important capitals of Islam.

According to the projects directors Dr. Georgina Herrmann and Dr. K. Kurbansakhatove (Ashgabat), without Merv, Baghdad, the 'Abbasid capital and cradle of the 'Abbasid revolution of 750 AD, might never have been

founded. This event transformed the Arab empire into a multinational Muslim empire. The 'Abbasids moved the capital of the empire from Syria to Iraq, where they built a new capital, Baghdad, from which, during the next five centuries, they would greatly influence Islamic history.

Merv's greatest period of glory was probably the eleventh-twelfth centuries. At that time, Merv was the principal Eastern capital of the great Seljuk Empire. This stretched from beyond the Oxus River near the Aral Sea to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

Although badly damaged in the Mongol invasion of 1218 A.D., Merv was restored and its prosperity re-established under the descendants of Tamerlane in the early fifteenth century.

The International Merv Project was established by the Institute of Archaeology at University College London, England, has been visiting the archaeological site since 1992.

CORRECTION

In the article "Part-timers call ALPS home" published on Oct. 27th, the line reading:

"We offer something the Student Union does not, even though the part-time students pay Student Union fees."

should read:

"We offer something the Student Union does not, even though the adult learners pay Student Union fees."

Now we're cooking with natural gas

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

The Brunswickan

After meeting with some of the companies which are set to sell natural gas in New Brunswick, Michael Ryan, UNB Associate Vice-President Campus Services and Planning is working on a schedule to hook-up the university's Central Heating Plant.

"We're working now to establish a timetable for conversion," he told The Brunswickan. The project will cost in excess of \$1 million. "I would expect that possibly this summer (2001) and definitely next summer (2002) we'll be doing a significant conversion."

The ideal situation would see UNB phase out its wood boiler in another year or so and replace it with a natural gas boiler, and that's what Ryan wants to do.

"We're going to phase out the wood and do the conversion to natural gas at the same time," he said.

Economics are not the only factor in play. Provincial

environmental restrictions on air-borne particles have been putting pressure on UNB to find alternative fuels to wood chips.

"The suspended particles are the big problem with the wood boiler," Ryan conceded. "The other problem has been what to do with all the wood ash."

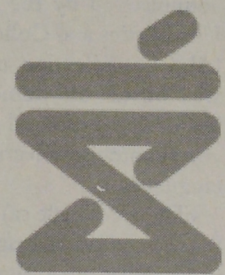
"It's been a real problem for us."

Though UNB has been working with the landfill commission, Ryan does not see a future for wood burning at UNB.

"Wood is not a sustainable fuel in the long term," he concluded.

Currently, Irving is supplying UNB with both liquid fuel and wood chips for the Central Heating Plant. The two contracts are separately tendered according to Ryan.

The UNB Plant provides heating to buildings on the UNB campus, St. Thomas University, various provincial government buildings on College Hill Road, and the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital.



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