

Small, but personal, student association Part-timers call ALPS home

K Brookland

The Brunswickan

Colleen and Barry Manuel left their home province (Newfoundland), moved to Fredericton, work here, and in their 'spare time,' are part-time students at UNB.

They are also members of ALPS (Adult Learners Part-time Students), formerly named CAMPUS (Continuing Adult Mature & Part-time Undergraduate Students).

The Manuel's decision to attend university here came about in a rather atypical way. Barry saw a newspaper ad for "Transition to Learning," sponsored by CAMPUS. They attended the meeting, went home, and made a decision that altered their lives. The next day they acted on that decision; they registered for an intercession course at UNB.

In the Fall of that year, the Manuels again took courses at UNB. They also attended a Meet and Greet hosted by CAMPUS.

Barry feels the social contacts were helpful. "As older part-time students we feel isolated but with ALPS, we have contact with people closer to us in age, in an organization that is here to represent us."

Colleen had attended Memorial University of Newfoundland when she was younger. Here at UNB, however, she said "the transition from being a working person to a student was a big thing. Most of us have been out of school for a long time, sitting in a class with students who have been prepared to sit there. We were not prepared that way."

Colleen had another consideration. "We're not only older than our co-students, but some of us are older than our professors."

Colleen said ALPS "is a sounding board and information source - and - I'm not old enough to be everybody's mother here." She and Barry agree ALPS gives them a sense of belonging.

Another member of ALPS, Nami O'Hara, came to UNB two years ago. "When I first came here, my English skills were limited. People spoke so fast!"

She saw a CAMPUS poster and decided



Special to The Brunswickan

Barry and Colleen Manuel work but attend UNB as part-time students.

to check it out. She is still a member and says, "The people here are friendlier. I still can't understand the young students, so I like coming here where adult students take their time to speak slower - and let me speak."

Another plus for Nami? "I became friends with Barb (Barb Clogg-Wright, Administrator). Now I know where to go for help."

Clogg-Wright noted "the less I see of Nami, the better she is doing."

She also says, "The young students go to the Student Union, the older ones come to ALPS. The needs of part-time students are so different. They feel isolated; they don't live on campus. It's an opportunity for representation on campus. We offer something the Student Union does not, even though the part-time students pay Student Union fees."

Since CAMPUS was founded in 1985, they have acted as a support network to provide information, represent membership concerns, and promote activities for part-time students and full-time mature students.

They have lobbied to have the March Break reflect other institutions in the

community and for non-profit child care at UNB.

They also provide scholarships and bursaries for part-time students, have funded the math lab, workshops, summer recreation, and a potter's wheel in Bridges House. They have subsidized tutorials and daycare as well.

Executive members and student volunteers serve on various UNB committees and have a seat on Senate. ALPS also works closely with the Department of Extension and Summer Session, and makes referrals to the office of the Dean of Student Affairs and Services.

ALPS is not a recruitment organization for UNB but sometimes it works out that way, as with Colleen and Barry Manuel. ALPS does, however, work to keep the students here at UNB.

This year's name change doesn't mean the organization has changed. The members simply thought it would make life a little easier for everyone, as 'CAMPUS' was always being confused with 'campus.'

For more information about ALPS their e-mail is alps@unb.ca.

300 graduate UNB celebrates 46th Fall Convocation

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The Right Honourable David Trimble is undeniably a peacemaker, but it was his political persistence which shone through last Sunday in an address to 300 graduates, as well as faculty, friends and alumni attending the 46th Fall Convocation ceremonies at UNB Fredericton.

Born in the town of Bangor, south of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Trimble studied law at Queen's University, Belfast, and was well on his way to a life-long academic career as a lecturer and head of the Department of Commercial and Property Law. Circumstances, however, intervened in the early 1970s, when he became active in the Vanguard Unionist Party and then

on," he said.

Edward Byrne, the Bathurst, N.B. lawyer whose Royal Commission Report in the 1960s helped establish the program of Equal Opportunity in NB, also received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

An Honorary Doctor of Science degree was bestowed upon John Little, a UNB Alumnus who developed a distinguished career as a research chemist, research manager, development manager, director and ultimately, Chief Executive Officer in several corporations in Canada, the United States and Great Britain.

Out of his research while with Celanese Corporation, Little saw the development of the "polyester tire."

In his Convocation address, Little told UNB graduates that a good way to start



Kevin Molyneux Photo / The Brunswickan

(L-R) UNB Chancellor Fredrik S. Eaton, Dr. John Little, the Rt. Honourable David Trimble, UNB President Dr. Elizabeth Parr-Johnston and Edward Byrne.

joined the Ulster Unionist Party, the long-time champion of Protestantism in Northern Ireland.

"I was very much at the margins of the Party from 1975 to the late 1980s," Trimble said. "The Party was in the doldrums and I was in the political wilderness."

That all changed in 1990, when he was elected to Parliament and in 1995, much to the surprise of most political observers, he won the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Under Trimble's leadership, his party won 10 of the 18 Northern Ireland seats in the 1997 parliamentary elections. Despite substantial resistance within his own party, he agreed to the now-famous Belfast agreement, ending years of sectarian violence.

For his efforts, he was named the winner, with his countryman, John Hume, of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Good Friday agreement changed the face of politics in Northern Ireland. Last year, the British government devolved power to a Northern Ireland Assembly. As leader of the largest political party, David Trimble was chosen First Minister.

"Had I not had failures in the 1970s in politics, I don't know that I would have taken the chances I did in the 1990s," said Trimble, shortly after receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the Convocation. "While colleagues were urging caution, I knew that without risk, nothing could be achieved," he said.

On this, his first visit to New Brunswick, Trimble mentioned the number of people he met with connections to Ireland and Northern Ireland. He also made reference to Andrew Bonar Law, the native-born New Brunswicker, who in the early 1900s served as leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Bonar Law, whose father came from Northern Ireland, played an important role during the Great Home Rule Crisis from 1912-1920, Trimble emphasized. "It was a period which was so important in the formation of the society in Northern Ireland today," he said.

Trimble told UNB graduates he is just a little bit jealous of his son who recently graduated from university. "Compared to 1968, when I graduated, the opportunities today are so much richer," he said. "Globalization has provided these opportunities and I wish you all the best in pursuing these opportunities."

Quoting Kipling, Trimble told graduates to be prepared to deal with both triumph and disaster sometime in their lives. "Be true to yourself and be prepared to pick yourself up and carry

a career is to dream a little and set goals. "My career dreams have been realized, and yours will too if you aim high, believe in yourselves, and try to be the best you can be."

"Make a personal commitment to contribute constructively to the future of this country and the world. Travel as much as you can and become international in your outlook because we can learn much from other countries and cultures, and because we are now part of a global community which requires leadership from nations such as ours," Little said.

Most of all, Little urged graduates not to be afraid of failure. "You often learn more from failure than success. Remember, most successful entrepreneurs have more failures than successes," he continued.

"Don't forget what Churchill said to the British public during the Battle of Britain, 'Never, never, never give up.'"

In her remarks, UNB President, Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, told graduates that with luck, the experiences and knowledge gained at UNB will lead to wisdom.

Learning is a lifelong process, she explained.

"For many, it is fueled by a fiery passion for knowledge, a passion that I hope has been kindled and encouraged during your time at UNB and one that I am sure will burn brightly long past the presentation of your diplomas here today."

"Put to good use the tools of education you have learned here. Keep your minds open to new experiences. They are all opportunities to learn, to know. Keep learning - it keeps you vital. Stay interested - it keeps you interesting," she said.

Two UNB professors, Diana Austin (English) and Thom Erdle (Forestry and Environmental Management) were presented with the Dr. Allan P. Stuart Memorial Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Five retired professors received the Honorary Rank of Professor Emeritus, including Frank Bottomley (Chemistry), Phillip Buckner (History), Ann Cameron (Psychology), Franz Eppert (Culture and Language Studies) and Wolfgang Faig (Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering).

Dr. Faig was also conferred the honorary title Dean Emeritus of Engineering.

In his first Convocation ceremony since being appointed Vice-President Academic, Dr. John McLaughlin, introduced Eric Robert as the recipient of the Lieutenant-Governor's Silver Medal for highest academic standing among graduates in the Faculty of Kinesiology.

Kimberley Mawhinney was awarded the Governor General's Gold Medal for outstanding achievement in graduate studies.

STU enjoys largest enrolment increase in Atlantic Canada

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

St. Thomas University has experienced the largest percentage increase in full-time undergraduate student enrolment of 17 universities in Atlantic Canada this Fall, according to a survey conducted by the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU).

Enrolment at STU this Fall is up 8.5 percent to stand at 2,446 students, an increase of 192 students compared to a year ago.

At the University of PEI, enrolment increased 7.4 percent, where 2,753 full-time undergraduate students are registered this Fall compared to 2,563 last year.

A 7.1 percent increase has been recorded at Acadia University this Fall, where the full-time undergraduate population now stands at 3,686.

The Université de Moncton has also reversed its enrolment decline in recent years by registering a 3.4 percent increase in its undergraduate student population this Fall, where enrolment levels on its three campuses in Moncton, Shippagan and Edmundston now number 4,230.

A similar enrolment decline in recent years at UNB has also been reversed this Fall, where the combined full-time undergraduate student population at UNB Fredericton and

UNB Saint John stands at 8,727, up 1.7 percent or 150 students, mostly attributable to increases at UNB SJ.

Enrolment increases this Fall are also being recorded at Memorial University of Newfoundland (+1.3 percent), Université Sainte Anne (+1.3 percent), University of Kings College (+0.5 percent) and St. Francis Xavier (+0.5 percent).

The largest decreases in full-time undergraduate student enrolment this Fall are at the University College of Cape Breton (-9.8 percent), Nova Scotia Agricultural College (-7.5 percent), Saint Mary's University (-2.9 percent), Dalhousie University (-2.2 percent), Mount St. Vincent (-1.7 percent), Mount Allison (-1.4 percent) and Nova Scotia College of Arts and Design (-0.4 percent).

Throughout Atlantic Canada, full-time undergraduate student enrolment is up 0.6 percent, or 342 students this Fall when compared to a year ago to stand at 60,589.

Meanwhile, full-time graduate student enrolment is up this Fall at UNB, Dalhousie, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the Université de Moncton, with the largest decrease being reported at St. Mary's University in Halifax, which has seen its graduate full-time population decline by 62 students.

In Atlantic Canada, 4,584 full-time graduate students are registered this Fall, up 2.6 percent compared to a year ago.

Top 5 Enrolment Jumps

STU	+8.5%
UPEI	+7.4%
Acadia	+7.1%
UdeM	+3.4%
UNB (incl. UNBSJ)	+1.7%

Mixed reaction to Federal bucks - Continued from Page 1

taxable income, the increase in the tax credit will do little for the vast majority of students," he reasoned.

CASA National Director Mark Kissel marks a very different tone.

"Students and their families are facing both a rising cost of living and a soaring cost of education," he explained. "They will get some much needed relief through the doubling of the education amount which they can claim on their tax returns."

The government estimates the change in the education tax credit will save one million Canadian students \$1 billion over the next five years.

"This will be appreciated," Kissel commented.

The mini-budget also announced money for university research, including \$400 million for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to help create research facilities in universities and hospitals. It also includes \$100 million to the CFI for Canadian researchers involved in international research projects.

An additional \$100 million over the next five years will be put towards the Social Science and Humanities Research Council for projects aimed at the knowledge economy.

"We are pleased to see that \$100 million will be allocated over five years to the SSHRC. But this isn't good enough," Conlon argues. "There is no effort whatsoever to restore the \$3.7 billion cut from post-secondary education between 1993 and 1997."

Kissel disputes this analysis, noting that since \$21.1 billion has been added for the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST) directed towards Health Care, the pressure on university funding will ease because provinces who may have cut education dollars to bolster their health care programs will have less need to do so now.

"The \$21.1 billion infusion into the CHST will go a long way towards restoring Canada's key social programs," concluded Kissel.

"We have seen the beginning of a real commitment to Canadian post-secondary education. We look forward to seeing the federal government maintain and strengthen this commitment through future initiatives," commented Kissel.

who has money or power, it's about who has numbers."

The convention will be held at the Fredericton Inn on Regent Street on November 1st. Since there are only two candidates, there will be only one ballot and the results will be printed in next week's issue of *The Brunswickan*.

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emphasizes that students must bring proper identification if they want to vote.

"Students must realize the strength they have in numbers," he noted. "They could literally shake the foundations of this country."

"Get involved," he said. "That's the key, that's what it's about. It's not about



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