

Newsbits

By Gordon Loane

Guitard named Comptroller

Larry Guitard has been appointed UNB's new Comptroller and Director of Financial Services after serving in the position in an acting capacity since August 1999.

The appointment was approved by the university's Board of Governors in early December.

About a dozen candidates applied for the position and extensive interviews were conducted with three or four candidates according to UNB's Vice-President Finance and Administration, Dan Murray, who served as Chair of the Search Committee.

"Over the last while Larry Guitard has done a very good job in challenging circumstances, which was an important part of the decision to appoint him," Murray told The Brunswickan earlier this week.

Alumni Media Event at Noon today

UNB's Associated Alumni has scheduled a media event today at 12:00 noon in the Great Hall of Sir Howard Douglas Hall (Old Arts Building) on the Fredericton campus.

Associated Alumni President, Kevin Ratcliff, is expected to be on hand for a major announcement.

Beaverbooks available

UNB students can still pick up a free copy of the 2000-01 Beaverbook by visiting the Paper Trail, located on the second floor of the SUB.

The 2000 UNB Yearbook is also available at the Paper Trail.

Yearbook Grad Photo deadline

UNB graduates are reminded that the deadline to submit grad photos for inclusion in the 2001 UNB Yearbook has been set for Monday, February 5th. The deadline for submitting clubs and societies photos is Wednesday, January 31st.

The UNB Yearbook Office is located in Room 32 of the SUB. Students can also contact the Yearbook Office by calling 452-6005 or by e-mail tanyajo3@hotmail.com.

Want to be an UNBSU Executive?

The UNB Student Union is accepting applications from students interested in serving as Vice-President University Affairs and Vice-President External.

The deadline for applications has been set for next Wednesday, January 24th.

The UNB Student Council will review the candidates for both positions and ratify selections next Thursday, January 25th.

Both VPs will serve until their terms of office expire on May 1st.

Apply now for Summer Employment

UNB and STU students interested in summer employment with the City of Fredericton's Community Services Department (Recreation, Parks and Trees) for field and park maintenance, day camps, playgrounds and lifeguards/instructors can pick up application forms at the Recreation Office, 15 Saunders Street, Fredericton.

Applications are also available at the Human Resources Department, City Hall and at the Fredericton Indoor Pool, Carrington Lane.

The deadline to return applications is Friday, March 16th.

Director of NRC InfoTech to speak

Andrew Woodsworth, Director General of the Institute for Information Technology, NRC Canada, will deliver the keynote address at a special Mayor's Business Breakfast next week.

The event will be held next Wednesday, January 24th, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at Fredericton City Hall.

This past Fall, the NRC announced plans to establish an e-commerce centre on the UNB Fredericton campus as well as smaller centres in Saint John and Moncton.

Woodsworth will give an overview of the plans and vision of the NRC for its role in developing an e-commerce cluster in New Brunswick.

Public lecture this afternoon

Florence Nightingale and the Foundations of Public Health will be the subject of a lecture at UNB Fredericton this afternoon.

Guelph University Sociology Professor, Lynn McDonald, a former M.P. and one-time President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, will deliver the lecture at 3:30 p.m. in Room 102 of MacLaggan Hall.

The public is invited to attend the presentation.

Klidaras-A.L. McAllister Scholarship

The Fred Klidas-A.L. McAllister Scholarship will increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 commencing in the year 2002.

The scholarship is awarded to a full-time student at UNB Fredericton in Geology or Geological Engineering.

The Scholarship, named after Dr. McAllister, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Geology, is funded by Klidas, a senior member of the Chemical Institute of Canada and honorary member of the UNB President's Associates.

Mourning loss of STU professor

St. Thomas University and its faculty, staff and students, are mourning the sudden passing of English Associate Professor, Fenton Burke.

A past Chair of the English department and Past President of the STU Faculty Association (FAUST), Professor Burke taught at STU for 38 years, serving on numerous university committees, including the Senate and Board of Governors.

He was also Assistant Registrar for many years, a faculty advisor for athletics and an editor of the Nashwaak Review.

Professor Burke was a founding member of CHIMO in Fredericton and a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 9496, Lincoln, N.B.

He is survived by his wife Norma Neilson; two daughters, Melanie and Lucy; a son David; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was celebrated last Saturday at St. Dunstan's Catholic Church. Interment will take place at a later date.

For those who wish, memorial tributes may be made to the Arthritis Society at the request of the family.

Grad Student Council concerned

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB Graduate students are hoping a new committee being set up by Dean of Graduate Students, Gwen Davies, will take a hard look at the turnaround time between when a student completes a thesis and when it wins formal professorial approval.

At a meeting of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) earlier this week, students complained of delays of up to five months in some departments, adding unnecessarily to the cost of tuition.

"It should not be the responsibility of students to pay extra fees if there is a holdup," one graduate student said at the GSA meeting.

"Where does the onus of responsibility lie?" asked a member of the GSA Council.

Students called for a consistent and standardized policy, similar to that in place at other Canadian universities, where turnaround times are much shorter than at UNB.

Davies, on hand for the GSA monthly meeting, pointed out that the Graduate School does not have the authority to unilaterally impose a new thesis approval process in each department or graduate academic unit (GAU). She said each GAU has its own internal thesis approval process.

"The new committee being set up will look at this issue and it will be a good opportunity to get diverse graduate student input," she said.

Meanwhile, Davies is supporting the GSA's long-standing proposal aimed at winning a seat on the UNB Board of Governors. Davies has already discussed the matter with University Secretary, Stephen Stropole.

It appears the GSA/Faculty Club proposal to renovate and expand a university-owned property at 676 Windsor Street is within weeks of being formally presented to top UNB administration officials.

The formal proposal will include fully developed architect's drawings and sketches and a business plan recently completed by UNB MBA students.

The GSA Conference on Student Research is in the final stages of preparation. More details are expected to be released next week, but a call for graduate student abstracts has so far brought a low response, with a final deadline set for later today.

The GSA Council is scheduled to vote next month on whether to send to referendum the question of whether UNB graduate students should pull out of the Canadian Graduate Council (CGC), a services and lobby umbrella group of graduate student associations from across the country.

The CGC is currently grappling with certain financial irregularities, according to GSA Vice-President External, Michael Sutherland.

In addition, a research proposal submitted to the CGC for funding by UNB Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. student, Jose Rodriguez, was recently rejected.

The GSA Council has asked Sutherland to obtain statistics on the number of CGC research grants applied for and approved recently at Canadian universities, including UNB.

The GSA Council currently pays over \$2,000 annually to the CGC in fees and some graduate students are openly questioning whether there is value for money.

GSA official webmaster, Benoit Villien, is looking for input and ideas to improve the GSA's webpage (<http://www.unb.ca/GSA>).

Villien can be reached by e-mail at z57za@unb.ca.

A total of \$5,000 in operating grants has been issued by the GSA to graduate student societies in various departments.

The grants are based on regular attendance at GSA meetings.

Graduate students in Sociology, Physics and Economics/Political Science did not receive any operating grants from the GSA in the first half of the 2000/01 academic year because of low attendance at GSA meetings.

Overall, the GSA funds societal operating grants for graduate students in 18 UNB departments.

The next meeting of the GSA Council has been set for Tuesday, February 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in SUB Room 103.

Continued from Page 1

had not been organized. "I felt there was a definite need to boost campus spirit so with a group of organizers, planning began in September, after some initial discussion during the summer months," Duguay said.

"We hope to bring morale up within Faculties because they get together, put some teams together, and those not on a team can come to watch. We hope to start little rivalries between Faculties on campus to help bring up overall campus morale," he said.

Other events planned for the 2001 Snow Odyssey weekend include concerts Friday night, February 2nd, in the SUB Ballroom, featuring the group 54-40 and a Much Music Dance Party on Saturday night, also in the SUB Ballroom.

The weekend events close out Sunday, February 4th, with the semi-final and finals events in all six team competitions, followed by the closing ceremonies from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

If all 12 teams participate in the UNB games, 468 participants will be involved.

Duguay said in addition to six or seven main organizers, some 60 to 70 student volunteers will help make the UNB games a reality.

The UNB Student Union is picking up most of



Sharon Wilbur/ The Brunswickan
UNBSU VP Finance Scott Duguay

the costs for 2001 Snow Odyssey but corporate sponsorships are also being sought.

Tickets for the entertainment events for the weekend are now on sale.

Ontario passes private universities bill

Katie Meyer

Ontario

GUELPH, ONT. (CUP) - The Ontario government has passed legislation allowing private universities to operate in the province.

On Dec. 20 the Post-Secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act passed its final reading in Queen's Park.

"This act will help give students more opportunities for a high-quality education and ensure that they will have innovative and flexible choices," said Diane Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in a prepared statement.

However, some academics and students say they have concerns about the introduction of private universities.

"I think the real concern is that this will divert attention away from the need for investing in our public institutions," says Maureen Mancuso, University of Guelph associate vice-president academic.

The provincial government says that no public funds will be given to private universities. But Ontario Liberal education critic Marie Bountrogianni thinks differently.

"During the parliamentary hearings, when I asked the parliamentary assistant if [Cunningham] could guarantee that no grant money or research money would be given to private universities from the government, she gave no guarantees," Bountrogianni said. "To say that no public money is going to private institutions is a fallacy."

She is also concerned that under NAFTA's "fair treatment clause," private universities could claim that public universities have an unfair advantage in the economic market because they are publicly funded, therefore forcing the government's hand into funding both sectors equally. The provincial government denies this possibility.

"We have sought a legal opinion on this. Our rights over health care and education are not threatened by the NAFTA agreement," says David Ross, a spokesperson for the Ontario government.

But Bountrogianni said she has consulted different lawyers.

"As it is written now, and as international lawyers have said, once we let them in, we may not have any control," said Bountrogianni. "We may be obliged to give them public money. It will be a difficult egg to scramble, once it's cooked."

What affect will this legislation have on students? Central Student Association spokesperson Jonathan DaSilva said private universities could mean skyrocketing tuition increases and the creation of a separate system for the rich.

"Students could essentially buy a university degree for say around \$40,000. They say this legislation is increasing accessibility, but it's only giving more options to those who can pay those high private tuition fees and for students who may not have the marks to get into a public university."

NDP education critic Rosario Marchese agrees. "This legislation does not mean more choices for the majority. It means a private club has been created for the wealthy."

DaSilva said he also fears research at public universities could be in jeopardy.

"Private universities through corporate funding will be able to pay their professors more. They'll have more up-to-date technology and more research dollars. The government is cutting funding to universities and is not putting the funding into public universities to keep them at a competitive level." He adds this could drive up tuition rates for public universities in order for them to compete.

"The real worrisome possibility is that this legislation may falsely lull people into thinking that this private university initiative will solve the current challenges facing post-secondary education in Ontario," says Mancuso.

Private universities could be in effect as early as September, according to Cunningham. The Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board will advise the Minister as to new programs, including new university degree programs that will be offered by community colleges.

"Ontario's prosperity and the future prosperity of our students depends on them having access to high-quality and relevant education and training programs where and when they need them," said Cunningham.

Natural gas topic at Eng conference at UNBF

A unique conference at UNB in Fredericton will give current and potential engineering students an insider's look at the natural gas project in the Maritimes.

"On Friday, January 26th, we will bring together engineers who are working on all aspects of the natural gas project," says conference chair Julie Beaulieu, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student at UNB-F.

Organized by UNB engineering students, the Conference on Engineering Professional Development, entitled Project 0126: Natural Gas: From Extraction to Use will be held in the Wu Conference Centre.

"We're hoping to attract engineering students from throughout Atlantic Canada as well as high school students considering a career in engineering," said Beaulieu. The registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$12 for university students and \$10 for high school students. To register or get more information, contact Beaulieu at (506) 459-5349 or e-mail d70xn@unb.ca.

Among the featured speakers will be civil engineer Greg Black of Enbridge Gas New Brunswick, environmental engineer Andrew Langille of Maritimes and Northeast Pipelines, and mechanical engineer Don Belliveau of Neill and Gunter, an engineering consulting and design firm.

St. Thomas annual Gala next Saturday

Raising money for students and paying tribute to a long-time associate will be the focal points of St. Thomas University's annual Gala Dinner this year.

The high-profile event will unfold on Saturday, January 27th, at the Sheraton Fredericton Hotel.

"The primary goal is to raise money for the Millennium Bursary," says chair Valerie O'Brien. "The evening will also serve as a tribute to Harry Rigby, a man who has dedicated decades to St. Thomas and its extended community."

Rigby, a long-serving faculty member, Dean of Men and founder of The Thomists, will be honoured by the University. The evening will also include a performance by The Thomists.

The Millennium Bursary awards funds students who demonstrate financial need. Although St. Thomas has the lowest tuition in the region, the Millennium Bursary was designed to alleviate rising debt loads. St. Thomas has offered 30 bursaries valued at \$500 each during the 2000-2001 school year.

The evening begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Four-hundred tickets will be sold at a cost of \$125.00 each. Tax receipts for a portion of the ticket cost are available. Call (506) 452-0645 or e-mail hill@stthomasu.ca for tickets.



Special to the Brunswickan
The organizing committee, including (from left) Joan Kenny, Karen Taylor and gala chair, Valerie O'Brien