

Newsbits

by Gordon Loane

UNB to open space science centre

UNB will officially open its new Planetary and Space Science Centre on the Fredericton campus next Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the J. Harper Kent Auditorium at the Wu Conference Centre.

The Centre is the only NASA-supported Regional Planetary Image Facility in Canada.

Under the directorship of Dr. John Spray, the centre is located in the Department of Geology at UNB Fredericton.

In addition to research work on impact craters on Earth, work is starting on research of Martian meteorites as well as rocks from the moon, which were collected via the Apollo landings in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

One UNB undergraduate student is working at NASA's Johnson Space Center for the summer while a graduate student has been assigned work on the NASA-sponsored Houghton-Mars Project.

Computing services to conduct survey

The Senate Computing Services User Committee is currently conducting its annual survey of faculty, staff and students at UNB Fredericton.

The survey can be filled out on the web by pointing your browser to <https://www.unb.ca/CompUServ/>.

The survey forms should be completed by next Monday, April 2nd and will be made anonymous before processing.

UNB graduates to study future of athletics

Two graduate students in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Danny Medford and Lauren Rogers, have been asked by the Director of Athletics, Clint Hamilton, to conduct a study on the future of athletics at UNB.

A student questionnaire, which should take no more than five minutes to complete, is available on the web.

Just click on the hypertext or type the address into the address box on your preferred internet browser <http://www.unb.ca/kinesiology/problemsolving/>. The questionnaire responses will be kept confidential, but should be completed as soon as possible.

N.B. Student Alliance holds elections

The New Brunswick Student Alliance is holding elections for its President and Director of Administration and Research tomorrow at St. Thomas University.

The Alliance is a collection of students at New Brunswick universities that lobbies the provincial government on issues regarding post-secondary education.

Video conference held this week

A special video conference between the Sadat Academy for Management Sciences, Cairo, Egypt and UNB Fredericton was held earlier this week.

The special session featured a lecture on world currencies, banking and balance of payment adjustments by UNB professor Dr. Miron Rezun to a group of about 230 students at the Sadat Academy.

A discussion among top dignitaries, politicians, executives and students in Egypt and New Brunswick also took place.

The lecture is part of a ten-week political science course, which is being offered for the first time by UNB Fredericton to students in a Middle Eastern country via distance education.

UNB is the first North American university to deliver a full six-credit hour course over ten consecutive weeks to Egypt via video conference.

Canadian Agency to sponsor conference

The Canadian Space Agency has signed on as a sponsor for the Digital Earth 2001 Conference which will take place this summer in Fredericton from June 24th to 28th.

Digital Earth 2001 will showcase some of the world's most exciting innovations in the management and dissemination of geographic data.

Doncaster awarded scholarship

Kathleen Doncaster, a second year Nursing student at UNB Bathurst has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from medhunters.com.

The scholarship is awarded each year after a review of papers submitted by students across Canada.

Doncaster recently won UNB's Monique Begin Competition and placed second in the National Competition held at UNB Fredericton.

In total, Doncaster has been awarded a total of \$1,500 for writing and presenting her paper "High Tech, High Touch: Co-existing in Health Care".

Caribbean night set for tomorrow night

Caribbean Night 2001 will be held tomorrow night beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the Student Union Building on the UNB Fredericton campus.

Caribbean food, as well as Caribbean and Latin American entertainment and the sounds of reggae, soca, merengue, salsa and much more will be featured.

Tickets for the event are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

Tickets are available at the Paper Trail in the Student Union Building (447-3079), the International Student Advisor (453-4860) or by contacting Michael Sutherland, President of the Caribbean Circle by e-mail (d8kw@unb.ca)

Woodsmen sponsored for competition

The UNB Student Council has approved a \$500 grant to the UNB Woodsmen "A" Team to attend an international competition in Boston.

But an application by the UNB Kinesiology Society for a grant to purchase equipment necessary to set up a website was rejected by Council.

"We do fund certain operational expenses for clubs and societies but not for equipment," said Scott Duguay, SU Vice-President Finance and Administration.

An application from ACE, a group of students interested in Entrepreneurship at UNB Fredericton, was referred back to the SU Finance Committee for further clarification and consideration.

UNBSU approves constitutions for clubs

The UNB Student Council has also formally approved constitutions for two new non-funded clubs and societies including the Middle Eastern Students Club and the UNB Space Society.

An updated constitution for the UNB German Society was also approved by Council.

Piano player needed for Red 'n' Black

Nalini Iype, Director of the 53rd annual Red 'n' Black Revue is looking for a piano player to assist with UNB's annual variety show, which will be held at the Playhouse on Queen Street on Saturday, April 7th beginning at 8 p.m.

If anyone is interested in performing as a piano player, please contact Nalini at the UNB Student Union office (453-4955).

Tickets for the Red 'n' Black Revue are now on sale at the Playhouse Box Office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, or by calling 458-8344.

Reserved student tickets are \$7.50 while adult reserved tickets cost \$9.50.

Student fee to remain the same or decrease depending on budget proposals

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The UNB Student Union fee will remain at \$82 per student or decrease to \$80 per student for the 2001-2002 academic year under two budget proposals presented to Student Council on first reading last week by SU Vice-President Finance and Administration Scott Duguay.

It will be up to the UNB Student Council which plan to adopt in the coming weeks.

Council was expected to pour over the operating budget proposals at second reading last night with the eventual aim of passing a finalized SU operating budget for 2001-2002 on third reading next Thursday.

Under either budget scenario, Duguay is proposing a balanced budget that could be either \$616,996 or \$629,756.

New spending priorities for the SU in 2001-2002 include a \$2,500 increase in the SU office capital

equipment budget, \$6,200 more for conferences including a Supercon event, an increase in staff salaries and an allocation of \$24,960 for the salary of a full-time SU President, who takes office May 1st.

Other spending increases include \$1,000 more for the Contingency Fund, \$422.51 more for the SU reserve fund and an increase of \$652.82 for the Beaverbook.

The SU also intends to boost its campaign and promotional budget by \$2500 and add an extra \$500 for any external lobbying campaigns.

The new SU website has been granted \$1,000 while SU funding for the Safe Ride program has been upped from \$6,500 to \$15,000 for 2001-2002.

The SU owned and operated Paper Trail will also receive \$4,000 more in operating funds while a new event this year, Snow Odyssey, will receive a budget of \$6,500 next year.

SU operating expenses have been decreased for honouraria, due to the creation of a full-time Presidents'

salary, and for summer salaries for the SU's four Vice-Presidents, which are forecast for a \$712.50 decrease over this time last year.

The SU's legal coverage bill has been trimmed by \$8,000 from this year's operating budget forecast, due to several changes that have been instituted over the last year.

The budget for Alcohol Awareness has been cut from \$7,750 to just \$2,000 mainly due to funding from the SU owned and operated Cellar Pub and Grill.

Under the current arrangement, the Alcohol Awareness group is to receive 25 percent of the annual operating profit at the Cellar Pub and Grill.

The SU has also decided to cut the annual budget of the UNB Yearbook by just over \$4,000 next year to \$23,389.

The biggest cut will come from the SU's annual operating grant to the Cellar which mounted to \$10,000 in 2000-2001, but is expected to be zero for 2001-2002.

The Cellar Pub and Grill is expected to turn a profit this year and is forecast to do so again in 2001-2002.

In a move announced several weeks ago, the SU has also frozen the operating grants for Faculty-based Clubs and Societies, Cultural groups and Special Interest Groups at this year's levels until at least the Fall of 2001.

All groups will be allocated one-half this year's operating budget until November 2001 to see them through the Summer and early Fall months.

Under a new funding proposal, which will be reviewed again this Summer, the SU is planning to require all SU funded Clubs and Societies to charge a membership fee of at least \$5 in the Fall of 2001.

If the plan is approved by Student Council, funding would be allocated to Faculty-based Clubs and Societies, special interest groups and Cultural groups using a strict formula based on membership.

Alexa McDonough speaks at Ludlow Hall

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will take the worst features of NAFTA and combine it will some of the worst features of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) and roll them both together into the most far reaching deal that has ever been signed.

The NDP are also concerned about secret negotiations on the proposed FTAA agreement that are being conducted by the Liberal government and their refusal to make public the texts that are the basis for the negotiations.

McDonough took the opportunity to congratulate UNB

and St. Thomas students who organized a 1000 name petition seeking exam deferrals so that they could attend the People's Summit protest in Quebec City from April 20th - 22nd.

"I am happy to be with a group of students who have taken on the challenge and taken up their rights and responsibilities of citizenship to appeal to the university's faculty and administration," she said.

The federal NDP leader also congratulated and called for a round applause at the meeting for university faculty and administrators who supported the students in seeking an opportunity to attend the Quebec City Summit.

"There is a growing concern about whether universities are going to remain and be strong in playing the critically important role that Education has to play in a free and democratic society and that is to challenge the current thinking, that is to encourage students of all ages to be questioning the direction of the society in which we live," McDonough said.

"It is very heartening in New Brunswick that we have universities which have not been beaten into submission by the increasing corporatization of our society of our society, including the replacement of public funds by corporate funds," she said.

UNB seeking to hire multimedia professor

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

Just over four years after two well-known New Brunswick companies helped establish a \$600,000 endowment to allow UNB to hire a professor in multimedia and technology-assisted education, the tenure-track position is being advertised for a second time.

UNB has taken out advertisements in provincial newspapers seeking applications to fill the McCain/NB Tel Professorship in Multimedia/Instructional Design by July 1st.

The individual selected will work jointly in the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Arts, although the initial focus will be primarily on the development of an MEd program in instructional design.

According to the advertisement for the position, the candidate selected will be expected to pursue an active research program and be closely involved with the critical component of the BA in Multimedia Studies

including the supervision of senior projects and with the Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Master of Education (MEd) programs.

In addition the candidate will be expected to interact with the broader business and educational communities in areas of mutual interest.

UNB's Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Marion Small, is receiving applications for the professorship until April 30th.

Announced with great fanfare in December 1996, the university had hoped to fill the McCain Foods Limited/NB Tel professorship by September 1997, but a lack of suitable candidates when the position was originally advertised forced a delay.

The whole concept of the professorship then went before UNB's Multimedia Committee for a review.

UNB Dean of Arts John Rowcroft said last year that the Multimedia Committee was thinking of bringing in people to fill the position on fellowships for a limited period of time, but now that has changed.

Attempted theft of projector

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The Brunswickan

Just one month after thieves walked off with a \$7,600 high-tech projector from Tilley Hall on the UNB Fredericton campus, UNB Security is investigating the attempted theft of a similar-type projector in Marshall d'Avray Hall.

"The projector was sitting on a cart and the cable that was securing it was discovered partially cut," said Reg Jerrett, UNB Director of Security and Traffic.

The attempted theft occurred either on Monday, March 19th or Tuesday, March 20th.

"At this time we have no suspects in connection with the attempted theft," Jerrett said.

Meanwhile, there are no new

leads into the disappearance of a Sharp LCD Data projector from Tilley Hall over the February 16th-20th weekend, Jerrett indicated.

The projector stolen has a serial number 711 311 588 and a model number XGN VIIU.

The high-tech projector had been purchased as part of a recent university-wide initiative to convert certain classrooms to so-called "Smart Classrooms."

Anyone with information on either incident is asked to call UNB Security and Traffic at 453-4830.

Similar type projectors have also been stolen at the Université de Moncton, Mouat Allison University and Dalhousie University in recent months, but Jerrett would not speculate on whether there is any connection between the incidents.

Student course evaluations back on the agenda

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UNB Student Union Vice-President Nalini Iype has held very preliminary discussions in recent weeks with Student Councilors and UNB Assistant Vice-President Michael Ircha aimed at opening up the process of course evaluations.

Course evaluations are not mandatory at UNB and many of the students who do fill out course evaluation forms at the end of each term never get to see the results.

Iype is wondering whether that could be changed and has held preliminary discussions with Ircha and the SU's Academic Committee.

"The issue surfaced at a meeting with Ircha a few weeks ago to see where the students and the administration could work together," Iype said.

"This is one major issue that I think is important for both sides. It seemed to be an issue that Ircha was particularly interested in," she said.

Since the talks have been preliminary, no other details have been discussed to date including whether the existing course evaluation survey should continue to be used, a new survey questionnaire developed or whether survey results would be published in hard copy or on-line.

Iype said another meeting with Ircha is planned soon where the issue is likely to come up for discussion again.

The Academic Senates at several universities in Western Canada have recently adopted mandatory course evaluations and published the results as a method of providing professor accountability to students who pay to attend their courses.

The issue may also be a timely one since UNB Administration officials are set to begin negotiations on a new contract with the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT), which represents professors and librarians at both UNB

Fredericton and UNB Saint John. But before discussions begin in earnest with the UNB Administration, Iype said the SU's Academic Committee will first try to determine just what students want and take a look at what is in place at other universities concerning course evaluations.

"I am sure this issue will be a long process so no one should expect results this semester for sure," Iype said.

"All I want to do at this point is get the ball rolling."

Iype also expects some professor resistance to publishing the results of course evaluations.

"I'm sure there will be because up until now students fill out the course evaluations but never actually see the results."

"When you are registering for a course you are interested in seeing about the quality of teaching not only what the subject matter is," she said.

Perceptions about the quality of teaching at UNB really vary depending on individual student perceptions, Iype indicated.

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Sharon Wilbur/ The Brunswickan
Student Union VP, Nalini Iype.

New SUB Advisory Board structure?

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with tenants and hired day-to-day management was revamped.

The SUB Advisory Board of Directors was instituted by the university's Board of Governors to provide advice only to the SUB Director on building policy and procedures.

SUB Director (Norris) and Administrative Secretary (Judy MacKay) were hired as university employees, not as employees of the SUB Board of Directors, as had been the case prior to 1985.

The current SUB Advisory Board consists of four students appointed by the UNB Student Union (Hope

Lenahan, Peter Fotheringham, Stephen Banks and Adrian London), four students from the St. Thomas Student Union who have not been officially re-appointed this year, two UNB administrators, including Dean of Computer Science Jane Fritz and Director of Student Affairs and Services Jane McGinn-Giberson, and one appointee of the St. Thomas University Administration who has not been appointed for about two years.

Duguay admitted when all is said and done all that may really be needed are slight changes to the SUB Advisory Board to make it more efficient rather than a complete revamping of the Board itself.

Whatever happens certainly would involve both the St. Thomas Student Union and STU Administration since the original SUB was constructed in the late 1960s and paid for through mortgage payments provided by both STU and UNB students.

Despite its historical ties and its ongoing relationship with the SUB as office tenants, neither the STU Student Union or the STU Administration are involved at this point in preliminary talks that could alter the composition and powers of the current Student Union Building Advisory Board of Directors, Duguay confirmed.