

UNB inks deal with Cuban University

by Chris Wilson-Smith

The University of New Brunswick has a new compaignero.

A general agreement signed recently by UNBF and Universidad de Cienfuegos in Cuba will create exchange opportunities for students and professors alike.

In addition to offering university credits towards a degree, an international exchange could provide an economical

opportunity for students to live and learn in a foreign country.

John McLaughlin, UNB's vice-president (academic), was excited about the agreement, which allows the exchange of undergraduates, graduate students, professors, and scholars from all faculties: "It reaffirms our relationship with Cuba, expands the disciplines involved in our exchanges and affords an opportunity for the private sector to be involved."

Bienvenido Sarria, a professor of mechanical engineering at Universidad de

Cienfuegos, spent seven weeks at UNB late last year. He signed the exchange agreement on behalf of his university after finalizing details with Frank Steward, director of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Research.

Like McLaughlin, Sarria is pleased with the agreement.

"As a university, we are in charge of human development in our country," said Sarria. "This agreement will assist with the development of human resources and social prosperity in Cuba. We also hope to further research in the areas of biodiversity and the environment."

The new agreement is based largely on a previously existing one, the main difference being the potential involvement of the private sector. Under the agreement, ADI Ltd., a Fredericton-based consulting and engineering firm, is working with university researchers and graduate students to conduct a preliminary assessment of rice husk combustion. If it is feasible, ADI, UNB and Universidad de Cienfuegos will work together to develop the technology for using this biomass for fuel.

McLaughlin pointed out that UNB has

put much focus in the past on bringing international student to UNB, but also spoke about a new spin on this idea:

"... increasingly, under the new direction of Peter Kent (UNBF's director of international relations), our focus has been on international agreements and sending UNB students abroad."

UNB also has general exchange agreements with universities in Australia, France, Sweden, the United States and Wales, and numerous faculty-specific agreements.

Office ergonomics

It's more than just furniture

by Andrew Kolbeck

The University of New Brunswick in Fredericton will host the fourth annual Association of Canadian Ergonomists Atlantic Region Conference titled "Office Ergonomics ... It's More Than Just Furniture."

The conference will be held Saturday, February 9th, at the Wu Conference Centre.

This one-day conference aims to promote Ergonomics, which is the design of devices, systems, and physical working conditions in which the capacities and requirements of the worker are placed first and foremost. It also helps students prepare for a career in the field of ergonomics, and develop working relationships between students and professionals in this field.

Jeremy Rickards from the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, Usha Kuruganti of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, and Wayne Albert from Kinesiology, organized this year's conference.

"This started out as a student-based conference, organized by students," said Dr. Rickards. "It has become much larger, but still emphasizes student work and student achievement."

The conference began three years ago as a student-based effort, with around 20 people showing up. Over 100 people are expected to show up for this year's conference. The growth has come from student, commercial, and government interest. The previous conferences were held at Halifax, Moncton, and Dalhousie.

The conference begins Saturday morning with a presentation from keynote speaker Dennis Ankrum, Director of Human Factors Research

at Nova Solutions Inc. in Austin, Texas. Nova Solutions Inc. designs, builds, and distributes state-of-the-art office furniture and systems.

A panel discussion will then take place, chaired by Stephen Jenkins of Auburn Engineering, which will address the Canadian Standards Association's guidelines on office ergonomics and the implications that arise from these standards. Other panelists include a physiotherapy clinic owner, an interior designer, and a call centre manager.

After lunch, three faculty members from Dalhousie University, Carol Putnam, Anne Fenety, and Katherine Harman will present Life in the Electronic Workplace, which will discuss how call centre staff, the majority of which are women, can face a variety of work-related stress.

Afterwards, Ph.D. candidates from the University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie University, Memorial University and Université de Moncton, will make 15-minute presentations on their research. These presentations will highlight current work being done in ergonomics, with respect to methodologies, and serve to inform others on the broad range of studies available in the ergonomics field.

The day will be wrapped up with a student poster presentation. Any student may submit a poster, and the top three will be awarded prizes.

Registration is at the Wu Centre starting at 4:30 pm and goes until 6:30 pm on Friday, February 8th. You may also register from 8:00 am to 8:30 am on Saturday, February 9th. The conference starts at 8:30 am with a welcome and introduction, and at 8:45 am the keynote speaker presents. It then proceeds all day until 5 pm, with lunch being served. The cost is \$45 for students and \$120 for non-students.

Peter, Peter, Brunswickan reader



Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

The Brunswickan has enjoyed an increasing readership of late. The reason? Our new unofficial motto: "The Brunswickan - Written. Read." Either that, or people have been following Peter Fotheringham's lead.

CAUT tackles post-secondary problems

by Ben Conoley

Do you want a chance to be heard?

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is inviting the public to attend a hearing on the future of post-secondary education.

The hearings are set to take place in Fredericton, in the Chancellor's Room of the Wu Center between 1 pm to 5 pm this Saturday, February 9th.

The hearing is to be the fourth in a series of cross-country events put on by CAUT in conjunction with local organizers and will highlight

the challenges and problems facing today's post-secondary students.

The hearing will allow attendees to participate in the discussions about what is happening on local university and college campuses, issues faced by faculty and staff, and what can be done to ensure universities and colleges play a vital role within their communities.

J. McLaughlin, G. Kelly, Esam Hussein, and Professor Patricia Post will be present on behalf of UNB.

Participants are being encouraged to address one or more of the following issues: tuition fees and student debt, funding and finances, commercialization and privatization,

academic freedom; faculty renewal and retention; working conditions of academic staff; the role of universities in the local community; research ethics and autonomy, and university governance.

If a participant wishes to speak, he or she will have five minutes to do so before the committee which will follow up with questions and discussion. Afterwards all participants will receive a written report on the hearing.

To confirm attendance or for more information, contact Linda Rumleski at rumleski@caut.ca or call her at (613) 820-2270 ext. 324.

A time of mourning and reflection

by Bruns Staff

The death of Magdalena Lenarczyk on Thursday, January 31st, has saddened all who knew her.

Magdalena was a library assistant in the Cataloguing Department with UNB Libraries (Fredericton) for 13 years and will be missed by all who worked with her.

She is survived by her husband, Edward, and son, Paul (and his fiancée, Juliette) who is a former employee of UNB Development and Donor Relations, of Fredericton; and her brother, Mieczyslaw (Ewa) Wasilewski, as well as her sister, Wanda (Lucjan) Porzezinska, of Warsaw, Poland.

Visitation was held at McAdams

Select Community Funeral Home Monday, February 4th.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church Wednesday, with Rev. John Jennings officiating. A reception followed at the Monsignor Boyd Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE SU ELECTIONS!

UNB may not have much to celebrate this Valentine's Day.

The University of New Brunswick Employees Association will be in a legal strike position on February 14th.

According to Michael Keating, the UNBEA's legal representative, the members met with the mediator Thursday and Friday last week (January 31st and February 1st) and "had two intensive days of negotiations."

UNBEA poised to strike

by K Brookland

The Minister of Training and Employment Development, Norman McFarlane, issued a letter Tuesday to inform the members whether a conciliation board will be appointed or not.

If a board is not appointed, the members will have the right to strike within seven days of receipt of the letter.

There was a meeting of the membership this Wednesday afternoon (February 6th) "to advise them of the results of the negotiations with the mediator from Nova Scotia, Milton Veniot," said Keating.

Further meetings were held yesterday with the two bargaining units; the General Labour, Trades, Allied Services (GLTAS), which includes security and audio visual, and SALAC, which includes Secretaries, Accountants, Library Assistants and Clerks. The purpose of the two meetings (one held at 2:45 and another at 3:45) was to discuss the negotiations that had taken place with the university. Each group voted "with respect to the results of the mediation," said Keating.

The results of the vote were not available at press time.

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Animated images created by: Mark Fraser, Dave Hobbins, Pete Dionne

Free Information Session

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