

Stan Cassidy Centre to expand

from stan page 1

wheelchairs we deal with are power-wheelchairs, which are electrically operated." For example, patients who have high level spinal cord injuries cannot move their arms and legs. The department then provides the patients with special wheelchairs that they can navigate by moving their head. Wheelchairs can become very complex pieces of equipment in a case like that.

Another challenge in the Seating Department is to take care of disabled children who may never get a chance to exercise. "It's important for children to develop their bone and muscle," says Harris, "very specialized equipment should be used to support the child so gravity can have an effect on the body."

Another group of services is called the Adopting Driving Department, which helps individuals to drive safely again. This means that vehicles may need special mirrors so that a person who has lost part of their vision can still make sure all the areas around the vehicle is visible.

The last group is called the Augmentative Communication Department. This department is to help those who have lost the capacity to communicate by speech. This department deals with special devices such as voice boxes that can synthesize speech, allowing the user to communicate by using a keyboard.

The department is also involved in helping people interface with everyday items, from ones as

complex as a computer to items as simple as a light switch. "Whatever the problem is, the person needs to be able to do what everybody else can do," says Harris, "we'll find what they need and help them do it."

The new SCCR site will provide 20 inpatient beds, compared to 16 that accommodate patients at the current site. Harris says that, "it may seem small, but it is a crucial increase." Inpatient beds are for any age - from children as young as two or three years old to the elderly. The majority of their inpatients are those who have brain or spinal cord injuries, or those struggling with complex strokes.

In addition to the 20 inpatient beds, there will be also five transitional living units - they are to help patients at SCCR who no longer need an inpatient bed, but may not be ready to go home. "In that apartment, the patients will still be able to continue to learn how to adopt to their disability," says Harris, "how to use the stove, how to access the fridge, how to do things like we do."

Although specialized equipment and the increase in the number of beds are crucial, Harris says the most important key for rehabilitation is the staff members. There are 68 therapeutic staff, four physiatrists, physical medicines specialists and medical doctors, as well as 10 registered nurses and 10 licensed practical nurses.

Harris says that, "our center is here to help patients make gains and improve their ability to return to a more acceptable life; not just a quality of life but a range of life."

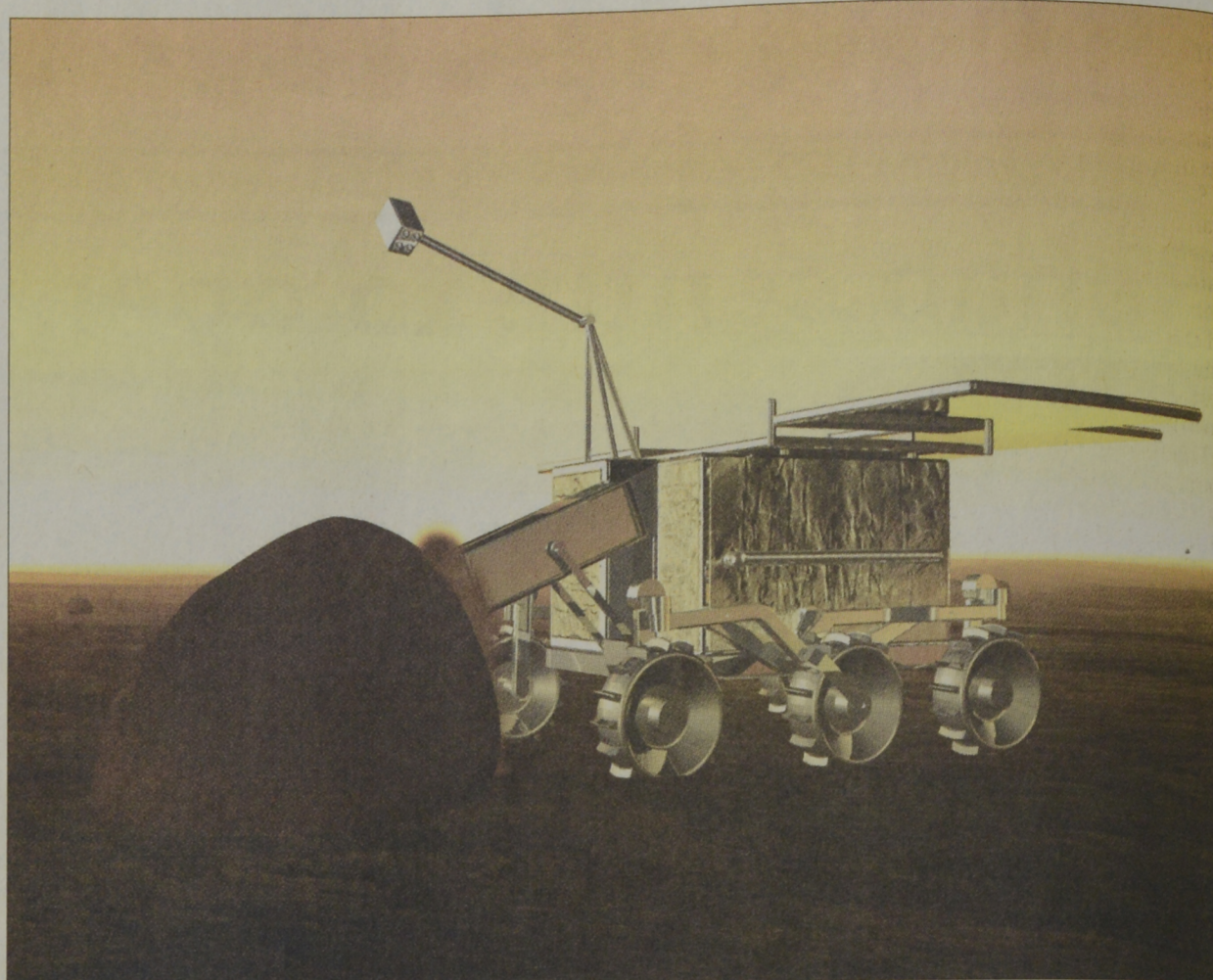
UNB prof on a mission to Mars

by Ameya Bhandarkar

The only thought that went through my mind when I took on the story of talking to UNB's very own space explorer/geologist Dr. John Spray was, "This is awesome research... mars space... extra-terrestrial life... I have to meet this guy." Only when the day of the meeting arrived did I start getting terrified. I know nothing about space exploration and I might end up asking one of world's leading experts on impact geology a completely ridiculous question - and I probably did. However, if indeed I put forth a dumb question, Dr. Spray did not show it, which would probably mean he had talent in the art of acting in addition to his obvious genius in the field of geology.

Dr. John Spray, a professor in UNB's department of Geology, was recently invited to join the 2011 ExoMars mission. ExoMars is being carried out by the European Space Agency (ESA) to find evidence of past life on Mars. He is the only Canadian to be invited to join this mission. Dr. Spray's role will be, in layman terms, to select which Martian rocks are most likely to have traces of life in them. These samples, which Dr. Spray will view through a live image feed, will then be put into the rover's 'sample analyzer'. Based on the sample analyzer's results, conclusions will be drawn as to whether life existed, or still exists, on Mars.

Going into the interview, I was expecting a detailed discussion about space, Mars and rocks. I was right to an extent if you include the



Special to The Brunswickian

Dr. Spray will analyze soil and rock samples collected from Mars' surface by robots like this one.

bit about philosophy, a Caribbean cruise and Mozart. Surprisingly, I learnt that Dr. Spray's interests in space exploration are relatively recent. He first got interested in this area after a guest speaker at UNB gave a presentation on impact craters some 15 years ago. "I always thought there were just one or two impact craters on Earth, like that one in Arizona that they always show on TV", said Dr. Spray. He added that space exploration connected well with his interests in the study of craters on the surface of the Earth.

When asked about his invitation to join ExoMars and his role as the Chair of the CSA's Space Exploration Advisory Committee (SEAC), he stated that the invitation to join ExoMars actually came about due to a speech he had given in Europe, which was attended by the Principal Investigator of the ExoMars vision team. He went on to explain that during his tenure as Chair of SEAC, he realized how under-funded the CSA is. "This is something our community is striving to achieve in the coming years." Said Dr Spray.

The collaboration with ESA on ExoMars can only be good for industry in Canada. Dr. Spray stressed the importance of a coming together of industry and academia in order to undertake world-class research at UNB. He also expressed his displeasure at the attitude of some scientific purists. "Some purists may want nothing to do with industry and I think that is unwise. We should collaborate with industry in order to generate additional funds." In contrast to NASA's budget of 16 billion US dollars a year, the CSA spends 300 million Canadian dollars.

When asked why he chose to stay here in Canada when it seemed there were more funds available for his work in the USA, he expressed his attachment to his adopted country as a major reason. Dr. Spray is looking for sponsors and sources of funding to carry forward his work here at UNB, and possibly set up a research institute in this field, similar to the Institute of Biomedical Engineering on campus. He emphasized the growth of UNB as a

research-oriented university as a whole and stated that simply re-assigning funds from one department to another was not going to cut it. Additional sources of funding must be sought, primarily through external agencies.

At the end of our discussion, we talked about where UNB stands in the realm of space exploration research in Canada. In the opinion of Dr. Spray, UNB is one of the leaders. "We are small here but it's good", he said of the department. He said that UNB could perhaps be more aggressive in getting funds for research since there are very good scientists based here and the research can be of a very high standard. Who knows what results great research could yield? As far as Dr. John Spray is concerned, the sky is the limit.



Profile: he likes to help others

by Josh O'Kane

Dr. Robert Ameh credits real life experience for his reputable teaching skills.

The criminology professor, and eight other educators at UNB are nominees for the new SU faculty award. Given that all contenders were nominated by their own students, the proof of quality teaching comes straight from the source.

"I have experienced life on three different continents in the world," Dr. Ameh explains. "I think that makes me bring a unique perspective to the issues we address in the classroom."

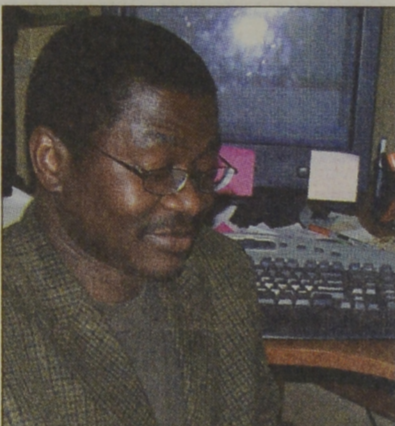
Born in Africa, he got his first

BA in Honors Sociology at the University of Ghana. Ameh then moved to Europe and got another BA, this time in Criminology, followed up by an MA in sociology, both from the University of Oslo. Canada was his final stop, where he received both an MA and a PhD in Criminology.

"Professor Ameh is always there for students," says the student who nominated him. "He is patient and kind, and his lectures are fantastic. He encourages student input more than any other prof I have ever met."

Ameh also credits his pure enjoyment of the applied sociological discipline of criminology for his respected teaching skills.

"I started in the discipline of sociology, but it was too theoretical



Robert Ameh

for me. I was going more towards the more practical aspects of the discipline," he explained, "It was in that respect that social work in criminology appealed to me, because I realized that, well, the theories we learned could be applied to real life situations."

It all comes down to being able to help others, Ameh said. "Because of my background, I'm more drawn towards the applied aspects. It's something I believe is meaningful, and can address some social problems."

Profile: making math add up

by Josh O'Kane

Steve MacMillan really loves Frederickton. He grew up here, he went to university here, he taught high school here, and now he teaches at UNB.

The first year math teacher is on a one-year contract with the university. He secured the job because of his extensive experience with that faculty.

The student who nominated him for the Student Union faculty award says: "He explains concepts very clearly and will take the time to set up appointments if you need explanation on anything, and has regular hours each week where you go can and ask for help."

"I would defiantly say he is the best instructor I have had this semester and amongst the top two in my experience at UNB."

Just how did he figure out he wanted to teach math?

"Starting right out of high school I was in engineering, and I

did well in engineering. But when I worked a part time job in the summer with engineers, I decided that 'this is not something that I want to do for my life's work,'" he said.

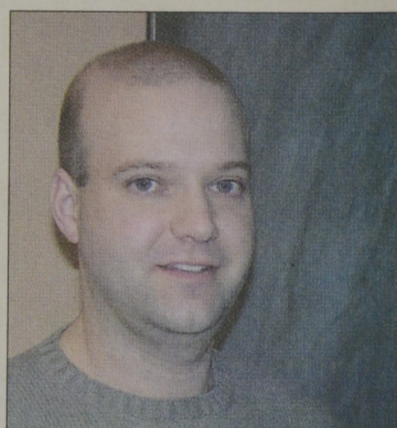
"What I found was that I was helping my friends with, and excelled in mathematics courses. I developed a liking for math, and helping out with mathematics, and that led into education."

Education indeed - not only was he one of the last to receive a degree from UNB's four year B.Ed. program, he also has a Master's degree in education from the school.

He also taught high school for nine years.

"I taught five years at Frederickton High School, and subsequently four years at Leo Hayes High School."

Depending on whether or not he gets an extended contract, he may return to Leo Hayes. But since he's up for this award, who knows where the next year will take him?



Steve Macmillan

Either way, he knows how to do his best for whatever students he teaches.

"Being able to relate to students, and being available, being able to answer questions and to help students," are what he says make him so top notch.

"Because really, as the instructor, one of my first jobs to the students of the university is to be accessible."

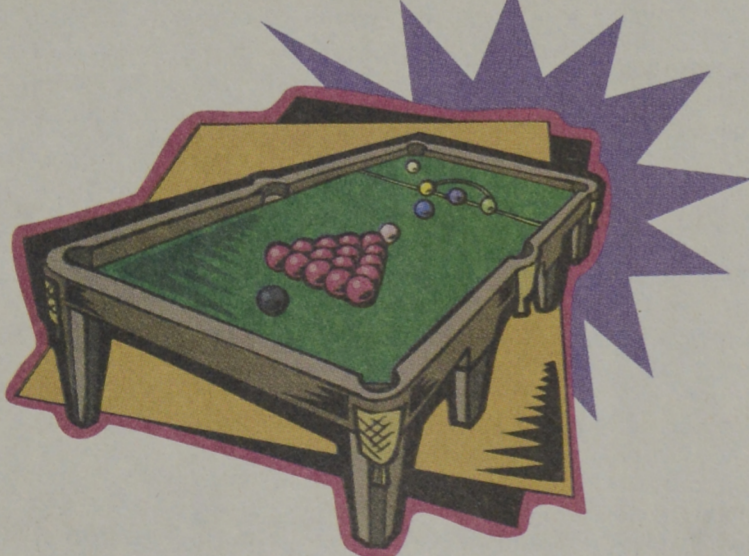
Dr. Richard E. Lee Optometrist

406A Regent St. 458-1580

(2 buildings past Harvey's Hamburgers)

New Patients Welcome

Pool Tournament



Sat. Feb. 4th at 1:00pm,
Dooly's on Queen St. downtown

Double knock-out style
plus a break and run contest

\$10 entry fee

Break and run contest goes on while players wait to play or get knocked out.

3 chances to win for \$5

Check Back Next week for Prizes

DOOLY'S
good times, good friends

CHOOSE CAREFULLY

Europe, Australia or New Zealand.

STUDENT AIRFARES
RAIL & BUS PASSES
TOURS & EXCURSIONS
HOSTEL MEMBERSHIPS
LOW COST INSURANCE

Travel CUTS is owned and operated by the Canadian Federation of Students.

Main Floor UNB, SUB
472-2887
www.travelcuts.com

TRAVEL CUTS
See the world your way