

Conference showcases latest UNB research

by Nicole Gifford
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They have been buried in their work - some quite literally - for several years.

This year's Graduate Student Research Conference, organized by the Graduate Students Association (GSA), boasts 66 oral presentations, 10 poster presentations, and keynote addresses by two of UNB's finest profs.

Dr. John Spray of the Geology Department will give an address titled "Mars: The Next Frontier - Exploring the Red Planet," no doubt related to his recent invitation to join the European Mars mission, and Dr. Susan Blair of the Anthropology Department will be discussing her recent archaeological work in the Miramichi area.

"I'm going to be describing a research project that I'm engaged in with the Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation," Blair explained.

Once a UNB graduate student herself, Blair has been conducting community-based research initiatives in the Miramichi for some time now. At this year's research conference, her address will be "talking about [the research] as an example of how, in archaeology, we're shifting over to community-driven projects - projects that are conducted with communities, and pursuing issues of importance to the community."

Conference co-chair Steven Fischer explained that keynote speakers were selected by polling faculty, graduate students, and members of UNB's administration and coming up with a list of professors who have made a name for themselves through their research.

"Basically, we're looking for peo-

ple that have been fairly prominent researchers on their own," he said. In particular, professors with more time on their hands, those further along in their research or those just starting out, were invited to present and/or judge at the conference.

This year's judging panel consists of six professors from varying faculties. According to Fischer, "the general idea is just to kind of mark these people, most importantly, on just general presentation skills, because the presentations are coming from such diverse backgrounds. It's very hard to assess the academic content, per se... A much smaller part [focuses] on [whether] the research question [is] relevant and [whether] they answer[ed] it in a relevant manner."

This year's topics range from "Bluetooth based wireless medical sensor systems" to "Genocide in Sudan?" Graduate students in any discipline and at any stage in their research can present.

"We have some participants that are kind of [at] the early stages, and they'll... present ideas or proposals of what they might do for their thesis topic, and then we have some that are kind of finishing their thesis and actually presenting data from it," explained Fischer.

The purpose of the conference is to give students the opportunity to present in a public forum without the pressure that comes with presenting at a national or international conference. And, according to Fischer, "it's just a great opportunity because it's close to home. In terms of conferences, you're not going to find a cheaper [one]."

"I think it provides an excellent chance to kind of link with the public sector... it gives us a chance to... show what research is being

done," said Fischer. "I find that often times much of the research that happens in the labs and in the classrooms is pretty much restricted to that area, so it really helps to connect with a lot of the outside world and help disseminate some of this research."

Blair agrees: "it's a really good chance for everybody to share what they're doing and talk about it, and there's some really interesting graduate student projects going

on here," she said.

The GSA awards a top prize of \$200 for the best oral presentation.

Fischer explained that "a lot of our major funding comes from different departments within the university," however, he also noted that the GSA would like to "find an external donor that would be willing to donate [prize] money... then have the award named in [honour] of this person... that would kind of

help us cut our costs, but also give the award a little bit more meaning." For the moment, the prize money comes from fundraising and the GSA's operating budget.

Students are also given the option to give poster presentations because, as Fischer explained, "some people just aren't comfortable or don't have the ability to speak in public, so the poster provides them a chance to have a public forum to disseminate their knowledge."

"It's a little bit more informal, and there's not as much pressure, not all eyes are focused on you," he continued. The top prize for the poster presentations is \$100, as the number of entries in this category are fewer.

The conference takes place February 24 and 25 at the Wu Centre. For more information, contact conference co-chairs Colin Curry (colin.curry@unb.ca) or Steven Fischer (f513r@unb.ca).

Students hungry to help

from mealskip page 1

ports the program.

"The food service providers are often not friendly to the program, so we are very grateful to Sodexo at UNBF for supporting this program," says Kranenburg.

With the money that was raised, Sodexo will use their buying power to buy bulk food goods for the Fredericton Community Kitchen.

Second year kinesiology student Sarah Williamson was one of many students who chose to skip a meal.

"I saw the signs around the meal hall and it just seemed like a really good idea to skip a meal for this cause. It makes me happy to know that I helped the local community by doing something so small, yet significant."

Stephanie Yorke, the Meal Exchange Student Coordinator at UNBF, saw great results this year and is very proud of how the program went.

Her main goal was to see 400 participants, and 443 students took part this year.

Among the residence community, there was some friendly compe-



Michèle Legendre/The Brunswickan

tion among the houses to see how many people participated from each house. Aitken House won the inter-house competition with 100 per cent participation.

In the end, by doing something

as simple as skipping one meal, UNBF students are providing some relief to hungry people around Fredericton.

"We're very proud of Skip-a-Meal because it is a food-fundraising cam-

paign that is guaranteed to generate donations that otherwise would not have existed," says Yorke. "It's all new support for the community... and more impressive because it comes entirely from students."

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Story ideas? bruns.news@gmail.com

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Campaigning has started! Polls open on the 27th of February. To find out who's running, visit www.su.unb.ca/studentvote or contact cro@unb.ca



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CAMPUS WIDE WINTER FORMAL

Still haven't gotten the use out of that black dress or tux? Need an excuse to dress up? The 2006 CAMPUS WIDE Winter Formal will be held once again in the SUB atrium on February 24, 2006 from 9:00 P.M.-1:00 A.M. The cost of tickets is \$5 and can be bought at the Paper Trail.

If you have any questions, please contact unbsu@unb.ca.

RED N' BLACK REVUE

The 58th annual Red n' Black Revue will be SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26TH! This long standing UNB tradition is a show of UNB's talent, including music, dancing and comedy. Come see what UNB has to offer! The show will be in Marshall D'Avray rm. 143 and there will be two showings. Tickets are only \$5.00 for students, \$7.00 for non students and will be available as of Wed. Feb 15th in the Paper Trail as well as at the door. Shows are at 2pm and 7pm. Questions? Email rnbrevue@unb.ca

Wonder Where your Tuition Goes?

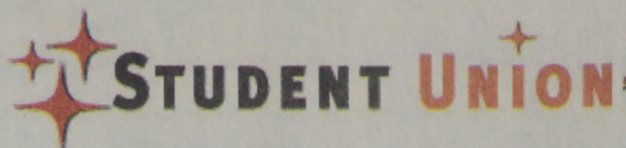


Come to a presentation on the
UNB Budget

By University Vice President Finance &
Corporate Services

Dan Murray

Tuesday February 28
4:00pm
MacLaggan 105



POST-SECONDARY AMBASSADORS

The New Brunswick Department of Education and the Millennium Scholarship Foundation are looking for Post-Secondary Ambassadors. The ambassadors are role models who encourage high school students to participate in post-secondary education at universities, community colleges, etc., through workshops and sharing personal experiences.

Applicants must have gone to high school in New Brunswick. About 100 hours is required during the school year, and the pay is \$3,000 per year. Applications are available at <http://futuretodiscover.ca/psa>. For further information contact the Future to Discover Office at 1-888-247-4040. The deadline for applications is February 24, 2006. The program begins in September 2006.

PREVENT PLAGIARISM

All next week the SU Academic Integrity Team will have information stations in the SUB and Head Hall lobbies during the noon hour each day next week (Feb 20th-Feb 24th) about how you can prevent cheating, plagiarism, copying and other academic offences.

It's that time of year, so get the protection you need! Questions, contact Jill, academic@unb.ca

ENGLISH CORNER CAFE

The English Corner Cafe will take place Thursday, Feb. 23rd 7:00 P.M. in SUB 103. If you are from the international community and you want to meet new friends, practice speaking English and relax--then this is a place for you! Contact Jill, academic@unb.ca or 458-7655, or isao@unb.ca.

For more details see http://su.unb.ca/academic_index.php

Check out the SU Webpage: www.su.unb.ca for updates, information on your union, and ways to get involved.