

The right Toole for the job



Jonathan Hudon / The Brunswickan

by Josh O'Kane

Picture a world where you can weigh chemicals without walking really far; where you don't have to worry about splashing sulfuric acid on the cute girl working at the lab bench next to you. A world where, time and social status permitting, you can check your myspace while doing a titration.

Look no further, for all of these things are making their way to the new and improved \$3.8 million Toole Hall chemistry labs.

Though you may not actually be able to access myspace, and there are still going to be up to 48 people per lab session, the four new labs will provide a relatively low-traffic setup and will include a variety of incredibly innovative renovations.

Dr. Andreas Decken has headed up the Chemistry department's involvement with the project, and is excited about all the advancements in the new lab facilities.

"Years ago," he says, "it became obvious that, amongst other buildings on campus, Toole Hall was nearing its useful life cycle. There were serious issues, especially with the ventilation system."

"Our department lobbied the dean, and the dean lobbied the administration to go after funding for upgrades to labs. The university then went after the government to get funding. All universities got money, though very limited, to deal with their worst building needs."

Through this, money was able to be put into the facilities used by engineering, biology and chemistry at UNB. Because of the size of the project, the chemistry portion in Toole Hall was left for last. It had to be done in the summer – the others could be done during the term.

Three and a half years ago, Dr. Decken was chair of the safety committee when the proposal of renovations first came about.

"I had, for quite a while, thought about what needs to be done in the building to make it safe." As well, he says, "I am an instructor at the same time, and so one thing led to another, and I started to get involved in some design. There's literature available in how to build labs

and what to look out for, and so I was deep enough into it that it made no sense to switch to another person."

Dr. Decken says that the department and the various companies employed to do the work spend a vast amount of time popping ideas back and forth.

"One of the huge things for us," he believes, "was safety. But not just in terms of proper ventilation and safe fume hoods, but also really looking at student traffic, so we don't keep them in a certain area and have them running around like on an anthill. That was entirely ideas that came from the chemistry department and became the design of these labs."

The ideas that were brought to life include a variety of traffic and space-saving innovations, including never-before-seen Y-shaped benches and vacuum nozzles from the ceiling that allow the removal of harmful fumes without needing a fume hood – in fact, Dr. Decken says they cost about one tenth as much to buy as a standard fume hood would, and costs even less than that to run.

"The lab benches are designed so that we have all students in the same area for the whole session. Nobody has to wander around from storing their coat, getting their chemicals, and weighing their chemicals. Everything will be in one local area, so there will be no traffic." He goes on, "when you have 60 students in one room, that is the biggest problem. I think we came up with a solution that will completely eliminate that."

All pre-lab talks will now be held in the labs themselves, eliminating the need to use extra classroom space during lab time. Audio-visual equipment will be provided to show movies, give information, and give demonstrations of things such as searching for material safety data sheets. And on top of that, every lab bench will also have a personal computer station.

"Every group of two students will have their own computer. It will make it a lot easier to get data and analyze the data, rather than have everything on loose paper like it's done in a lot of places."

Though these innovations are primarily for first year labs, upper year labs will have increased space to move around and more access to bench space closer to fume hoods. They will also have internet access and easier access to balances and spectral equipment for chemical

analysis.

Dr. Decken is very proud of how the laboratories are turning out, because of the ideals they followed when they designed them.

"Normally, universities are interested in squeezing as many students as they can into a lab space to cut down on the sections that they teach," he says. "We had a totally different approach: How can we make labs the most enjoyable for students? Come up with a design that will give us the number of workspaces that we have, and from that we'll get the number of sections to have."

"But to cut the sections down was not a priority at all. The most important thing was safety, and second thing then was to enjoy the lab, both from an instructor and student standpoint."

Though it was initially planned to have the labs ready for the beginning of the term, regular delays stopped that from happening – and sacrifices would not be allowed to happen for sake of the quality.

However, he says, "it was very ambitious to do it in the summer. A lot of universities don't do that, but we don't have the space. They can just close parts of the building. They squeeze people in one section, renovate another, and then switch 'til everything's done."

"We don't have an official date because there are too many things in the air; but we hope by the end of September, we'll be able to occupy the labs."

What ever happened to... the Sudan Conflict

by Hunter Gaven

Beginning in February 2003, the Sudan conflict is an ongoing armed conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan, between the Janjaweed, a militia group recruited from local Baggara tribes, and the non-Baggara peoples (mostly tribes of small farmers) of the region. While publicly denying that it supports the Janjaweed, the government of Sudan has provided arms and assistance, and has participated in joint attacks with the group. Estimates of deaths resulting from the conflict have ranged from 50,000, a figure put out by the World Health Organization, and 400,000, the number used by most NGOs. The conflict has been described as an "ethnic cleansing" and genocide by the media, with the United States government supporting the genocide claim. The United Nations, however, has declined to do so.

The starting point of the conflict in Darfur is typically said to be February 26, 2003, when a group calling itself the Darfur Liberation Front (DLF) publicly claimed responsibility for an attack on Golo, the headquarters of Jebel Marra District. Even prior to this attack, however, a conflict had erupted in Darfur, as rebels had already attacked police stations, army outposts and military convoys, and the government had engaged in a massive air and land assault on the rebel stronghold in the Marra Mountains. Intense fighting continued, warranting a response from the international community.

In 2004, Chad held negotiations in N'Djamena, leading to the April 8, 2004, "Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement" between the Sudanese government and the rebel groups. The African Union formed a Ceasefire Commission to monitor observance of the putative ceasefire. The scale of the

crisis led to warnings of an imminent disaster, with United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Kofi Annan warning that the risk of genocide was frighteningly real in Darfur. Comparisons were made to the Rwandan Genocide, a claim that was vehemently denied by the Sudanese government. NGO observers noted that the tactics, which include dismemberment and killing of non-combatants, including young children and babies, are more akin to the 'ethnic cleansing' witnessed in Yugoslavia, but have warned that the region's remoteness means that hundreds of thousands are effectively cut off from aid. The International Crisis Group reported in May, 2004 that over 350,000 people could potentially die as a result of starvation and disease. The strife continued, which brings us to roughly the end of last school year. So what went down over the summer? Was it more exciting than Canadian Idol? More intense than re-runs of Grey's Anatomy? Oh you better believe it was.

On May 5, 2006, a treaty was adopted between the government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) calling for the disarmament of the Janjaweed militia, and for rebel forces to disband and then be incorporated into the army. The deal, orchestrated by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, African Union diplomat Salim Ahmed Salim, and other foreign diplomats working in Abuja, Nigeria, was rejected by two smaller rebel groups – the Justice and Equality Movement, and a rival group to the SLA. The peace accord would not stand.

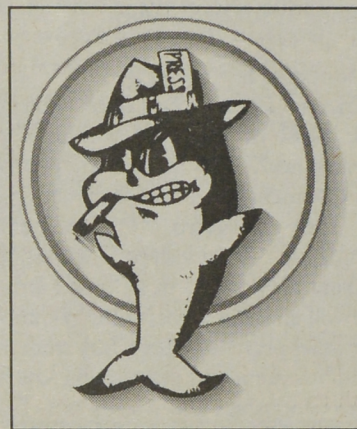
During the summer of 2006, hostilities were renewed. International aid organizations were nearly forced to abandon the largest aid efforts in the world, due to continuing attacks against personnel. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for a force of 17,000 international peacekeepers to the region in order to replace the African Union force of 7,000, which had proved too small to be effective. On August 24, the International Rescue Committee reported that

hundreds of women were raped and sexually assaulted around the Kalma refugee camp during the last several weeks. On August 25, the head of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of African Affairs, Assistant Secretary Jendayi Frazer, warned that the region would face a security crisis unless the proposed U.N. peacekeeping forces were allowed to deploy.

Finally, on August 31, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution to send a new peacekeeping force of 22,500 to the region. Sudan expressed strong opposition to the resolution, but their grievance was ignored. The next day, African Union officials reported that Sudan had launched a major offensive in Darfur, killing over 20 people and displacing more than 1,000. Facing continued attacks in the area, the African Union peacekeeping forces, whose peacekeeping mandate expires on September 30, has confirmed that they will evacuate the area to make room for the U.N. forces. According to U.N. Resolution 1706, the peacekeeping forces are set to arrive and be functional no later than December 31, 2006.

Got something to say?

Come to the Brun room 35 in the SUB



UNBF Gregg Centre for Study of War and Society opening

Submitted to the Brunswickan

Historical relevance with an eye on the present and future come together when two forces unite at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton (UNBF). Combining new capabilities and initiatives while honouring the past, UNBF will officially unveil the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society.

The unveiling ceremony will take place Tuesday, September 12, at 3 p.m. at the J. Harper Kent Auditorium at the Wu Conference Centre on the UNBF campus.

A reception hosted by the Dean of Arts, James Murray, will follow. The centre is named in honour of Brig.

Milton F. Gregg VC, a former UNB president (1994 to 1947), who was decorated for courage and leadership under fire during the first World War. He received the Military Cross and Bar while serving with the Royal Canadian Regiment.

In the midst of fierce fighting in the Marcoing Line on September 28, 1918, then Lieutenant Gregg won the Victoria Cross, the nation's highest award for valour. He returned to active service in 1939, where his abilities were applied by training infantry officers for combat duty in the second World War.

"Brig. Milton Gregg personifies the goals of UNB's Centre for the Study of War and Society," said Marc Milner, chair of UNBF's department of history, and director of the Gregg Centre.

"The naming is the culmination of 35 years of excellence in the study of modern conflict. The Gregg Centre contin-

ues UNB's mandate since 1971 to educate Canadians about the nature of war, its causes, conduct and consequences."

The Gregg Centre assumes two new roles.

The first is to focus on Canada's Army, its history, place in society, operations and ongoing transformation in today's complex international environment. The other is to foster public awareness of the unique military heritage of New Brunswick and of the province's continuing contribution to the defence of Canada.

The event also marks the establishment of the Gregg Centre National Council, chaired by UNB graduate (1963) Lt. Gen. (Ret.) David O'Blenis, a native of Salisbury, former Deputy Commander of NORAD and current president of Raytheon Canada.

Milner will continue the celebration with a public lecture entitled "In Search

of the Lost Battalion: The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, from D-Day to Carpiquet."

The open lecture is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Wu Centre.

Milner is known for his work in the Canadian navy and in the Battle of the Atlantic. He joined the history department at UNB in 1986 and was director of UNB's Military and Strategic Studies program. His current research projects focus on the Normandy campaign of 1944 and includes a volume for the N.B. Military Heritage Project Series, titled "From D-Day to Carpiquet: The North Shore (N.B.) Regiment and the Liberation of Europe, June-July 1944."

For further information or to confirm attendance, contact Deborah Stapleford at 506-453-4587 or dstaple@unb.ca.

Pluto: Planet non-grata

Submitted to the Brunswickan

Defining a planet.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) members gathered at the 2006 General Assembly agreed that a "planet" is defined as a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit, and (d) is not a satellite.

has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.

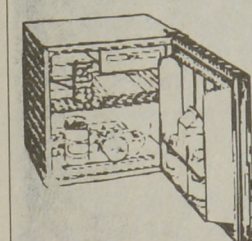
A "dwarf planet" is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, (c) has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit, and (d) is not a satellite.

All other objects, except satellites orbiting the sun, shall be referred to collectively as "small solar-system bodies."

Source: International Astronomical Union, www.iau2006.org

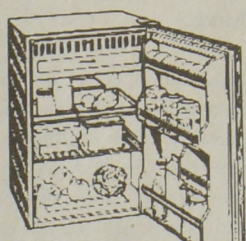
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