

Wining and Cheese, Dining and Bees with EWB

by Melanie Bell

The name "Engineers Without Borders" usually conjures up images of working in fields and digging wells under the hot Sub-Saharan sun. On Tuesday, November 14, the organization displayed its classier side through its first Wine and Cheese event.

Entering the Wu Conference Centre, attendees were greeted by the rich sound of cello music, a well-stocked bar and a table full of dainty refreshments. The highlight of the night, however, was the presentation delivered by two representatives of Canadian University Students Overseas (CUSO).

CUSO is a privately run Canadian organization that sends volunteers overseas to help implement development projects requested by locals. Peter Hardie was one such volunteer. Along with his wife Kathleen, Hardie traveled to Papua New Guinea to assist with the rural beekeeping industry. His partner overseas was Tella Loie, a native of the Garoka region and a leader in local beekeeping. Both Hardie and Loie shared the highlights of their work together.

85% of Papua New Guinea's area is rural, and its economic activity is primarily by subsistence. The eastern highlands region's first contact with white people took place in 1932.

The country has gone "from stone age to space age in two generations," explained Loie. "The first wheel that one person [in the region] saw there was on an airplane."

The region's rapidly changing economy is now looking to previously introduced European honeybees as a potential source of revenue.

One initiative undertaken was the teaching and training of beekeepers in the village. The Hardies and Loie provided workshops in a team teaching style. Along with basic techniques, they trained beekeepers in skills specific to the industry, such as raising quality queens and processing honey.



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They introduced lessons about bees in the secondary school curriculum, and designed and piloted a 2-year, 32-lesson beekeeping program at a vocational training school. These projects were greeted with enthusiasm.

The Hardies' proposal to teach beekeeping to women, however, was met with reluctance.

"Oh goodness, what are you going to teach our women folk?" Loie echoed initial sentiments. "What if the bees stung them?"

Once the project was in place, however, both men and women came to embrace the idea. Now, there are about 15 groups of women beekeepers in the eastern highlands area.

In addition to working with beekeepers, the Hardies did research to determine an increase in local coffee production when bees pollinate the plants. They strove to connect beekeepers with coffee growers. Now, coffee honey is being produced in the region.

As a supplement to their presentation, Loie and Hardie told the audience about Papua New Guinea's culture. Here is a nation 800 languages intersect, where family ties are the primary value, where 97% of the land is owned by the community. It is a land where tradition meets modernity—one photograph showed an intricately thatched house topped with a solar panel. Here is a country where produce is abundant, yet

one pineapple sells for the equivalent of two Canadian cents.

Following the presentation, Jeff Melanson and Alejandro Gomez-Juliao gave the audience an overview of the Engineers Without Borders mandate.

Like CUSO, EWB strives to effect sustainable and appropriate change overseas by partnering with local organizations. It also focuses on education and policy change here in Canada.

Few students may realize the impact of EWB on UNB's own engineering program. Gomez-Juliao himself was responsible for effecting change in the program two years ago, by suggesting and encouraging the implementation of sustainable development projects in the classroom and overseas. Both of these have been successfully incorporated into the engineering program since last year.

These presentations generated enthusiasm from the audience. One guest asked about the possibility of an export market for Papua New Guinea's queen bees. Another suggested using UNB students' inventions in projects overseas.

Clearly, the evening of November 14th was no ordinary wine and cheese event. It was an opportunity to witness the way in which two organizations are effecting change in the world, and an incentive to reflect on how every one of us can bring about change ourselves.

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they heard there was a dispute over who the directors of the society were, they froze the accounts," she said.

The university administration has also revealed their position regarding the recent events surrounding the SFSS.

A letter released last week from SFU president Michael Stevenson states: "pending a decision to the contrary by the Supreme Court of B.C., [the university] must respect the outcome of the special general meeting."

The letter states that the university has been monitoring the situation closely, but that the ability of the university to intervene is "severely limited" because the SFSS is an autonomous body constituted under the B.C. Societies Act.

The letter also states that while many students have asked the university to "freeze" the transfer of funds it collects on behalf of the SFSS, the university is required to transmit those fees under the University Act.

"Stevenson's letter was fair," Dunnet said. "I appreciate the fact that he continues to remit funds to the society and that he recognizes the autonomy of the society."

However, she also stated that the university's position on the matter does not affect the present executive's efforts to deny the validity of the special general meeting.

"The university and the student society are two separate organizations. [Their] recognition of the special general meeting doesn't really impact what we're trying to do here, because we are an autonomous society," Dunnet said.

With the exception of former president Shawn Hunsdale, who wrote a letter of resignation two days following the special general meeting, members of the executive are still working for the SFSS.

Dunnet explained that the executive members remain working to "ensure the society continues to function."

"We are only interested in being here right now in a caretaker capacity," said Dunnet. "No large financial decisions will be made by those signing officers who are in dispute."

Casual sex and students

by Erin Hancock

A recent study by sex researchers Grello, Welsh, and Harper, in *The Journal of Sex Research*, explored post-secondary students' association with having casual sex. Considering how often one hears students talking about having casual sex, whether they are actually doing it or just talking about it, it rates as something to learn more about.

Casual sex includes 'one night stands,' 'hook-ups,' 'socio-sexuality,' 'chance encounters,' 'anonymous sex,' 'friends with benefits,' and more can be added to this list. This experiment was conducted with over 400 psychology students in an undergraduate program at a south-eastern U.S. university.

Although previous studies showed that females, in particular, often would identify their first sexual experience as a romantic one, Grello et al. found that for a large number of youth, their first encounter with sex was with a casual partner and likely involved drinking or drug use. Males were found to have significantly more casual sex partners than females. However, both males and females considered emotional investment to be important in any sexual experience.

Grello et al. found that young people were more likely to engage in casual sex with someone they considered a friend or whom they knew, compared to casual sex with a stranger. However, of the students surveyed who identified having casual sex, 37 per cent noted that their most recent casual sex partner was a stranger or someone they didn't know well.

The researchers found that there was a correlation between those who started having sex at a young age and those who engaged in casual sex. It seemed that if youth started engaging in sex at a very young age, they would be predisposed to having casual sex more so than youth who did not start having sex so early.

Another researcher, Lee, identified several love styles or approaches to interpersonal relationships: "Eros (passionate love), Ludus (game-playing love), Storge (friendship love),

Pragma (practical love), Mania (neurotic love), and Agape (altruistic love). These styles or approaches to relationships may influence the likelihood or risk of engaging in casual sexual relationships. Of particular interest are the Ludic and the Eros lovers. Ludic lovers are in it for the game or conquest. Eros is often described as passionate love, being struck by Cupid's arrow, or immediately falling deeply in love at first sight."

Depressive symptoms can also be related to those who engage in casual sex, especially young females. The researchers found problematic functioning was related with casual sex for people even before they ever became sexually active. The researchers reported: "females whose first sexual intercourse partner was someone whom they did not know well reported the most symptoms of depression. Males who reported their first intercourse partner was 'a friend of a friend' reported the fewest symptoms of depression."

Depending on the expectation that each person had coming into the sexual experience, the nature of the sexual encounter was altered. Those who saw this casual sex encounter as the beginning of a new romance were more likely to engage in affectionate behaviours than those who viewed the experience as an isolated event. A strong portion of both males and females in the sample did not hold the expectation that a romantic relationship would come from this casual sex encounter. Most expected it to be the beginning of a casual sex relationship or just a one night stand.

For those whose first sexual experience was with a casual partner, they were more likely to be uncomfortable. "Kissing implied an emotional rather than physical link," they reported. More research is needed on this issue of casual sex, especially around alcohol use and casual sex.

For information on sexual health or for free condoms, drop by the UNB Sexuality Centre in room 203 of the SUB, across from the elevator. There are a lot of issues around sex of any kind and it's important to have the information. Any questions? Feel free to call 452-6272 or e-mail sexuality@unb.ca.

Tales from Down Under: G'day mate and greetings

by Lindsey Pendleton

If you would have told me a year ago that I would complete a term of my business administration degree at a university in Australia, I would have never believed it. But that's what I decided to do: become an exchange student at Macquarie University in Sydney. And what an adventure it has been!

Kayaking the wide open ocean between Australia and New Zealand, surfing the waves on famous Bondi beach, exploring the magnificent city of Sydney, hiking the Blue Mountains, camping in the amazing Outback, attending the Uni games in Brisbane on a sports team; these are just a few of the marvelous experiences awaiting you on the UNB Student Abroad Program.

Being a student of UNB Fredericton for four years, I know as well as anybody how

great a place it is, and how you become so comfortable and content with such surroundings and wonderful friends; but the chance to study abroad may only come once in a lifetime, and it is one I beg you to consider.

It is so exciting attending class in a new country, new university, and making new friends from all around the world. I feel this has been the most important lesson thus far during my experience - getting to know many other cultures and seeing life with a new perspective. It's also great to be exposed to a different academic system and to experience life at an Australian university.

For those of you who love having a good time, Australia is the place to go! Don't get me wrong, I can have a good time at Nicky Zee's on a Saturday night, and a lot of fun at Dolan's on Thursday listening to a band, but the opportunities surrounding the night life in Sydney are endless. Whether it's just

chillin' with some friends at a pub, listening to a new and upcoming Australian band, or totally letting your hair down for a full night out of dancing 'til 5 a.m. - Sydney has it all! It is truly fabulous!

The wildlife is also magnificent, with amazing koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, and over 800 species of birds. Whether seeing them in their natural habitat or in an animal refuge, these animals are truly amazing!

So, whether it's the night life, wild life, new friends, new city, or nature which turns your crank, the Study Abroad Program is definitely worth looking into!

Note: Lindsey Pendleton spent a term at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia as part of UNB's Student Abroad Program.



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