

Int'l advisor aims to ease transition

by Lauren Kennedy

The University of New Brunswick Fredericton is host to more than 850 international students and as the new International Student Advisor, Kathryn Gates wants to help make the transition for international students easier.

Gates explains that not only do international students share the same concerns as domestic students, they also face additional challenges.

"All students can become overwhelmed by the transition to university. However, many international students are faced with challenges of language barriers, jet lag, and cultural differences in food, weather and social customs."

Gates is responsible for making this cultural change almost seamless. The

International Student Office works with students to help with accommodations as well as to provide information on visas, banking, health insurance, work opportunities, etc. Throughout the year the office will plan and promote social and cultural events, provide workshops and promote the awareness of international students to the community.

Gates says the community is key to the students' overall experience.

"From my experience the thing that people miss the most is their families and part of my job is to get the community involved in making the students feel like part of the Fredericton family."

Gates brings a wealth of cultural knowledge and experience to the university. In the past she was an International Education project Co-ordinator for the New Brunswick Government, a past international student advisor with Mount Allison university, taught English in Oman and has travelled to over 25 countries around the world.

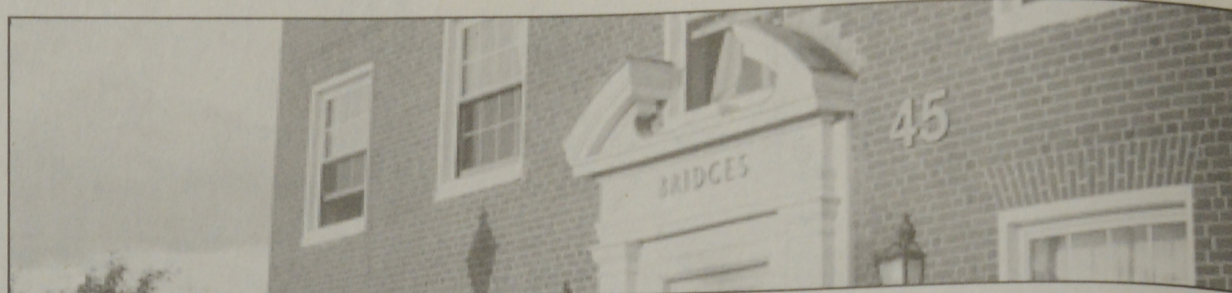
Doing the Res Life shuffle

Residential Life & Conference Services shuffles jobs and sells assets to avoid increasing fees

by Bruns News Department

UNB Residential Life and Conference Services has undergone a few changes since students left last April. Staff has left, buildings have changed hands, and there have been various alterations in disciplinary processes.

In an effort to increase accessibility at UNB and to help work with Res Life's ongoing deficit, Jones House will become home to a variety of divisions of Student Affairs & Services,



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

and equipped with an elevator. The rededication of the building will put \$1.7M towards Res Life's ongoing \$2M deficit. Neville/Jones has become the official name of the former Neville House building, while the old Jones building will retain its original name.

"We just don't have enough prospective occupants to continue to maintain empty buildings, which are extremely expensive," says Director of Residential Life and Conference Services James Brown. "The only available means to meet that expense is residence fees. The obvious way to get expense is to raise fees, but we did not raise fees - we

reduced expenses."

Residence fees themselves are not up, says Brown, but the cost within the residence charge for meal plans with Sodexo has raised the overall price.

With beds still left to be filled, and a slew of staff and faculty from Carleton Hall without offices, Bridges House has had a half-conversion into office space for the Carleton refugees. The building will reopen as a fully functional residence in the fall of 2008. Joy Kidd House is one step closer to being fully reopened as well - last year, two full hallways were closed down, whereas only one third floor hallway is locked off this year.

Various middle management staff at Res Life have also seen shifting over the past four months. The departure of Matt Robinson and Erin Lee's maternity leave has put Tana Geiger under the new consolidated position of Acting Coordinator (Residential Life). A second position to compliment Geiger may be hired in the future.

According to Geiger, "we've amalgamated all the positions in terms of overseeing all the training, providing resources for dons and proctors, overseeing house committee responsibilities, and programming."

In the meantime, Res Life has announced an assistant to the coordinator (Residential Life) will be hired through the Work-Study program on campus. A similar position was held by veteran proctor Ben Langille until this summer, and then by another graduated proctor, Jason Harley, until the beginning of Orientation Week. The need for a Work-Study grant to hire a similar position shows the need by Res Life to cut down expenses at all costs.

In addition to those changes, many administrative issues previously held by the three coordinators have been divided up among the management in Res Life. On the other hand, disciplinary issues will be handled by a special panel from within the Board of Dons. This panel will meet weekly to discuss disciplinary appeals and issues and should hopefully

provide swift answers and judgment on problems requiring immediate action. Disciplinary issues were previously handled primarily by the Coordinator of Development & Conduct, Erin Lee.

Proctors this year in the residence system have been spread somewhat thin. A full set of proctors was selected in the spring to be brought in for this fall; however, numbers have dwindled since then, and the entire pool of alternates was exhausted. Traditionally, Res Life does not offer second chances to individuals who decline positions. In this case, instead of offering positions to those who did not make the original cut for proctorship, Res Life has chosen to re-offer to any individuals who had initially declined.

However, only one person accepted. Tana Geiger says that "all of our proctor positions are full right now, but in the event that somebody has to back out for some reason, we had already used our alternate list and our waitlist... We usually have about six alternates. Instead of going back to people who hadn't even made the waitlist, we decided to first go to people who had turned down positions to see if they had different plans at this point so that they might want to be on the alternate list."

James Brown says that in the event of needing to fill multiple positions, new proctors may need to be hired before the winter term. Traditionally, hopeful proctors go through a lengthy carousel interview session - but that may not be the case if more need to be hired.

"We probably wouldn't go through the carousel process again," says Brown. "We'd probably recruit in some other expedient way. In a situation where you're trying to be fair with everyone and there are people who haven't yet declined, you want to treat them differently. In a situation where you have a gap, as long as everybody who declined has the same opportunity to come back, which is what we did do."

"I think that preserves fairness."

New library entrance still under construction



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The Harriet Irving Library is still under construction, but the open space is already being taken advantage of by students. The grand opening of the new entryway is scheduled for October 17, 2007.

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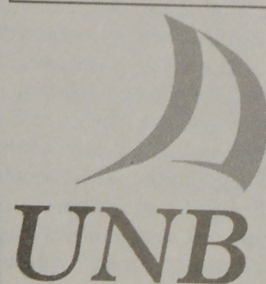
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AIDS Walk promotes understanding in the community

by Lauren Kennedy

This year's AIDS Walk raised \$5,369 through a joint effort of AIDS New Brunswick and St. Thomas University.

This past Sunday morning in downtown Fredericton, you would have found over 300 participants walking for AIDS.

HIV/AIDS is a preventable disease that has almost become an epidemic throughout the world. New cases of HIV/AIDS remain constant all over New Brunswick and Canada, and it continues to grow, especially for women, injection drug users, youth and other vulnerable communities. These groups are the focus of much of the research and education of AIDS New Brunswick's efforts.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Fredericton Area AIDS walk. AIDS Walk Coordinator Jennifer Weston's main hope is to raise awareness and emphasize how important it is to understand the disease, especially because it is so close to home.

There were 66 local businesses sponsoring the event and supporting the cause, which she feels is a very important

step to increase awareness.

Proceeds from the Walk this year are being split 50/50 between AIDS NB and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This foundation helps ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa by funding projects that help individuals, families and communities ravaged by the disease. Specifically for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the proceeds will be going towards Zambia, which is St. Thomas University's partner country.

AIDS New Brunswick ensures that all money raised will go toward local efforts, such as the HIV/AIDS Info Line, walk in consultations, education and counseling sessions, and distributed over 14,000 printed materials throughout the province.

The honorary co-chairs for this year's Walk are Kalin McKuskey and Ronnia Shamaila. McCluskey has just finished her degree at UNB and is now at STU studying Human Rights and Religious Studies. She is also the president of the Canadian Catholic Student's Association. Shamaila is an international student from Zambia attending STU. She is enrolled with the Social Work Program and is passionate about helping out in the community.

Together they send a joint message of hope for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"Millions of people today live with and are infected by AIDS and related diseases; however, we are all affected because this has been an intense disease that has changed lives as well as left many

widowed or orphaned. Above all, the impact of HIV/AIDS on our lives as humans is so immeasurable. It is for no other reason but great love, compassion, and commitment for and towards our loved ones that we gather to raise money and awareness on AIDS matters," they say. "It is of good practice to Think Globally, but act locally. It is our goal that HIV/AIDS will be eradicated, by walking together in solidarity, we are increasing resources, but above all, we are increasing awareness and hope."

Aitken House had the top team in the Walk, raising \$579, followed by Vanier House at St. Thomas with \$545. In all, this year's AIDS Walk raised \$5369.

Weston is very happy with the results.

"Everything went very smoothly, the speakers were great, the participants were great, everything was great. We really appreciate all the hard work from all the volunteers and everyone that supported the cause," she said. "We got AIDS on everyone's mind and that's the most important thing."

She explained that people are not aware of the fact that AIDS is a local issue and not just something that happens in a foreign country.

"It's really important to promote understanding. People need to know how to protect themselves, and also the importance of getting tested," she said. "This event is really important because it is something that we have to deal with here in New Brunswick, not just in Africa."



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