

Broadening your horizons

by Lauren Kennedy

Silke Klenk has worked for the International Relations Office for the past two years, where her key responsibility is to manage the Student Abroad program. She says that if it were not for her own positive experiences, she would not be able to do what she does now.

"I was born in Germany and while I was in university, I participated in an exchange to France and did an internship in Germany," she said. "I don't think I could do my job promoting now if I didn't enjoy the experience."

Klenk explains that in order to participate in the Student Abroad program at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton campus, there are a few regulations that need to be met to be accepted in the program.

First, you need a GPA of 2.5 or higher and going into at least your second year of your degree program, with at least 30 credit hours taken in courses at UNB. In addition, you would need to write an essay explaining the reasons why you wish to participate and go overseas. A committee examines all of these credentials, where the eligible candidates are selected. Students are contacted after the fall term if they are selected for the opportunity.

As Klenk explains, while the application process may take some time, the reward to end up going overseas is a great one.

"I always tell students it's a great time to go. Most think to travel after finishing their degree program, but at that point in most people's lives there are a lot of other commitments," she said. "If you are selected, you still pay UNB tuition and you earn credits toward your degree program, so if you have the opportunity to do that, the reward is great."

Klenk explains that the main point of this program is graduate global citizens and going abroad can help that objective greatly. Experiences like this one can help open a student's eyes and make them see the world from a different point of view and can change a person in many ways.

"I always find it interesting to speak to the students before they leave and when they come back and see the differences in them. I find it really matures them and gives them more independence."

Prior to her two years coming into this position, there was no centralized office to deal with overseas relations. Each faculty dealt with their own exchange opportunities. Now, with the program set up the way it is, there are many benefits for the students. The program offers pre-departure sessions to make sure students are ready for their trip, offering advice, helping with residence and visas and other permits. Klenk offers resources and advice for people if they get stuck or have any questions.

There are many universities, in various countries to choose from, making it overwhelming to narrow choices down to the three required on the application.

"The first year the response was very overwhelming to go to Australia or England. I mean who wouldn't want to go to warm Australia to study?" Klenk jokes. "There were obvious reasons to pick those countries as they are English-speaking, but I make it a point to tell students not to discourage [sic] universities in other countries just because they may speak another language there."

In all, Klenk notes that exchanges are a great experience and while she wants students to have fun, it is also an academic experience that will help students further down the road.

If students would like to get more information or talk to other students that have participated in the program before, Klenk urges them to attend the Student Abroad Fair happening October 24 from 11-2 in the SUB Atrium.

UNB Student Union votes again

by Ed Bowes

Just six weeks into the fall '07 term, the Student Union executives are busy preparing for another important chapter in the story of the UNB university government. The SU by-elections to round out this year's council are now underway with campaigning set to last until Saturday, October 27.

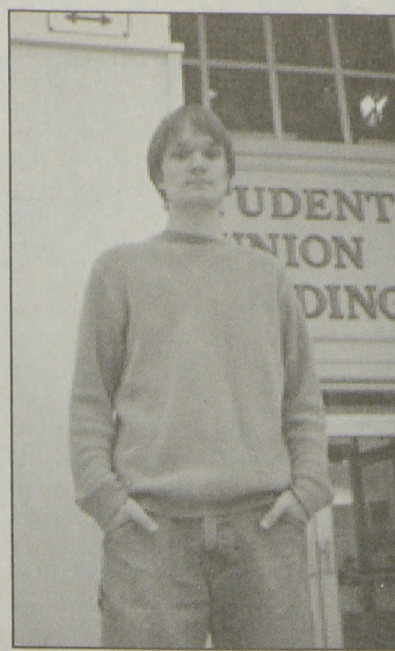
The UNBSU by-election is a second election called by the Chief Returning Officer, who is in charge of conducting and monitoring all SU elections on campus. This election can occur at any point of the academic year, but is generally called during the first few weeks of the first term to ensure yearlong representation. As some seats were either never filled or reopened during the summer months, a by-election is needed to fill the remaining positions. Currently, there are a large number of empty seats

on the council, which is becoming a perpetual problem for the SU. Without this by-election, many campus groups would not have a chance for their voices to be heard.

VP Academic Bethany Vail comments on the problem of empty seats, saying that council is only half filled.

"Currently the positions are only half filled, which means that half of the university isn't being represented. The reason the by-election is so important is so that we can get full representation from all parts of the university and so that the Student Union can fully fulfill their job of representing the student body to their best capacity."

Last year's by-election had numerous problems and was eventually called off after a lack of communication between the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the other facets of the election, such as the Secretariat and the ITS. In the past, the CRO has been under a great deal of pressure during election time, having the enormous burden of organizing the entire endeavour. This year, the SU has made an important change to the UNBSU By-Laws, which are the guidelines that govern the council. A Deputy Chief Returning Officer has now been appointed to help take some



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

of the load off of the CRO's shoulders and to help ensure a much smoother electoral process.

This year students will be competing against their peers for nine available positions on council: Student Representative for The Brunswickian Board, Residence Liaison, and representatives

from the Arts, Computer Science, Kinesiology, Law, Nursing, Renaissance College, and Education faculties.

Student participation in SU elections has been minimal in recent years. Last year's general election garnered a voter turnout of an unimpressive 16.2%.

Chief Returning Officer, Jason Tait, urges students to get involved in the electoral process.

"Everyone should vote, because if you want any say in who is representing you and who's your voice, you have to vote. Democracy only works if you're a part of it. If you don't vote, you don't have any right to complain."

At this time, students should be logging in to their e-services to confirm their eligibility as voters. If you are a member of multiple faculties, it is important to know you can only vote for one representative from one of your faculties. Students can review the candidates and make an informed decision regarding whom they will choose. All voting will be done online through e-services and will adhere to the standard UNB policies.

The poles will open at 12:01 on Sunday, October 28 and will close the following Saturday, November 3 at 11:59 pm.

New drug helps prevent HPV virus

by Alison Clack

genital area of men and women." This is still a pretty vague description, though. What exactly can these thirty-odd strains of the virus do? Well, the infectious strains can be divided into two groups, 'high-risk' and 'low-risk'. The low-risk strains of the virus can cause slightly abnormal Pap tests in women and cause bumps and growths to appear in the genital area (in both sexes), also known as genital warts. The high-risk strains of this virus, however, can cause a little more than embarrassing placed warts. The more dangerous strains of the virus can cause cancer in places including the cervix, anus, vulva, and penis.

With those unwanted consequences floating around in mind, one might want to know how all of those nasty infections and diseases can be prevented.

Don't think that by slipping on a condom in the heat of the moment you will be completely protected from any of these risks.

"Condoms offer great protection from STIs (sexually transmitted infec-

tions), but abstinence is the only form of protection that is 100% effective. If you are sexually active, you should definitely be using a condom each and every time, but you shouldn't believe that you are 100% protected. With perfect condom use, condoms are only about 97-98% effective at protecting against pregnancy and STIs," explains Melissa Fulton, UNB Sexuality Center's Coordinator.

"However, the average person does not use the condom properly every time. The typical condom user is about 82% protected. Furthermore, it is important to note that penetration is not required to contract HPV, so even when using a condom there is some chance of exposure," she said.

Another method of prevention for young women is the new vaccination, Gardasil. Gardasil is a vaccination for women aged nine to twenty-six and works by boosting the immune system in order to fight off the four strains of HPV it protects from.

"This vaccine can reduce a woman's

chance of contracting HPV, but will not cure an existing HPV infection," notes Fulton.

The worst part of the infection is that most HPV cases do not present any signs or symptoms, and there is no screening for possible infection like HIV and other STIs. Information for on the aforementioned methods of prevention can be found on campus.

"Students can practice safe sex by always using a condom (free condoms are available at the Sexuality Centre). Female students can also talk to their doctor about the HPV vaccine. To get the vaccination you need to get a prescription from a doctor. You drop off that prescription to a pharmacist, who will give you the container of vaccine which you bring back to your doctor's office where they will administer the shot. The vaccine is actually a series of [three] shots, so you will need more than one. The best bet for students looking to get vaccinated would be to go to the Student Health Clinic," says Fulton.

ATTENTION

UNB - FREDERICTON
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

TENTATIVE DECEMBER 2007 EXAM SCHEDULE

THE TENTATIVE 2007 DECEMBER EXAM SCHEDULE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB FROM THE UNB HOMEPAGE OR AT THIS URL:

<http://www.unb.ca/schedules/exam>

The tentative schedule is also posted on faculty bulletin boards. It is expected that the Final Exam Schedule will be available on the Web by October 19, 2007. Students are reminded that they are expected to make themselves available for examinations until the last possible day of the examination period, ie December 18th, 2007. Therefore, travel arrangements should not be finalized until the final examination timetable has been released. Deferred exams will not be granted for reason of travel arrangements.

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