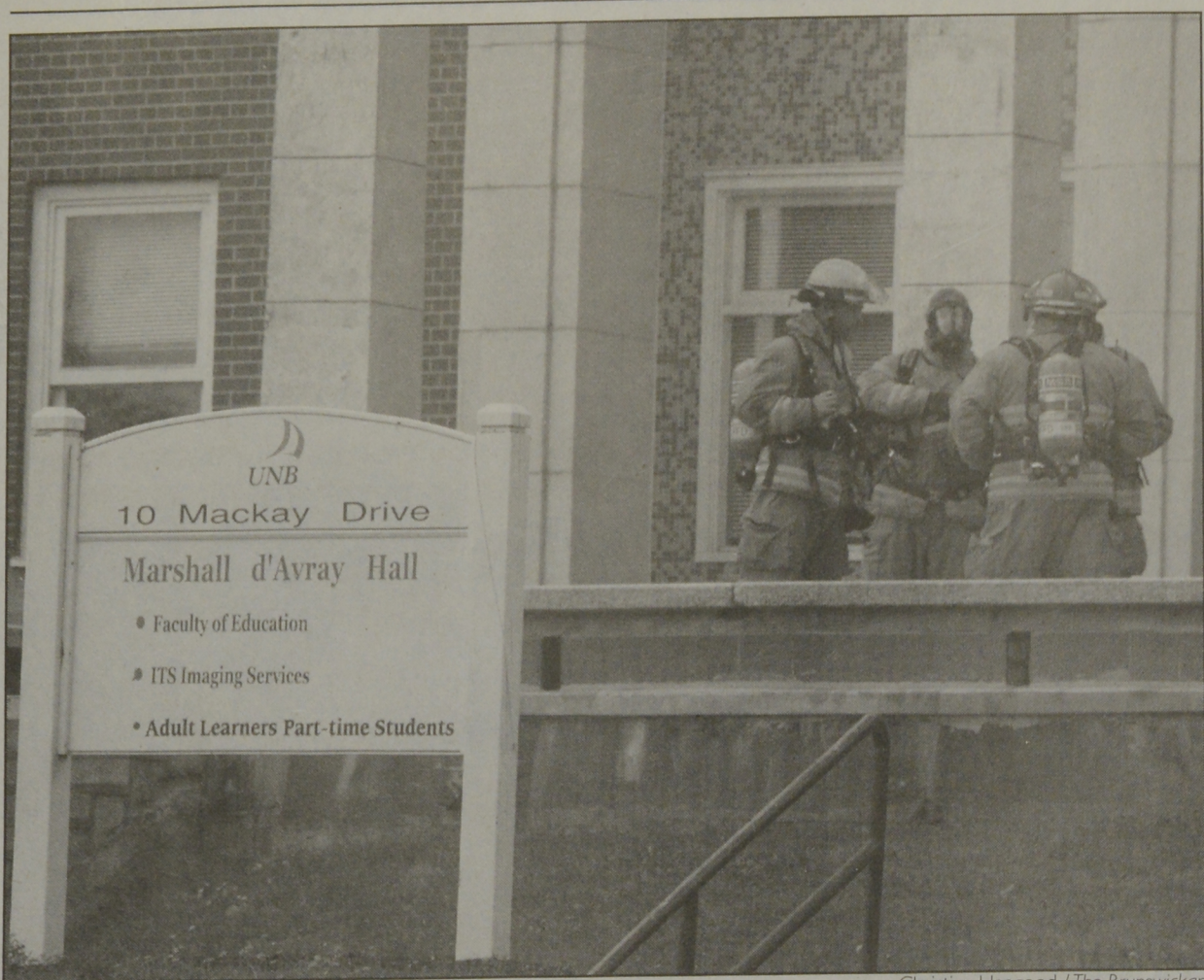




Members of the Fredericton Fire Department chat outside Marshall d'Avray Hall on Monday, Sept. 15 after responding to an incident where four students fainted in a lecture theatre. For more details, see page 1.

Provost to guide UNB into the future

UNB appointed its VP Research Greg Kealey as its Provost this past summer

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Provost is a relatively new term for members of the university community. It's also a new position for Vice President Research Greg Kealey who will be taking on that role in the coming years.

The provost not only acts as a liaison between UNB Fredericton and UNBSJ, they also work with both the federal and provincial governments to ensure that the province, community and university can co-operate and co-exist harmoniously.

Greg Kealey has been the Vice President Research at UNB since 2001 and will continue in this position until 2011. His provostship will also continue until then and, depending on the progress made with the addition of the job, the position will either continue or be terminated. He was approached by the university to become provost even though the position is more likely to be given to the second-in-command, the Vice President Academic.

"It's a position that is fairly common in larger Canadian universities. It usually is the Vice-President Academic, but because of the two-campus nature of UNB, which means we really have two Vice Presidents Academic

— one in Fredericton and one in Saint John — and because the Vice President Research has bi-campus responsibilities, I think that was why the president and the board chose me."

University of New Brunswick President John McLaughlin approached Kealey to take on the duties of provost and the decision was then brought to the board. McLaughlin states, "Well, we went through the post-secondary review and we were talking about a more integrated system; it was clear that it was probably appropriate at this time to have somebody represent both campuses in terms of the overall academic agenda going forward for New Brunswick universities."

Of the key reasons for selecting Kealey, McLaughlin states, "he currently has university-wide responsibilities and the two campus vice presidents are new and obviously need to have time to develop their portfolios."

McLaughlin also noted Kealey's experience as a crucial part of his appointment. His academic background will certainly play a part as he adds the role of provost to what he calls "a more than full-time job" and laughs as he says that he has a lot of "multi-tasking and time management" to engage himself in. Though he admits that juggling his workload will be a bit of a challenge, it is obvious that he is more than willing to fulfill the position.

Students may wonder whether the appointment of a provost will be beneficial, negative or completely irrelevant to the student population. Kealey certainly hopes

that his position will be beneficial to the student population and states that, "The major reason we're here is because we're an educational institution. In terms of students, the Dean of Graduates studies reports to me so I've been fairly involved with the graduate studies agenda here and as Vice President I have had some contact with the Student Union over the years and certainly with the students who are on the board of governors."

Kealey's new position will undoubtedly immerse him further into the academic lives of the student body, a task which he anticipates with a welcome enthusiasm, "I look forward to some additional contact with the Student Union and generally trying to improve UNB in every way, which certainly includes improving our undergraduate education and improving student life."

One of Kealey's concerns for the student population is the increasing costs for post-secondary education. He says that the university needs to be working with all levels of government to lessen the financial burden and to create accessibility to post secondary education in general.

Kealey's approach to his new role is very open-minded and his concerns span everything from graduate research to the quality of student life.

"I am very committed to the University of New Brunswick and making it as best as we can be from every perspective, including the student perspective."

This is the third in a series of articles exploring new faces and positions at UNB.

EARL DENVER MONTANEZ
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Mostly from European countries, the numbers of exchange students are at their highest at UNB since the start of the Student Abroad Program in 2005.

This year, the International Relations Office, which is spearheaded by Silke Klenk, reports 75 exchange students coming from 22 countries for the fall term of 2008. Klenk expects to have more incoming exchange students by the winter term of 2009.

The majority of the exchange students hail from the countries of United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Australia, France, the United States, The Netherlands, Spain, China, and Mexico — just to name a few.

"The increase of exchange students is brought about by the process of centralization here at UNB Fredericton," Klenk explains. "Before, the process of student exchange was done through the faculty and there were no clear statistics on how many come and go each year," she adds.

Aside from the world-class courses offered by each faculty to exchange students and the benefits of studying English, Klenk adds that exchange students specifically like UNB because almost everything is accessible once the students start studying.

"The atmosphere in UNB is welcoming and friendly," Klenk says.

"I chose UNB Fredericton because it was the best place my faculty offered me to improve my English and get a really good learning about my degree," says Pablo Rodriguez de Castro, a forestry exchange student from Spain. "The professors are great... and the people here are used to meeting foreign people, so they always try to help exchange students like me in the best way they can."

The International Relations Office, established four years ago, is mandated to oversee the

internationalization initiatives at UNB. One of its goals is to provide an international education to UNB students by offering several programs in place to foster said goal. The Student Abroad Program brings exchange students from all over the world to UNB and enables students from here to study at an international campus for a term or academic year.

"The program has been growing significantly since it was introduced three years ago," said Klenk. "It is a good [exposure] for students who want to have an international experience added to their university life [and have] a different perspective of the world when they come back," she says. She also says that the Student Abroad Program is an added advantage of students who want to improve their English or learn other languages and culture, [thus maximizing the students' sense of internationalization while] staying in another country.

"I think it is a really good opportunity for students to travel while they are still at university," said Julianne Brimfield, an exchange student from Australia taking Law here at UNB. "Many people don't get much of a chance to see the world while they are studying and many go straight to work after they finish. [The Student Abroad Program] allows you to continue with your studies while experiencing a different culture and seeing other countries that are different from your own," she says.

Irene Lewis, an exchange student from Germany, sees the Student Abroad Program in a two-way perspective. "The [program] benefits both the individual and the community. [For the individual, it gives] new cultural and social experience while improving cognition, academic and scholastic skills like communication and language. [On the other hand, it benefits the community] because students who are considering to study abroad can profit from first-hand information, as well as, [an improved] social interactions can broaden your world view and eliminate prejudices," she says.

To counteract typical challenges of studying abroad, UNBF has developed ways to overcome the

problems students face when seeking to spend time overseas while pursuing their university degree.

Klenk explains that typical challenges could be the affordability of the program, worry factor about graduating on time, traveling alone and leaving home, or going to a country where English is not the first language.

"UNB-F offers [generous] Student Abroad Bursaries that make studying abroad affordable", Klenksays. "International Relations Office also offers pre-departure sessions and workshops to prepare students [for cross-cultural living, safety and other Student Abroad issues] that includes working with an academic advisor to choose courses at host schools that can be used toward a student's UNB program of study through credit-transfer. Also, majority of UNB's partner institutions offer their courses in English and provide free introductory courses to help a student get started learning the country's national language," she adds.

Several partner institutions of UNB include such universities as University of Melbourne (Australia), University of Wales-Bangor (United Kingdom), Xiamen University (China), Cairo University (Egypt), University of Cologne (Germany), Universidad de las Americas-Puebla (Mexico), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), & University of Maine — Machias (United States).

The International Relations Office is hosting an International Opportunities Fair. The exhibition will showcase the many ways in which the UNB community can get involved in international opportunities, whether overseas, on campus or in the city of Fredericton.

The fair will promote a wider range of opportunities to get involved through: International exchange opportunities for students and faculty, international intersession and field courses, international internships, work, and volunteer opportunities, international research opportunities, and multicultural organizations. The event will be held on Tuesday, September 23 at the SUB Atrium from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Emergency txt msgs!

incident, word quickly spread that students on campus should lock themselves where they were, and those who weren't, should avoid campus.

Following in the footsteps of schools like UBC, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia is implementing an alert system that will see students receive text messages in the event of an emergency on campus.

"I think Dal's emergency text messaging service is a great idea," said Erica Hendry, a master's student starting at Dalhousie this September. "I can't envision a better way to reach people instantly."

The system, which only launched last March, quickly enlisted 25 per cent of the campus. This year, through an early publicity campaign, the university hopes to gather even more students.

John Sherwood, Dalhousie's executive director of university computing and information services, feels taking advantage of the "almost universal" use of cellphones with text-ready technology was a good move.

"We had an opportunity to add another, effective communications vehicle," Sherwood said.

Courtney Larkin, president of the Dalhousie Student Union, also sees the value in this new approach to campus security.

"Many of our students have cellphones, and many of them carry their cellphones with them throughout the day. Having a system that can reach out to a large number of students in

times of emergencies, quickly and effectively, is a positive step towards protecting our students," she said.

Students, staff, and faculty can sign up by submitting their cellphone numbers to Dalhousie's Information Services department, said Sherwood.

Students who sign up for the service will receive text message alerts in the event of any campus emergency, including severe weather, hazardous spills, fires, and dangerous persons or threats.

While the service excludes students who are without cellphones, Sherwood says that 100 per cent participation is unnecessary, as "only one person in a group has to be notified in order for [everyone] to get the message."

Hendry is impressed by the university's initiative in protecting their students and believes the system will minimize harm and tragedy in the future.

"Even though I know that some emergencies are often accidents and unpredictable, I feel safer because I know that any information available will be shared with me, as an individual," said Hendry.

Despite its recent effectiveness at UBC, Bright still has qualms about the use of cellphones.

"I think it's effective, though I don't know how I feel about how [the system] exploits hyper-reliance on cellphones and constant phone checking, especially in class."

Dalhousie has yet to use the system.

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