

Website developed to help Arts students find a career

MAGGIE DeWOLFE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

It's no secret that picking a career can be a tough thing to do. Many university students in first and second year aren't even sure what to major in. With all of the fields of study of arts, picking a major that can lead to the right career for you can be difficult. But what if there was a resource that students could use that would not only help them choose a major, but could give them some insight about what kind of career they're suited for? Future grads will no longer have to worry, as that resource is here.

UNB's Department of Student Recruitment and Retention has launched the Career Connections website. It was inspired by two major

surveys in which students indicated that the main reason they enrolled at UNB is to improve their chances of finding a rewarding career when they graduate. Students said they want to feel a connection between what they are studying and what they can do after university.

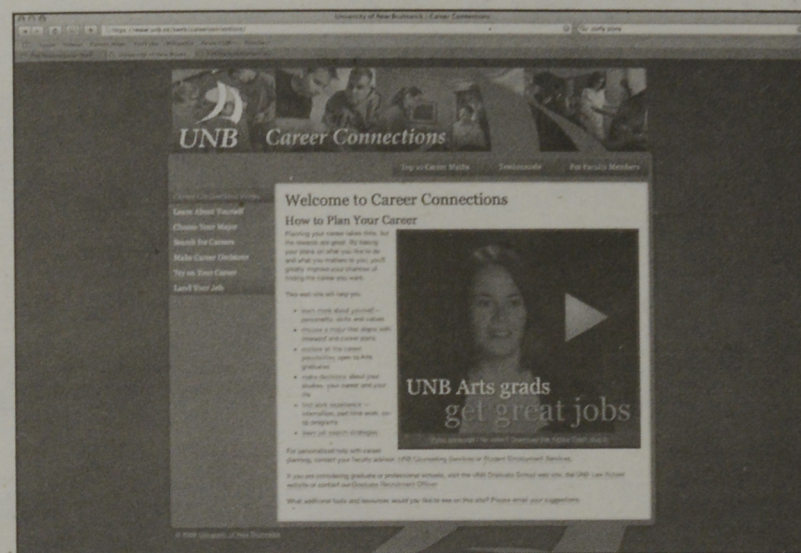
Susan Mesheau, executive director of U First: Recruitment and Retention at UNB says, "We found out that students come in to UNB because they want to have a good career when they graduate. We want to provide as many services as possible to help them connect their studies with their career options and opportunities."

The Career Connections website is targeted to two main audiences: current students and faculty. "We believe it will be a resource for faculty to help them bring the idea of careers into their classrooms, curriculums and into the area of academic advising," says Mesheau. "With both students and professors informed in the area of careers, it will make the transition from university to the work place, grad school, or even professional school that much

easier."

The website is designed to be very easy to use. The home page has links to personality tests, information about different majors to help you choose, career aptitude tests, and how to land your career of choice once you graduate. The site even comes with video testimonials of UNB Arts Alumni who have careers in several different fields, from fashion to policing. "These people are Arts grads who have had very different careers and career paths," Mesheau says, "We thought it was really neat to provide examples of the types of careers open to Arts graduates."

While the website was initially geared towards arts students, it will soon be expanded to include the faculties of Arts/Sciences and Arts/Computer Science. The purpose of making it almost exclusive to arts students has a lot to do with the ambiguity of an arts degree and the many available options to arts students. "We did focus on arts first because research indicated that a lot of students entering the faculty of arts don't know what they want to



Screenshot

Pictured above is the website www.unb.ca/careerconnections. The site is designed to help students find their ideal jobs.

be," says Mesheau, "This will be an opportunity for them to not only discover what they might want to do, but to discover themselves." The site not only contains information for Arts students, but is applicable to any student on campus.

If you're having any trouble at

all picking a major or deciding on a career, the Career Connections website will prove a valuable asset. "A career path is not a straight line," Mesheau says, "It's a journey."

For more information and to begin your career search, visit www.unb.ca/careerconnections.

Tories craft PSE caucus: Conservative MPs to regularly meet with PSE lobbyists

CARL MEYER
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal Conservative government has created a party caucus to better liaison with post-secondary education lobbyists.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, Conservative MP Rod Bruinooge (Winnipeg South)

rose in the House of Commons to announce the Feb. 5 inaugural meeting of the Conservative post-secondary education caucus.

"This new caucus will focus on how our government, and we as MPs can best serve post-secondary institutions," Bruinooge said.

"Colleges and universities are vital to our communities and our country, and I am proud to be a member of our government whose commitment to support them is clear."

Bruinooge was elected to chair the caucus at the inaugural meeting, says Myrrhanda Novak, his director of communications.

"The discussion focused on infrastructure, grants, and student bursaries," she said.

She declined to give a list of caucus members, however, stating that "as the caucus has only had one meeting, it would be pre-mature to send out."

The Peterborough Examiner reported that Peterborough MP Dean

Del Mastro is also a member of the caucus, and that he stated there were about 18 MPs at the meeting.

Del Mastro also told the Examiner that the caucus will be seeking "delegations from student associations, such as the Canadian Federation of Students."

Canadian Federation of Students National Chairperson Katherine Giroux-Bougard says she welcomes the creation of the caucus.

"We look forward to working with

the caucus on issues of importance to our members, such as the 2009 federal budget's cuts to the federal granting councils," she said.

"In creating a space for Conservative MPs to discuss post-secondary education, the party seems to agree with our assertion that the federal government has a prominent role to play in improving the quality and affordability of Canada's universities and colleges."

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, another national student lobby group, says it is happy the caucus is being created.

"It speaks to the national importance of post-secondary education in Canada," said CASA National Director Zach Churchill.

"At a time when the country worries about the state of our economy, it is more important than ever to invest time, energy, and resources into making sure our post-secondary education system is accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality."

The previous Liberal government had the Liberal post-secondary education caucus, which met regularly with spokespeople in the post-secondary world.

Although the Liberals are now the official Opposition, that caucus still exists, chaired by Liberal MP Mike Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour).

In January, the Liberal caucus met with members from the Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo.

The two national student lobby groups say they have been in contact with this caucus as well.

"In the past year, we've formally presented student issues to the Liberal [post-secondary education] caucus, after receiving an invitation to address the group," said Churchill.

"We have been invited to present to the Liberal PSE caucus in each year it was active," said Giroux-Bougard, adding that the caucus has not sat recently.

The NDP do not have a post-secondary education caucus, says party spokesperson Rupinder Kaur.

They do, however, have a post-secondary education critic — MP Niki Ashton (Churchill).

Giroux-Bougard says Ashton's office has recently been in contact with Ian Boyko, CFS government relations co-ordinator.

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