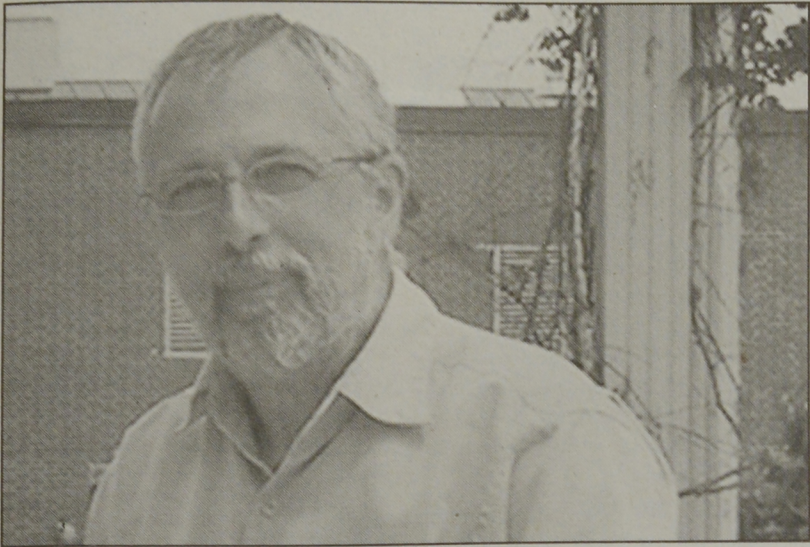


RCMP internal investigation complete



STU professor John McKendy passed away this fall as a result of domestic violence. A recent investigation into the RCMP is slated to help prevent instances of this in the future.

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Results have been released of the Fredericton RCMP's internal investigation surrounding details of the death of STU professor John McKendy. A member of the RCMP in P.E.I. conducted the administrative review.

RCMP Assistant Commissioner LaFosse requested the review. The review was suggested due to the fact that the RCMP stated that they were unaware of threatening emails sent to the McKendy family by McKendy's murderer, when police were in fact aware of the emails.

McKendy was killed on Oct. 30, 2008. The body of Nicholas Wade Baker, his murderer, was found in the parking lot of a Moncton motel the next day. Baker was related through marriage to McKendy, and foul play was ruled out

in terms of Baker's death.

Results of the investigation indicated that there was no "significant contravention of policy and/or procedure in relation to the actions taken by members" involved with the investigations occurring at the time of McKendy's murder.

"A review of training for police officers to raise awareness of possible cases of domestic violence and clear expectations when asking border officials to be on the lookout for a person of interest are key recommendations put forward," reads a press release issued by the RCMP on Apr. 2.

The review examined both the timeline of events and the response of the RCMP in regards to the activities of Baker, who was under investigation for motor vehicle theft and credit card fraud. At the time, Baker was thought to be in the U.S. The RCMP requested that the Canada Border Services Agency be aware of the situation. However, it was only discovered that Baker was back in Canada after McKendy's death in Douglstown.

Thus, the review suggested that

RCMP be aware of the level of accuracy in place when issuing a "lookout."

"We have reviewed the RCMP and Fredericton Police Force reports into the death of John McKendy. It is our opinion that the reports entailed a thorough account of the events leading up to October 30th and offered useful insight into where and how different courses of action might have been taken by the RCMP and border officials," said the McKendy family in a statement.

"Ideally, the recommendations contained in the Fredericton Police report will be integrated into police practices in the future."

"All criminal options were considered and being pursued at the time Mr. McKendy was murdered. Mr. Baker's flight to the United States, his whereabouts unknown, complicated efforts to deal with both the criminal investigations as well as concerns for his mental state," the report noted.

Following its completion, the review was given to an officer with the Fredericton Police Force for continued review. A variety of recommendations were made regarding two main issues; a large issue was what the reviewer described in the press release as "the communication breakdown between Canada Border Services and the RCMP regarding Nicholas Baker's return to Canada on October 29, 2008."

Also, the investigational focus of the RCMP was "primarily on the theft, fraud, and mental health of Nicholas Baker, and not on the possibility that there were factors which could lead to domestic violence," according to the report.

"John McKendy was a peace activist, committed to non-violence in all forms. It is our hope that his tragic death will serve as a catalyst for change in the way police respond to threats of domestic violence," reads a statement released by John McKendy's daughter, Colleen Wakeham, and the mother of his two daughters, Carol Wakeham.

UNB MBAs named Canada's top ad execs

TONY VON RICHTER
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Two UNB students have beaten out 143 other teams from across Canada to be named Canada's next top ad executives.

Elizabeth-Anne McCleave and Matt Daigle, both students in the MBA program, were given the title last week for their bilingual ad campaign for Volkswagen's new minivan, the Routan.

In addition to the recognition that goes with the award, both McCleave and Daigle will receive a 2010 Volkswagen Golf and internships with one of Canada's top marketing firms.

"It's been quite surreal to be honest," said McCleave when asked how it felt to win the competition. "We worked so hard, and really gave it all we had, and it paid off. It's been a great feeling, and we're just so thankful for all the help we got. We had so much support throughout the entire process. I'm looking forward to seeing what will come out of it - and seeing the car obviously."

Daigle said that the competition topped their expectations and was a life-

changing experience.

"We both knew that we had a great campaign and the chance to present it in front of an industry panel was a huge opportunity in itself. But the experience went above and beyond our expectations when we were approached by several individuals, many of them CEOs of some of the top ad agencies in Toronto," said Daigle.

"The cherry on the sundae was definitely winning a couple of cars, it doesn't happen everyday!"

While the competition is in its third year, this is the first time that it has generated a lot of attention in Atlantic Canada. Daigle and McCleave, along with the other UNB team comprised of BBA students Mitchell Bernard and Laura Noseworthy, received a large amount of media attention and support from the university and community.

"I think I speak for both of us when I say we've had nothing but great support all along the way, and a lot of this has to do with coming from a tight-knit province like New Brunswick," said Daigle.

"Knowing that you're making a difference for your school and your province is very rewarding in itself. We're definitely not used to all this attention, and we're thankful that so many people have taken notice of us and have offered their best wishes."

UNB alumnus looking for stem cell donor

CAMERON MITCHELL
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Just prior to Christmas 2008, UNB Electrical Engineering Alumnus Robin Rocca was diagnosed with Leukemia. Rocca graduated from UNB in 2003 and is 28 years old.

"For a few months there I was feeling pretty tired and I was really lacking in energy," Rocca explained. "I have Crohn's disease (an inflammatory disease of the gastrointestinal tract), so I thought that it was a flare up of that."

"Then I was home from work one day, just sitting on the couch with some friends, and I started to have some massive body pains. I thought I was having a heart attack or something. So my girlfriend took me to the emergency room, and six days later I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia."

Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) is a cancer of the myeloid line of cells, characterized by the rapid proliferation of abnormal cells that accumulate in the bone marrow and interfere with the production of normal blood cells. AML is most commonly found in people aged 65 and over, making Rocca's case very rare.

After the diagnosis, Rocca

immediately started chemotherapy to help stave off the cancer. Rocca's doctors told him that it would be a long and difficult struggle, and that he would have to rest for the next six months.

Thanks to chemotherapy, Rocca's cancer went into remission, but he still has to undergo treatments to keep the cancer from returning. However, the chances of the cancer returning are high. The only way Rocca can rid his body of the cancer is if he finds a bone marrow match.

"I'm gunning for a transplant because that's really my fix," Rocca continues. "They know from my genetic typing and statistics from previous cases that it will probably come back and be somewhat aggressive. So they've put me on kind of an urgent search for a donor."

Rocca's family and friends have been tested, but he has yet to find a genetic match. Only 30 per cent of patients who are battling diseases such as leukemia end up finding a matching donor within their families; however, there are other options.

"There is a registry in Canada that is international. They search it and once they find a match I'm next in line for a transplant," explains Rocca.

Many Canadians like Robin Rocca rely on the Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow

Network to identify an unrelated match. As Rocca explains, the process of getting tested as a possible donor and the eventual donation procedure isn't that difficult.

"OneMatch is a program through the Canadian Blood Services. And they do unrelated donor testing," he explains. "You can sign up online at onematch.ca, and request to be a donor. And then what they will do is a swab kit in the mail. You basically swab the inside of your cheek to get a couple of cells and then from there they can get your [genetic] typing and they put you in the registry."

If a person's genetic typing matches up with someone who needs a donor, they can volunteer to donate their stem cells. The procedure is easy, and the stem cells are drawn from the blood and not the bone marrow.

"What happens is I basically get infused with your blood," Rocca continued. "They don't have to go in and poke your bone marrow, or poke your bone and pull out stuff. They can actually pull it straight from your blood."

Those interested in learning how to help patients like Robin Rocca can visit www.onematch.ca to learn about eligibility for the program and register online.

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