

# AACUSS/ASECUA

## 2003-2004

### EXECUTIVE LIST

Past President:	Bruce Belbin (MUN) Telephone: 709-737-4819 Fax: 709-737-4070 bbelbin@mun.ca	Financial Aid:	Shelley Clayton (UNBF) Telephone: 506-453-4796 Fax: 506-453-5020 clayton@unb.ca
President:	Kevin Bonner (UNBSJ) Telephone: 506-648-5680 Fax: 506-648-5681 kbonner@unbsj.ca	Counselling:	Donnie Jeffery (St. Mary's) Telephone: 902-420-5431 Fax: 902-420-5125 donnie.jeffery@smu.ca
President Elect:	Bob Gibson (UPEI) Telephone: 902-566-0425 Fax: 902-628-4319 bgibson@upeu.ca	International Students:	Peter Donahue (UNBSJ) Telephone: 506-648-5951 Fax: 506-648-5959 donahue@unbsj.ca
Treasurer:	Lois Clowater (UNBF) Telephone: 506-453-4620 Fax: 506-453-4610 clowater@unb.ca	Generalist:	Bilynda Whiting (NSCC) Telephone: 902-825-3359 Fax: 902-825-2285 bilynda.whiting@nsc.ca
Secretary:	Beth Forestell Wheatley (NBCC-SJ) Telephone: 506-658-6751 Fax: 506-643-7351 beth.forestell.wheatley@gnb.ca	Health:	Pat Collins (UCCB) Telephone: 902-563-1359 Fax: 902-563-1444 pcollins@uccb.ns.ca
Chief Student Affairs Officer:	Jane McGinn (UNBF) Telephone: 506-453-4527 Fax: 506-453-5005 jmcginn@unb.ca	Housing:	Kati Kilfoil (St. Mary's) Telephone: 902-420-5590 Fax: 902-496-8107 kati.kilfoil@smu.ca
Placement & Career:	Mary Ellen MacEachern (St. Mary's) Telephone: 902-420-5498 Fax: 902-420-5125 mmaceach@stmarys.ca	AACUSS TALKS Editor:	Christine Burke (MUN) Telephone: 709-737-4581 Fax: 709-737-3520 cburke@mun.ca
Conference Chair:	Oonagh Holmes (Acadia) Telephone: 902-585-1252 Fax: 902-585-1082 oonagh.holmes@acadiau.ca		

# AACUSS TALKS

Fall 2003

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello fellow AACUSS members,

Fall is now truly upon us and, depending on where you are in Atlantic Canada, this means rain, snow or hurricanes. Sometimes, it means all three at the same time. Despite the weather, I hope all are well and enjoying the academic year to date.

Your AACUSS executive is busy with plans and activities for the year. I am pleased to report that our updated website will be unveiled very soon. My thanks to Lois Clowater and Tracey Price at UNBF for their hard work in bringing this important resource to life. As part of the celebration of this new site, AACUSS will soon launch its membership campaign for 2004. I hope that all members consider a renewal and promote the benefits of an AACUSS membership to their colleagues. The strength of this organization is found in its members and I look forward to representation from universities and community colleges across the region.

Plans are now well underway for the winter workshop at St. F.X. in February 2004. Please watch for details on this opportunity to meet and discuss current issues in student affairs. I am also pleased to report that planning for the Spring 2004 conference at Acadia is now taking place. This conference will be exciting in a number of ways, including the offering of joint conference activities with our colleagues from the Atlantic Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers (AARAO). This promises to be a unique opportunity to learn with and from our colleagues on issues that impact students. Please stay tuned for information from Oonagh Holmes and the organizing committee at Acadia.

Thank you for this opportunity to reach each of you. If you have any comment or questions, please contact me at kbonner@unbsj.ca.

Warmest regards,  
Kevin Bonner

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Note	2
Meet Donnie Jeffrey	2
Greetings from Max Bell Health Center	2
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Fall Semester 2003...UPDATE	3
AACUSS Winter Workshop 2004	3
The AACUSS/ASECUA Conference 2004	4
Mount Saint Vincent University offers University 1101	5
Greetings from Wellness Education, MUN	5
AUCHO-I Canadian District Representa- tive Report	6
Student Assistance Program Updates	6-7
International Student Advising Office, MUN	7
Health Services at Saint Mary's University	8
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College ORIENTATION '03 "GET INTO IT"	8
Halifax Career Fair	9
What's New at Mount Allison University	10
Delays with Citizenship and Immigra- tion Canada (CIC)	11
Hurricane Juan Hits St. Mary's University	11
AACUSS/ASECUA 2003-2004 Executive List	12

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi Folks:

Greetings from Memorial University of Newfoundland! I am delighted to return as Editor of AACUSS Talks again this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have taken your time from your busy schedules to contribute to this edition of AACUSS Talks. I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank TRUDY COOMBS, my assistant, for designing this edition and her patience in dealing with a sometimes technically challenged Editor!!

As you read the many articles, you will note that the folks from the Atlantic Universities and Colleges have been very busy meeting the needs of our students under exceptional circumstances; such as, increased enrolment, policy and staff changes, and hurricanes—just to name a few.

Please note in your calendar the AACUSS Winter Workshop is quickly approaching and slated for February 6 and 7, 2004 at St. Xavier University. Also, don't forget the Spring 2004 AACUSS Conference at Acadia. This will be a joint conference with AARAO.

## Greetings from Max Bell Health Center

Submitted by: Pat Collins, RN, Nurse/Office Manager, U.C.C.B

This past year as AACUSS Health Rep., I had the opportunity to attend the Winter Workshop and Spring Conference. The Winter Workshop, *Creating Competence on Campus*, held at Mt. Allison University was a timely and informative workshop. The Spring Conference, *Celebrating*, held at UPEI provided information that has been useful at my workplace. Both conferences were well executed and the Planning committees, certainly, displayed their expertise. I could go on at length about each of these events; the educational and, as importantly, the social activities. However, I'd like to express my gratitude to all. The

academic, as well as, the social contacts will be a longtime benefit for myself and my workplace.

I feel fortunate to be a member of AACUSS. Also, to continue to represent Health division on the Executive for 2003 - 2004. It is a worthwhile organization and provides a sense of "family". You, always, meet someone who is keen to know what is happening on your campus or to share problems, concerns, or accomplishments. Many a friendship has unfolded at these events. To put things into perspective, it is often comforting to know that you are not alone in the challenges that occur on your campus or that it may not be necessary to re-invent the wheel.

So far, this academic term has been a busy one at the (U.C.C.B.) Health Service. Several health promotion events (Well Woman's Clinic, Student Health Fair, and

## Meet Donnie Jeffery, Counseling Representative

Donnie is the new AACUSS divisional representative for counseling. He has been at SMU and a member of AACUSS for the past five years. He is very excited about this new role and is looking forward to working with the executive, other divisional representatives and members. Donnie is hopeful that the year will allow all the members within the Counseling Division more of an opportunity to communicate as a group on a regular basis. Also to allow members to participate in workshops/information settings offered through AACUSS throughout the year.

You can contact Donnie at any time if you have any comments, questions or concerns at 902 420 5431 or by email [donnie.jeffrey@smu.ca](mailto:donnie.jeffrey@smu.ca).



## Delays with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

Submitted by: Peter Donahue



**Give me a call!**

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) International Student have been experiencing long delays when extending and changing conditions on their study permits. Sixty days or more has now become the norm for processing times instead of the customary twenty-five days. This delay will have an effect on student's ability to return home, and change institutions. As well, with only 90 days to find post graduate employment, a 60 day processing time for a work permit eliminates 2/3 of the time to find a career-related employment opportunity.

The increase in processing times is a result of all international student issues now having to be processed out of the CIC's Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. The greater emphasis on national security within the CIC has redirected student service resources within the Atlantic Regions CIC offices towards enforcement.

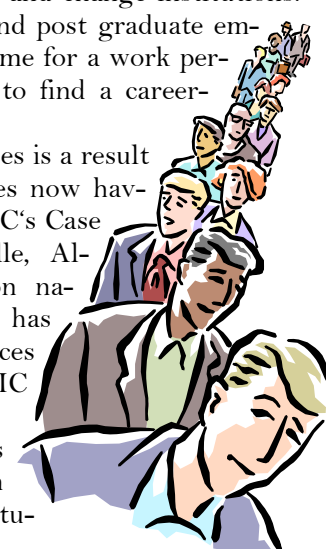
This shift has increased CIC's presence on campuses throughout the region. International Stu-

dents are facing much stricter enforcement of the Immigration Act as it pertains to students. The enforcement mentality along with less personnel service with CIC has resulted in an increase in solely objective rulings of, one time, minor offenses such as allowing one's study permit to expire past 90 days or not having changed the name of the institution of the study permit. Today students are more likely to have to leave the country and re-apply when only a year earlier a \$200 fine was the penalty for these violations.

CIC has recently been criticized as being "trigger-happy" as the war terrorism continues. Students, both international and domestic, along with faculty and administrations have criticized CIC for treating 21 foreign nations, in violation of their study permits, as terrorist. Such action reveals areas of concern for the rights of International Students.

*The Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) hosted its national conference in Charlottetown from October 23-27, 2003.*

*Sessions of interest included: a pre-conference workshop entitled Coping and Calming in Times of Crisis and Chaos: Planning Strategies for the Unexpected; The Changing Nature and Needs of Chinese Students; and Educating Teachers for Global Citizenship. For updates, please see website [www.cbie.ca](http://www.cbie.ca).*



## HURRICANE JUAN HITS ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Kati Kilfoil

Hello Colleagues:

The Residence Department at St. Mary's University has been putting in 12 -16 hr. days since hours after the hurricane! We had extensive roof damage to one high-rise residence (Rice) and immediately evacuated 51 students to hotels, and 231 other students to alternate accommodations a few days later. We now have some of our apartments dry again and have slowly started moving students back in... apartment by apartment. Students from the top floors are just starting to return.

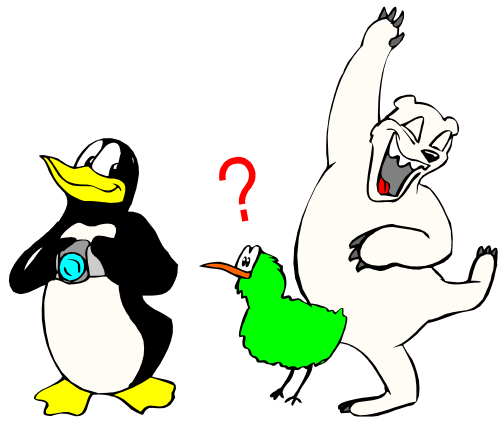
Meanwhile, all the residences were without power, internet or phones until Friday night (5 days). Students in our two high-rise residences (above the 8th floor) were also without water for the 5 days! Food service was cooking on BBQs for 3 days, until SMU had power restored to a small area of campus... and Aramark then relocated their operations.

Dalhousie University also sustained extensive damage to their High Rise (Fenwick) and had to do an emergency evacuation to the basement during the hurricane.

Crisis management, finding alternate accommodations and relocating students, brainstorming alternate means to access resources (food, water, light!), communicating with our students, and providing support and guidance has exhausted us all! Needless to say... it was a very interesting 9 days here in Halifax!

Classes resumed on October 6th, students are recovering, and are getting back into their routines. The city is slowly getting cleaned up. Although, my secretary, our University President, and 20,000 other Haligonians were without power for 11 days.

Information on the aftermath of Hurricane Juan is available on our website, [www.smu.ca/administration/resoffic/](http://www.smu.ca/administration/resoffic/).



## WHAT'S NEW AT...

Mount Allison University

Submitted by: Kristin Trotter

There's a lot that's new with your AACUSS colleagues at Mount Allison this year!

For one thing, we've changed our name from "Student Services" to "Student Life". We had gradually become disenchanted with the old name - our receptionists were spending much of their time redirecting people who perceived the name to mean we provided all services. We think that our new name more closely describes our mandate: "enhancement of student life beyond the classroom."

In August we added a new role and a new staff person when we welcomed Nurse Educator Cindy Crossman to the team. We are very excited that Mount Allison can now provide physical health services to students. Cindy had previously established and run a health centre in Amherst High School, just over the border from Sackville, so she brings the many skills necessary to set up a clinic and serve young adults with their health and educational needs. Cassandra Wheaton joins Cindy as the fulltime secretary/receptionist for the new Student Health Centre, which is located in a renovated Sprague House, on the perimeter of Mount Allison's campus. The new

Health Centre and nurse/educator service has been a huge success in its first month, with many exciting projects and services to come.

With Cindy and Cassandra on the second floor of Sprague House and University Chaplain John Perkin moving to a new office on the first floor of Sprague, our Student Life team now encompasses two locations. Remaining in the basement of the University Centre for at least another few years are Dean of Students Charlie Hunter, International Student Advisor Allison Broadbent, Academic and Career Counsellor Mora MacDonald, Personal Counsellor Kris Trotter, secretary-extraordinaire Helen Hicks and her able assistant Tina Warren.

But wait, there are even more changes to tell you about! Our former part-time Personal Counsellor Kim Robinson moved to Halifax over the summer, so we went looking for someone to replace her. In our own backyard we were delighted to find Christiana MacDougall Fleming, a registered Social Worker who had recently returned to Sackville with her partner, a newly appointed professor at MtA, and their young family. Christiana has moved into a challenging role seamlessly, and brought a sparkling sense of humour to our team meetings.

Then Kris Trotter, who must have taken to heart a workshop entitled "Meaning Making in Midlife Transition" which she attended at the Canadian Counselling

Association conference in Halifax in June, asked if a job-share might be possible. Thus, the previous five-day and three-day contracts for Personal Counselling services were reorganized, providing four-day-a-week contracts for both Kris and Christiana. This arrangement suits them both very well (three-day weekends!) and so far the students and staff seem to be well-served too.

Many of you will likely remember Palmer Hall, the dark, gothic, fir-lined women's residence set back from the main street through our campus. That image in your mind is all that remains! Palmer was demolished in June to make way for an impressive, three-winged, three-storied new residence, now being raised. With stone siding and a gabled roof, the yet-to-be-named new 'House' or 'Hall' will preserve the traditional look of most of Mount Allison's buildings. Eventually the next-oldest student residence, Trueman House, will be renovated to accommodate a new University Centre. Already we are discussing very preliminary plans to unite services for students which are currently housed separately: the Health Centre, counselling, financial aid, registrarial services, recruitment and retention etc. While we look forward to that distant day, we continue to toil happily with the changes - improvements - described above. We wish all of our colleagues a successful academic year.

*The NEW AACUSS webpage is presently under review and will be launched in the NEW YEAR*



## Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Fall Semester 2003...UPDATE

Submitted by: Mary Sparkes

For the first time in the history of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, MUN's campus in Corner Brook, student registrations have broken the 1300 mark. The latest statistics from the Registrar's Office indicate about 1330 students have registered this semester, up from 1210 students in Fall, 2002. This represents an overall increase of about 10%. The College views this breakthrough as proof that our recruitment efforts of the past few years are finally paying off.

In addition to the overall increase, this semester there are some 55 students studying at Grenfell from other parts of Canada and, for the first time, 14 are international students, hailing from countries such as Belize, China, Nigeria and the US. This has created a new and challenging experience for those of us in Student Services, as we try to identify and meet the needs of our diverse new student body.

While Grenfell's student population is still small, having more students on campus has brought opportunities and challenges for our fairly small Student Services operation. We could tell during Orientation that this was going to be a busy year. Record numbers of students attended various orientation events. This trend continued with sign-ups for Fall recreation programs. The increase in the number of students participating in recreation programs has been positive, making some of the programs

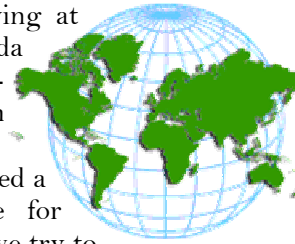
stronger, with more teams competing, more students trying out for teams, etc. On the down side, though, we have had to limit the number of participants in some activities and are trying to meet the needs of the increased number of students without any budget increase.

On the residence side, there was an increase in applications, relative to the overall student increase. Almost all the students from outside NL and Canada applied to reside on campus. For the first time, we had to set priorities/quotas for various student populations applying for residence. This has worked out fairly well so far. There was also an increase in requests for assistance finding off-campus housing, which is also handled by the Student Housing office.

The Learning Centre is also feeling the effects of having 120 more students on campus. Appointments with the two staff members who help students with Math and Writing are harder to come by and generally have to be made 3-5 days in advance. Students have also taken the initiative to pre-book appointments for the last two weeks before Christmas exams! More students are also going to see Peer Tutors and attendance at Supplemental Instruction sessions is up.

We realize these are good problems to have. It means more students are aware of our programs and services and are seeking them out...which is always a plus!

That's what's happening at Grenfell this Fall. Hope all is well on everyone else's campus!!



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 6-7, 2004 (Tentative)

## AACUSS WINTER WORKSHOP 2004

The Winter Workshop is coming and will be held at Saint Xavier University in beautiful Antigonish. The workshop will be hosted/organized in conjunction with the folks at Saint Xavier University and Memorial University of Newfoundland. Input on themes, topics, events, etc. from AACUSS members is welcomed.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK! SEND YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS TO:

Bruce Belbin  
Phone: 709-737-4819  
Fax: 709-737-4070  
Email: bbelbin@mun.ca



# "WE are Family"



The AACUSS/ASECUA Conference 2004 Organizing Committee invites proposals for conference presentations for the upcoming annual conference to be held at Acadia University from May 30 to June 2, 2004.

The theme for the conference is "We are Family". The conference, for the first time, will be a joint effort between AACUSS/ASECUA and AARAO – The Atlantic Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers (<http://www.unb.ca/aarao/>).



The theme came as a result of Marion Morrison's comments at last year's conference when she spoke of our group and what we do, both at our institutions but also for each other. Thank you, Marion, for summing it up so eloquently.



The session ideas thus far have been quite varied and we invite you to be as creative as you wish. Think of "Family" in the sense of what we do within our institutions to assist students with settling in with their new family – the college or university that they have chosen; how we work with our host towns and other infrastructure in existing harmoniously with one another; how we network with associations such as AARAO to deliver a quality product as well as accessing resources from such organizations; support mechanisms for international students and host families; identifying and addressing issues around the new definitions of family and the varied backgrounds of our students; transition supports like mentoring programs and becoming part of a student's new Family.....

## Keynote Address:

The President and Vic-Chancellor of Acadia University  
**Dr. Gail Dinter-Gottlieb**

"Dr. Gottlieb is an accomplished leader, an effective spokesperson, and true visionary and holds an impressive record of academic and research accomplishments."  
For Dr. Gottlieb's biography and to view a welcome video please go to <http://www.acadiau.ca/president/>

For updates on the conference, please bookmark the following url.  
<http://admin.acadiau.ca/affairs/events.htm>  
Thank you all, and see you in the valley!



## 2003 Proved to be Another Success...

Submitted by Mary Ellen Mac Eachern

When reps from Saint Mary's, Dalhousie and Mount Saint Vincent universities got together seven years to discuss a joint career fair they did not envision how successful the model would become. It has and employers and students like it!

Initially the planners hoped they would be able to pull together enough money to offer the event on what was agreed would have to be 'neutral territory', that they would not go into debt, that they would be successful in attracting enough employers to make it attractive to students and hoped that employers would buy into the notion of a joint offering. The planners met their goals then and since then has been able to improve upon the offering. This past September the Fair, now re-named, the Halifax Career Fair attracted close to 1700 students and employers were delighted. Employers continue to express their satisfaction with how well prepared are the students. The Executive Committee is pleased that once again the fair was so successful.

It takes a year to plan the event, costs about \$60,000 and requires fine tuning every year but the Executive Committee, Mary Ellen Mac Eachern, SMU. Laura Addicott, Dal and Christine Frigault, MSVU, are comfortable that kinks have been worked through and the improvements added each year are more in the nature of enhancements rather than corrections. This year the Fair offered two workshops: *Dress to Impress* and *Sex Drugs and Rock n' Roll- and borrowing Mom's car-* the success story of The Coast, a local alternate that celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The dress to impress workshops were in response to frequent requests Employment /Career Center staff often get from students who want to know what to wear and what not to wear when being interviewed and the story of

The Coast –an alternative newspaper–was offered so as to encourage students to appreciate that there are dues to be paid and that while often there are barriers to success they can be overcome with persistence.

Plans are underway already for next year's offering and the Committee will meet in early November to completely analyze the Fair and look at new issues that inevitably arise when planning something of this scope. Hurricane Juan that occurred in Nova Scotia the Sunday following the Fair is an example of what the committee will discuss in its deliberations. Had Juan come on shore a couple of days earlier....

The Committee is philosophical about it all now having faced other near disasters and having overcome them. For example in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Fair in the wee hours of the morning with over 1500 programs printed and ready to be issued the team discovered that one of its major sponsors was not included in the program and worse that another company with a similar name had been credited with sponsorship. Thankfully the team were able to download the appropriate logo, get to a printers and have labels printed, cut and pasted by 8:30 in the morning. As students entered the Fair they were issued the programs where seconds before the adjustments had been made! Sounds easy now but playing 'beat the clock' at 6:30 in the morning with approximately 1500 people coming to an event within hours was an adrenalin pounding experience.

Anyone interested in learning more about the fair, past and present, can so do by visiting [www.halifaxcareerfair.ns.ca](http://www.halifaxcareerfair.ns.ca)



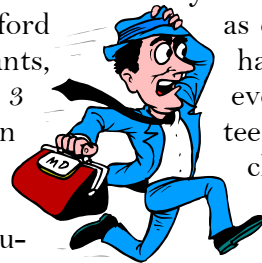
## Health Services at Saint Mary's University

Submitted by: Jane Collins, RN Nursing Manager, Student Health Services



The students at SMU have had an excellent Student Health Plan through Blue Cross. The Canadian and International students enjoyed a wide range of services and health benefits. The yearly fee was slowly increasing in price due to increasing prescription costs and increasing use of other benefits, such as physio and massage therapy. The Student Union had promised not to raise Health Plan fees to the students, so they went ahead and changed the Health Plan to another provider-Student Guard, based in Ontario. Canadian students plan pretty much stayed the same, except all prescriptions were now 20% of the cost instead of a \$5.00 co-pay. This could mean that many students could no longer afford their medications, especially the anti-depressants, which could cost the students up to \$100 on 3 month co-pay. The International students plan was "emergency only". No coverage for pre-existing conditions, eating disorders, anxiety, pregnancy and a whole lot more. Staff at Student Health were outraged and upset. Our 3 Docs decided to quit rather than be faced with such poor coverage, and the prospects of having stu-

dents turned away from medical care because their plan didn't cover them. A meeting was set up with the manager of Student Guard, the manager of SMUSA, the student union rep for the Health Plan, me, the Director of Student Services-Keith Hotchkiss, and the 3 doctors. We were able to get the plan changed to include all the diagnosis and care coverage that we felt was necessary, and unfair to our International students. This will be monitored for one year. Students returning were upset to find they had to pay 20% of their meds, and that they'd had no say in the process. The student union reps are elected to office for one term, yet they have the power to change something as crucial as the Student Health Plan that has far reaching effects that they had not even realized. The Health Plan Committee was not consulted about the Plan change until it was "a done deal". We are now going to watch our Plan very carefully to ensure that the health needs of all students are safeguarded.



## Sir Wilfred Grenfell College ORIENTATION '03 "GET INTO IT"

Submitted by: Janice Galliot, Wellness Educator

Each year Grenfell College celebrates orientation the first two days before the start of classes. This year, we have changed orientation to include more events that appeal to more students, including those students coming straight from high school, students returning after a five year break and those coming from the workforce entering University for the very first time.

Our main goal of orientation is to assist students with the transition from wherever they are coming from into university. We do this through social and academic programming during orientation. Another goal we have set for ourselves is to promote non alcoholic events as well as re-



Group 6 in front of Help Desk as part of the PhotoScaventure

sponsible drinking for all returning students. All orientation events at our campus are non alcoholic. We work closely with the Grenfell College Student Union in order to achieve these

goals. The Campus bar actually closes for the two days of orientation. The GCSU organizes dances each night of orientation for all first year students (and of course no alcohol is served) and everyone has a blast.

Each year we try to offer more events that appeal to more students. This year we had a coffee house each day so students who did not want to participate in the traditional orientation could come and sit with older students and ask questions or a chat. We thought this worked really well.

Orientation 2003 "Get Into It" was bigger and better than ever and we hope to continue with successful events that appeal to students and achieve our goals.

## Mount Saint Vincent University offers University 1101

To Help First-Year Students Succeed!

Submitted by: Christine Frigault

We are all aware that first year is a time of transition for new university students. Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) is offering a pilot course during the 2003-2004 academic year to help first-year students adjust to life at university. University 1101, First-Year Seminar: The Nature of Higher Education is a half-credit elective course that is taken within the student's first five units of study. This course introduces students to the concept of university learning and facilitates the development of skills that will enable them to succeed.

First-year transition courses are not a new concept and exist on many Canadian university campuses; however, what makes University 1101 unique is that it is designed and taught by faculty from a wide range of disci-

plines including Student Affairs and Library professionals, as well as English, Business and Public Relations faculty. This allows students to become accustomed to a wide range of teaching styles as well as introduces them to a holistic ap-

*"This course introduces students to the concept of university learning and facilitates the development of skills that will enable them to succeed."*

proach to university learning. University 1101 explores topics such as the history of universities, the nature of university learning and teaching, organization of information, study skills, entrepreneurial skills, team work, career planning, academic writing, and critical thinking. Students are required to complete a "passport" of ac-

tivities to broaden their learning outside the classroom, and familiarize them with university resources and services, and they will also complete an end-of-term portfolio of their learning and reflections from the course. Enrolment in University 1101 is limited to 25 students, which enables it to be offered in an interactive seminar format with small group work and discussions.



## Greetings from Wellness Education

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Submitted by: Kathy Saunders

Well the semester started off quite busy as we jumped into our Fall programming. STI prevention and sexual health were one of the major campaigns that the peer helpers were busy preparing and promoting for all new and returning students. We are currently preparing for an intensive health appraisal survey for all first years with the hopes of gathering new information on wellness behaviors among this population.



Peer Helpers

It is our hope that the data gathered from our survey will help us to assess the effectiveness of our programs and in return, assist us in making improvements. Currently we are actively involved in various Celebrate Memorial events such as our involvement in the Volunteer fair as well as promoting and conducting our relaxation sessions. During November, our Student Wellness Committee is working with our White Ribbon Campaign committee in the production of our annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the Women's Resources Centre - always a good time! Look forward to sharing our survey results



with you in the January, 2004 edition of AACUSS TALKS.

# AUCHO-I CANADIAN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



Submitted by: Michel Ouellette

It's autumn and the leaves are falling!! I hope you all get a chance to enjoy the colours in your part of the Maritimes. As your Canadian District Representative on the Association of College and University Housing Officers -International Executive Board, my role is to keep you apprized of happenings, both within our Canadian District and with ACUHO-I.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership renewals continue to come in. We presently have 867 educational institutions, 224 Sustaining Affiliates, 32 Associate Affiliates, 15 Faculty Affiliates, 5 Emeritus Affiliates and 38 Student Affiliates.

## RESLIFE.NET:

Be sure to check out the on-line course offerings at [www.thehousinguniversity.com/onlinecourses/index.html](http://www.thehousinguniversity.com/onlinecourses/index.html)

**BENCHMARKING:** Enrollment for the fall offerings is now available. For more information go to <http://www.webebi.com/Housing/Index.htm>



## FOLKS, A FEW PIECES OF SIGNIFICANT NEWS!!!

As many of you are aware, the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International, the preeminent organization serving the needs of student housing professionals around the world, will hold its annual conference in Montreal June 20 to 22, one of the few times the Annual Conference has been held outside the United States and the first time the Conference has taken place east of Toronto. More information can be obtained on the ACUHO-I website at <http://www.acuho-i.org/conferences/cwnew.html#annual>. We invite you to look into this tremendous professional development opportunity.

Beginning with Montreal 2004, ACUHO-I Annual Conference registration fees will be **charged in Canadian dollars for all international members**. This important development is the result of many years of lobbying on the part of previous Canadian District Representatives: Mary Riseborough of UBC, Blair Capes of Guelph, and Dima Utgoff of U of A. My thanks to all three for "planting the seed" and "tilling the soil" on this major achievement in ACUHO-I international participation.

Translation services will be available in Montreal for select keynote addresses, interest sessions, and some social events. The Conference booklet will also be available in both official languages.

Canadian cities will now be considered in the regular rotation of ACUHO-I Fall workshops. Already, the 2003 Apartments Conference was held in a resort community north of Toronto.

Beginning in membership renewal in 2004, membership dues for international members will be charged in Canadian dollars. This action, along with Annual Conference registration fees in Canadian dollars, means significant savings for all international delegates and hopefully increased membership and participation from housing officers in Canada, Australia, and other countries around the world.

## STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATES

Submitted by: Shelly Clayton, Atlantic Regional Representative, CASFAA

### New Brunswick

Loan limits remains the **same** for **2003/2004**:  
CSLP up to a maximum of \$165/week  
PSLP up to a maximum of \$110/week

New Brunswick Bursary has **increased** for **2003/2004**:  
\$90/week – students without dependents  
\$80/week – students with dependents

#### Contact Information:

Janice O'Neill, Director or David Bellmore, Assistant Director

Tel: (506) 453-2577; 1-800-667-5626 (Ontario and east)

Fax: (506) 444-4333

Web Site: English [www.studentaid.gnb.ca](http://www.studentaid.gnb.ca) French [ww.aideauxetudiants.gnb.ca](http://ww.aideauxetudiants.gnb.ca)

Just a reminder for the New Brunswick Student Aid Call Centre (1-800-667-5626) **after you press #1 for English, #2 for French—press #5 to speak with a representative**. The Call Centre staff forward concerns, that they are not able to address, to the Student Aid staff through e-mail, and then the Student Aid staff contact you, by telephone, in 2-3 business days.

*Continued Page 7...*

### Prince Edward Island

Loan limits have **changed** for **2003/2004**:  
CSLP up to a maximum of \$165/week  
PSLP up to a maximum of **\$165/week**

#### Contact Information:

Don Currie is the Acting Manager for 2003/2004

Tel (902) 368-4604

Fax (902) 368-6144

Website address: [www.studentloan.pe.ca](http://www.studentloan.pe.ca)

### Newfoundland Student Aid

Effective August 1, 2002 NFLD Student Aid now requires an 80% enrolment to be considered full-time for PSL. This requirement may be appeal, please consult program guide for exceptions to this rule.

Loan limits remains the **same** for **2003/2004**:

CSLP up to a maximum of \$165/week

PSLP up to a maximum of \$110/week

(\$200/study week for Memorial University medical students.)

#### Contact Information:

Mr. Ian Wright, Manager Client Services and Counselling

Tel: (709) 729-5849 Toll free: 1-888-657-0800

Fax: (709) 729-2298

Website address: [www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid](http://www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid)

### Nova Scotia Student Aid

Loan limits remains the **same** for **2003/2004**:

CSLP up to a maximum of \$165/week

PSLP up to a maximum of \$150/week

#### Contact Information:

Kathleen Thompson, Director

General Inquiries

Tel: (902) 424-8420 Toll free: 1-800-565-8420

Fax: (902) 424-0540

Website address: [www.studentloans.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.studentloans.ednet.ns.ca)

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING OFFICE

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Submitted by: Lillian Beresford

We started off the Fall semester with the move to our new offices in Corte Real, giving us the much-needed space to be able to better meet the needs of our international students. Our international student population has grown tremendously this semester, with an increase of approximately 30%.



*L-R Lillian Beresford, Sonja Knutson,  
Yvonne O'Reilly, Jane Mackey*

The international students, with the assistance of our office, held their 18<sup>th</sup> annual cultural night with approximately 300 in attendance. The event was a huge success, the food delicious and the entertainment was awesome.

Co-ordinated with "Celebrate Memorial" activities, we held an "Open House" to showcase our

new offices, to which various multicultural organizations from the community, along with students and the university community were invited. The event was well attended and we served a variety of international foods, which is always well received at any function.

We had a health insurance seminar with a representative from the insurance company in attendance. He stayed for an extra half day and met with students on an individual basis regarding any issues they had with their health insurance. This was first time that we had such a seminar and it turned out to be very useful both for the students and us.