

AACUSS TALKS

WINTER 2003



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone!

Well as we shiver our collective souls through the end of this ridiculous Atlantic Canadian winter, let me try and bring you some warm and fuzzy thoughts!

I hope you enjoy this issue of AACUSS Talks! It comes on the heels of the winter workshop hosted by Mt. Allison University in February. An excellent event that brought together 110 students and student service professionals in an engaging series of discussions on international students. A summary and pictures of the event can be found on our web site as well as in reference within this edition. Of note was the excellent round table summary at the end of the session that brought together a listing of international student concerns and suggestions for us all to consider. With a growing constituency of international students we will all be challenged to meet the expectations.

Fast approaching is the annual AACUSS Conference, this year hosted by our colleagues at beautiful UPEI from June 1-3rd. They promise an exciting, informative, and enjoyable event for us all. Make sure you get involved by signing up to present a paper, research, or talk about some programs you are involved in. Conference information can also be found on the web site at www.aacuss.ca or by emailing Bob Gibson, Director of Student Services at bgibson@upe.ca. The annual conference is a wonderful time to renew friendships, make new ones, and re-light the fires we all need from time to time. By participating you will have grown your network of contacts and give yourself a chance to "let off some steam" accumulated during your hectic year!

So, we hope to see you all in record numbers. As always, if you have any questions or concerns email us through the listserv or contact me directly at bbelbin@mun.ca. See you in June (when the snow will surely be gone, UPEI guarantees us there will be balmy weather).

All the best!
Bruce Belbin
President, AACUSS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Note	2
Hi From Housing	2
Remembering Carol Jordan	2
Another Successful AACUSS Winter Workshop	3
Counselling Division of AACUSS	3
The Best DRAFT in Canada is at St. Mary's	4
The Generalist Division	5
News from St. Francis Xavier University	5
Meet Your AACUSS Executive	6—7
Updates and General Information for Student Aid Representatives	8
Campus Update, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, MUN	9
Department News from UPEI	10
Greetings from Max Bell Health Centre at UCCB	10
Reminder CASFAA Conference 2003	10
Hello from Wellness Education, MUN	11
Celebrate—AACUSS 2003 Conference	11
AACUSS/ASECUA 2002-2003 Executive List	12

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi Folks,

I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your contribution to this edition of AACUSS Talks. I am overwhelmed with the response and know that we all appreciate your letting us know what is going on at your institution.

By now you will have noticed that the "look" of AACUSS Talks has changed and this is a result of consultation with our executive and I hope you like it. I would like to thank my assistant Trudy Coombs for her technical expertise in making this change possible.

Now that the AACUSS 2003 annual conference to be held in PEI is fast approaching I hope you are all thinking about the presentations you will be making and perhaps whether to run for an executive position. Being on the AACUSS executive is very rewarding and I would recommend it to everyone. If you are interested why don't you have a chat with the present exec at the conference and let us know. For your convenience I have included a picture of all exec members so you will know who to look for.

Have a good one.

Christine

REMEMBERING CAROL JORDAN

Submitted by: Shelley Clayton

Every member of AACUSS who met Carol will have their own special memories of her. What impressed me most about Carol was her "outstanding enthusiasm and dedication" to UNB and in particular the student population. I had the good fortune of meeting Carol early in my career in Student Services when I attended an Atlantic Student Services Conference at UNB Fredericton in the early 90's. She was one of the Welcoming Committee Members who acted with such collegial spirit, grace and humour that I felt instantly at home within the field of student development.

Carol completed many initiatives nationally, in the Atlantic Region and at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) focusing on education and student development. These initiatives have concentrated on alcohol, drug and sex education workshops. Carol, in fact, was the Co-founder of the Peer Alcohol Education Program (PALE) for

UNB/STU. PALE is a peer-facilitated alcohol awareness program whose model has been implemented by Post-Secondary Institutions within the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario.

'Carol had a career that accomplished many positive feats, but, the best feat of all is the impact she made on the minds/memories of colleagues and students alike.'

In addition to her full-time position at the Student Health Centre, she also played an important role within the UNB Residence Community as a Don.

Carol held Executive Positions on Boards nationally and in the Atlantic Region. Two Professional Awards received from her Atlantic Colleagues were:

◆ 1992 AACUSS (Atlantic Association of Colleges and Universities Student Services) Award of Merit in

HI FROM HOUSING

Submitted by: Kimberley Kelly

Hi Folks,

It seems this will be my last article as your housing rep. I feel it is now the time to pass on the torch and give another person a chance to be a part of the wonderful AACUSS executive. So I pass on a challenge to you housing folks to come to the AACUSS conference and put your name forth as a candidate for the Housing Rep on the AACUSS executive.

It has been a wonderful personal and professional experience and has helped me further expand my knowledge of housing and student affairs in general.

Cheers,

See you at AACUSS 2003

recognition of outstanding contribution to Post Secondary Education and Student Services

◆ 2000 AACUSS Lifetime Membership Award in recognition of her dedication to Student Services

Carol's career with the University of New Brunswick (UNB) began in 1971 (over 29 years ago) and concluded in December of 2000 when she retired from her position as Head Nurse/Health Education Coordinator for the Student Health Centre.

Carol had a career that accomplished many positive feats, but, the best feat of all is the impact she made on the minds/memories of colleagues and students alike. Carol has excelled both within her field of employment and within her ability to care and provide a positive motivation to individuals still working within the field of student development.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my memories of Carol Jordan!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AACUSS WINTER WORKSHOP

Submitted by: **Charlie Hunter**

On February 6th and 7th, Mount Allison University was thrilled to host the AACUSS Winter Workshop. The theme was *Creating Cultural Competence on Campus*. 110 participants from Atlantic Canadian institutions participated, including 40 students.

Keynote speaker, President Wayne MacKay of Mount Allison, an expert in human rights and multiculturalism, was a highlight of the programme. Other sessions included a discussion forum for international students, personal issues faced by international students, ethical issues in international student advising, racial profiling after September 11th, cross-cultural communication issues, and academic and ESL issues. Less formal but equally interactive sessions included People Bingo, South African Gumboot Dancing and Mickey Mouse Dancing demonstrated by Mount Allison students and the Ambassador's reception.



South African Gumboot Dancing



Session Time

At the wrap-up session, the participants drew up a list of the top 10 tips, ideas and reflections gathered from the workshop. They are summarized here as food for thought!

1. Celebrate multi-culturalism - don't just tolerate it!



Getting Reacquainted

2. Universities and colleges must keep talking about issues of accessibility of all sorts.



Student Participants

3. We must focus more on the individual, worry less about process.

4. Streamline support for students to avoid their run-around.

5. Importance of training staff on cross-cultural issues.

6. Educate the University and local communities about international student issues.

7. The AACUSS network of colleges and universities is a great resource.

8. Colleges and universities must anticipate international student issues, not just react to them.

9. Take the Mount Allison Gumboot Dancing troupe on the road! It was a great example of cross-cultural sensitization.

10. Adequate resources to support international students are essential.

Counselling Division of AACUSS

Submitted by: **Marion Morrison**

Greetings from your over worked colleague at UPEI. Those of you on my mailing list have received another prod re participation in the June conference. Also, I have asked for any particular topics you might be interested in, and I'm quite surprised that on both topics my mailbox is not overflowing. Oh well, I know you are doing what you do best, and that is taking care of students, and in a few weeks you will get a chance to lift your heads, and think of me. We had an Executive meeting March 12, via conference call, and the concern that I wish to share with you from that is "how to attract new members?". If there are new people in your departments, it would be really great if you could take a few minutes and let them know about ACCUSS, and encourage them to become members.

Because there seems to be new divisions being added on to Student Services Departments, don't hesitate to think outside the box. This is probably the last time you will hear from me until June conference, so have a good one, and drop me a line or two.

The Best DRAFT in Canada is at Saint Mary's

Submitted by: Mary Ellen MacEachern

The finest DRAFT in the nation is right here at Saint Mary's.

The Saint Mary's University DRAFT team (drink responsibly and feel terrific) has been recognized by a leading national association for having the best alcohol awareness program in the country.

BACCHUS Canada, a division of the Student Life Education Company, awarded the DRAFT team with the 2002-03 National Alcohol Awareness Days Programming Award.

BACCHUS is committed to the education, training and support of post secondary students with regards to healthy lifestyles and responsible decision-making.

This is the third national award for the DRAFT team in four years.

"We are truly honoured to receive this award," says Donnie Jeffrey, a counsellor for Students Services and coordinator of the DRAFT team.

"The credit for winning this prestigious award goes to the large number of student volunteers who work diligently all year to promote responsible drinking on our campus. It is the Saint Mary's student volunteers who demonstrate the commitment, leadership, and vision in the creation and implementation of alcohol awareness week on campus."

"We are extremely proud to win such a leading award, one where we are praised for our continuous efforts in educating students about responsible alcohol consumption."

Formed in 1995, the DRAFT team is comprised of student volunteers interested in promoting student well being through responsible alcohol use. The objective is to promote and encourage students to make responsible and educated choices around alcohol consumption. This is usually accomplished through a wide variety of educational activities both on and off the campus.



Martha Francique, Susanne Hogg, and Erin MacNeil, Saint Mary's University DRAFT team volunteers, with the 2002-03 National Alcohol Awareness Days Programming Award. The DRAFT team consists of student volunteers who promote responsible drinking on campus. This is their third national award in four years!

For their work in promoting responsible drinking on campus, the DRAFT team received national awards from BACCHUS in 1999 and in 2001.

'We are truly honoured to receive this award'

Donnie Jeffrey

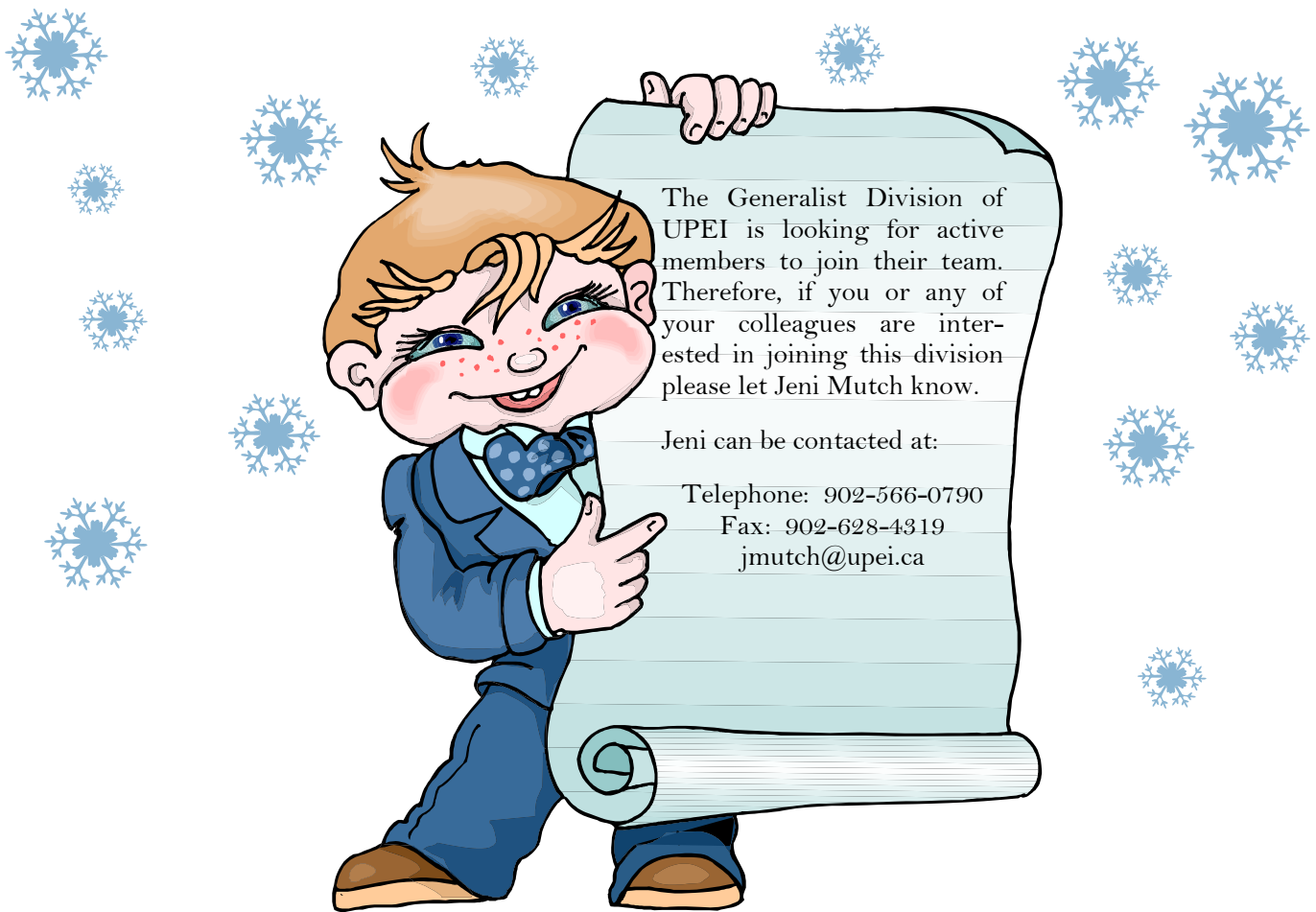
Saint Mary's is celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2002-03.

Saint Mary's University is home to one of Canada's leading business schools, has a Science Faculty widely known for its cutting-edge research, a comprehensive and innovative Arts Faculty, and a new Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

For more information contact Paul Fitzgerald, Public Affairs Officer, 902-420-5514 or paul.fitzgerald@smu.ca

Click us online at www.smu.ca

This article has been downloaded from St. Mary's University's website www.smu.ca



News from St. Francis Xavier University

Submitted by: Carson Duncan

The annual Atlantic Residence Conference was hosted by St. FX in November 2002. Student staff member Michelle Poirier chaired the conference, assisted by a number of student and full-time staff members. By all accounts the conference was a professional and social success. Thank you and congratulations to Michelle, the other organizers and all participants from various campuses.

Our program for students with disabilities continues to grow as more students self-identify for assistance. The program has benefited significantly from a partnership with the rehabilitation programs and services section of the

Nova Scotia Department of Education. St. FX contact person Mary Ellen Clancy has been a leading contributor to the Provincial roundtable for post-secondary service providers.

St. FX was sorry to lose the services of Ian and Laura Cull when they moved to Winnipeg on January 1, 2003. Robert Kitchen has replaced Ian as dean of students, on an acting basis, while Lynn O'Donnell has assumed Laura's previous position as financial aid officer.

St. FX's historic Memorial Rink has fallen to the demolition crew in order to make room for a \$23

million physical sciences complex which will open in summer 2004.

One year following the opening of the new Keating Millennium Centre, we are experiencing great benefits for our varsity hockey programs, intramural sports and general wellness and recreation programs. The local community has also responded enthusiastically, with increased usage of our exercise facilities and participation in our various programs.



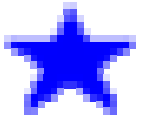
MEET YOUR ACCO



*Lois Clowater
Treasurer*



*Bruce Belbin
President*



*Pat Collins
Health*



*Allison Broadbent Codjo
International Students*



*Brian Johnston
Past President*



*Marion Morrison
Counselling*



*Kevin Bonner
President Elect*



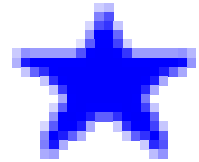
ACUSS EXECUTIVE



*Shelley Clayton
Financial Aid*



*Christine Burke
AACUSS Talks Editor*



*Kim Kelly
Housing*



*Richard Papenhausen
Chief Student Affairs Officer*



*Jeni Mutch
Generalist*



*Mary Ellen MacEachern
Placement & Career*



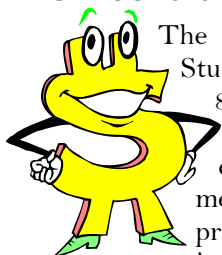
*Beth Forestell Wheatley
Secretary*



UPDATES AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENT AID REPRESENTATIVES

Submitted by: Shelly Clayton

Newfoundland And Labrador



The NFLD and Labrador Student Aid requirement of 80% enrolment for PSL has been causing some concerns. This requirement is causing some problems when the educational institution discovers

that the student is only at 60% when he/she comes to obtain their provincial loan document in January. UNB has received a ruling from NFLD & LAB Student Aid that we have two options: #1 we can return the PSL to NFLD & LAB and Student Aid to be reas-

essed **OR** #2 we can provide the PSL to the student and then notify NFLD & LAB Student Aid that the student dropped below the 80% requirement and he/she may be processed for an over award.

- Website address: www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid
- Students maintain their eligibility for assistance by progressing satisfactorily in their program of studies. In general, students are expected to successfully complete 80% of a full course load. However, a one-semester grace period is available when a student may drop to 60% of a full course load without affecting eligibility.
- Students may receive assistance for programs of study beyond the initial program where it can be demonstrated that the subsequent program(s) represent academic progression, have good labour market prospects, and does not leave the student with an unmanageable level of debt.
- New Debt Reduction Grants – up to the full amount of NFLD & LAB Loan may be converted into a non-repayable grant. Debt reduction grants are earned on a semester basis and students will be notified annually.

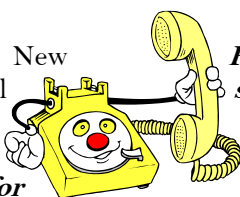
Nova Scotia

No new changes in Nova Scotia for the 2002-2003 academic year. A number of improvements have been made to their "On-line status" section of the student assistance website.

- Website address: www.studentloans.ednet.ns.ca

New Brunswick

Just a reminder that the New Brunswick Student Aid Call Centre telephone number is 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.

- Lorne Ferguson has *always* been the Canada Study Grants (for Students with Disabilities) contact for New Brunswick Student Aid. There was a miscommunication with New Brunswick Student Aid in September, which resulted in me incorrectly listing Michele Cyr as the contact. You may reach Lorne by fax at **(506) 444-4333** or by website: www.studentaid.gnb.ca
- COE's being submitted late is still an issue with New Brunswick Student Aid and Educational Institutions. At UNB, we send two e-mail notices to students as well as attach an information notice to their CSLP, however, with less than enthusiastic success.

Prince Edward Island

To date, there are no new updates with Prince Edward Island Student Aid. Processing time, in general, is on target.

- Website address: www.studentloan.pe.ca
- Tel (902) 368-4603 and fax (902) 368-6144.

CAMPUS UPDATES

SIR WILFRED GRENFELL COLLEGE

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Submitted by: **Mary Sparkes**

It has been an eventful year and a half for Student Services at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial's campus in Corner Brook.

Aodhan Sheahan, our Residence Manager for several years, resigned his position in September of 2001 to take a job in the private sector. After almost a semester without a Manager, Peter Davis assumed the slightly re-vamped position of Manager of Student Housing in January of 2002.

This was a particularly challenging time to be without a Manager, since Grenfell was in the middle of constructing eight new student apartment complexes. Peter began his position just a few days before residence re-opened for the Winter Semester, and five of the eight new apartment complexes opened.

This \$7.5 million project encompasses eight low-rise, chalet-style buildings on two sides of the Grenfell campus. Most buildings have eight apartments with four bedrooms each. There are also several fully accessible units, family apartments and a common area / laundry area on each site. All apartments have private enclosed entrances, 1.5 baths, telephones and Internet access in each bedroom. These new apartment complexes allow Grenfell to accommodate 410 students, which has more than doubled out previous accommodation of 190 students.

While the overall student response to the new chalets was very positive, the first year of operation proved to be challenging. Working the "bugs" out was front and center with the Student Housing staff. Aside from working through physical plant issues, there were growing pains in areas of budget issues, roommate conflicts, student housing life (programming), and some students seemed to feel they were living in their own little community, not having to abide by housing

policies, which resulted in new challenges with regard to discipline.

As a result of Grenfell's expanding community and Student Housing's new challenges, the housing staff grew by one with the hiring of Jennifer Mitchell in October of 2002. Jennifer is the new Residence Life Officer, a live-in position which deals with student

needs, problems, and issues; working more closely with Resident Assistants and Proctors; residence life programming; as well as other related duties.

Parallel to the growth of Grenfell's campus with the construction of eight new chalet-style apartments, the traditional 190 bed residence was going through challenges of its own. As part of a major exterior renovation of the Arts and

Science Building at Grenfell, the dormitory residence was also getting a major exterior facelift. This included stripping off the old brick and insulation, and replacing with new, as well as new windows throughout. With work behind schedule and summer delays, the project ran into the first couple of weeks of January 2003. Weather conditions brought challenges and disturbances to students with the structure of the building exposed, leaking roofs and windows, activity directly outside residents' windows, as well as early morning noise, sometimes at 6:30 a.m!

The challenges and disturbances were fast and furious, but because of the understanding and patience of our students we got through it all, and are better because of it.

Our Grenfell community has grown and improved, and if you are ever in the Corner Brook area in the near future, please stop by we'll be happy to show you around.



Grenfell's Chalet-Style Apartments

Department News from UPEI

Submitted by: Marion Morrison

More snow!!!! and Happy ST. Paddy's Day. Bob and his gang are actively engaged in their day to day stuff, as well as making plans for a bang-up conference for ye here in June. We are very happy to have Tamara back with us delivering our new Student Success Program. She has a large number of students in this group, so she has her hands full. Jeni and her ACE troop have one student preparing for graduation, and three more coming up the line. Dawn has moved on to new employment with The Canadian Cancer Society, but fear not, she will be at ACCUSS, and up to her usual tricks. Shirley and Marion have their time heavily booked with students in academic and personal challenges, as well the occasional class presentation. Marion just completed a round of Stress Management classes for Tamara's students, no text required just be herself as the example. Career Development, under the capable guidance of Mamdouh Elgharib, and his dependable leprechaun Stephanie, has had two successful ventures in the past while, and they are The Labor Market Expo, and the Education Job Fair. Learning Disabilities has attracted many new students to it's services, re-

quiring Joanne to do some very fancy footwork adding on some leprechauns to help, and creatively searching for space. We don't dare leave our office's for more than an hour, as you might come back and find a student writing an exam in there. We are very proud of our Panther Men's basketball team --- sorry SMU, and our Scott Tournament of Hearts Ladies Team. We have a new registrar - Dr. Karen Smythe, allowing Mike to return to his normal duties, which he likes best.

I guess that be all for now. Looking forward to having y'all in June, until then have a laugh or two.



Greetings from Max Bell Health Centre at UCCB

Submitted by: Pat Collins

Since the beginning of the New Year, there have been a number of health promotion activities offered to the University Community. Some of these activities included:

- monthly blood pressure clinics
- Health Promotion Fair - cholesterol, glucose & blood pressure screening with educational handouts

To celebrate International Woman's Day, a Well Woman's Clinic was organized. These Health Promotion activities were well received by the University Community.

We are proud of our athletes for their accomplishments this season. An Awards Banquet will be held later this month to celebrate their outstanding efforts.

After a very long, bone - chilling winter, the thoughts of Spring's arrival is welcoming. Wishing you a Happy Easter, Happy Spring! ENJOY!!!!

REMINDER

casfaa
acrate
conference 2003

June 15 - 17, 2003
Fredericton, NB

The Millennial Student "Solving the Puzzle"

Hello from Wellness Education Memorial University of Newfoundland

Submitted by: Kathie Saunders

Well here we are in the mist of lots of snow and ice and guess what? Students are actually stressed! We have seen a lot of students struggling with course load etc., but at this time of year it is a little harder to cope. So what have we been doing to help eliminate some of the excess worry? Well, the beginning of January, Student Services and The Works (recreation complex) staff hired a new co-op student as our Wellness Assistant to help promote the many programs and services offered at our great recreation complex. The student completed a roaming promotional campaign that assisted in increasing awareness of the complex and the benefits of active living. Currently, students are being surveyed to see what, if any, are the barriers to non-usage. In addition, the co-op student helped to coordinate a "Running Club" and set up a system for one-one fitness instructions for first time users of The Works. This is a first time coop-

erative initiative between Human Kinetics, Student Support and The Works, and we hope to see it continue in the future.

Further to our active living initiative, our peer helpers have been very busy with our Safe Love Campaign during February. The peer helpers helped to raise over \$500 for AIDS research during the National "Have a Heart Campaign". The campaign enable the peers to highlight and educate students regarding STI's, AIDS, pregnancy and the risks of irresponsible alcohol use.

International Women's Day was celebrated here on campus on Friday March 8, 2003. The event was very successful and as participants in this event we highlighted the joys of being a woman! The peer helpers devel-



International Women's Day Display

oped and promoted tips on natural skin care, dealing with PMS and the benefits of CHOCOLATE! The peers also designed a "beautitree" in which students could write on a leaf a statement themselves and add it to our tree. In addition, motivational quotes were taped to candies for distribution. It was a really nice feel good day and women were treated to other special events organized by our Women's Resource Centre here at Memorial.

As we head off to the end of the semester, students will be offered healthy eating sessions and as well, we have begun our relaxation sessions to run from February to April.



"Beautitree"

CELEBRATE



*The AACUSS 2003 conference is set for June 1-3 on the campus of UPEI and will celebrate our successes in meeting student needs, all the while providing you with meaningful professional development. The theme for the conference is thus quite simply, **Celebrate!** Co-hosted with Holland College, we want you to join together in celebration and depart feeling revived and excited about the services you provide!*



*Organizing Committee
AACUSS 2003 Conference*

Watch for additional conference details on the AACUSS website (www.aacuss.ca) or contact UPEI Student Services at 902-566-0425 or bgibson@upe.ca.

AACUSS/ASECUA

2002-2003

EXECUTIVE LIST

Past President:	Brian Johnston (MUN) Telephone: 709-737-7968 Fax: 709-737-3520 bjohnsto@mun.ca	Financial Aid:	Shelley Clayton (UNBF) Telephone: 506-453-4796 Fax: 506-453-5020 clayton@unb.ca
President:	Bruce Belbin (MUN) Telephone: 709-737-4819 Fax: 709-737-4070 bbelbin@mun.ca	Counselling:	Marion Morrison (UPEI) Telephone: 902-566-0443 Fax: 902-628-4319 morrisonmt@upe.ca
President Elect:	Kevin Bonner (UNBSJ) Telephone: 506-648-5680 Fax: 506-648-5681 kbonner@unbsj.ca	International Students:	Allison Broadbent Codjo (MTA) Telephone: 506-364-2112 Fax: 506-364-2263 abroadbent@mta.ca
Treasurer:	Lois Clowater (UNBF) Telephone: 506-453-4620 Fax: 506-453-4610 clowater@unb.ca	Generalist:	Jeni Mutch (UPEI) Telephone: 902-566-0790 Fax: 902-628-4319 jmutch@upe.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:	Richard Papenhausen (UNBSJ) Telephone: 506-648-5690 Fax: 506-648-5681 rwp@unbsj.ca	Housing:	Kim Kelly (MUN) Telephone: 709-737-4597 Fax: 709-737-3520 kakelly@mun.ca
Placement & Career:	Mary Ellen MacEachern (St. Mary's) Telephone: 902-420-5498 Fax: 902-420-5125 mmaceach@stmmarys.ca	AACUSS TALKS Editor:	Christine Burke (MUN) Telephone: 709-737-4581 Fax: 709-737-3520 cburke@mun.ca