

# NEWS & FEATURES

## Student Union election race begins

### Nominations closed Friday for SU positions

BY REBECCA MOORE

NOMINATIONS CLOSED FRIDAY, MARCH 11 at 4pm for all elected SU positions. There was only one contested position in this spring's election and that is the position of V.P. Internal. Alan Murphy and Errol MacEachern will be running against each other. One of the chief responsibilities of this position is overseeing the operations of S.U. affiliates like CIMN, the Yearbook and the X-Press.

The position of President is uncontested. The 1993-1994 V.P. Internal Andrew MacPherson was the only candidate. MacPherson was

"disappointed" that there were no other nominations for President.

Voting will be a little bit different this year. The Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Alan MacDougall, said Friday that there will be polling stations in the cafeteria and at Blanchard hall to make voting more accessible to resident students. Off-campus students can vote in the breezeway as usual, where resident students cannot. Voting will be held during the last week of March.

Some people believe that this is not enough, but the SU cannot afford to put polling stations

everywhere. The campus police are required to operate the stations and they have to be paid for every hour they work at the polling stations.

Regarding student apathy towards voting, MacDougall says that it is up to the candidates to fight it. One candidate is already planning posters to encourage students to vote.

The rest of the candidates and the positions they are running for are as follows: Kathryn Brown, senate rep. (one of four seats); Fidel Murphy, senate rep; Aldera Chisholm, senate rep; Karen Gilbert, MAPUS student council

rep; Heather Demille, Veterinary Medicine faculty rep; Kevin Docherty, MAPUS senate rep; Lisa Belliveau, V.P. Finance; Patricia Embleton, V.P. External; Janice Enman, Business Administration rep; Cory Mosher, science rep (one of four); Finley Martin, V.P. Operations; Korey Millar, science rep; and Paula MacFadyen, Board of Governors rep.

There are still a number of open positions. These will be filled during a bi-election in the fall.

## UPEI hosts Undergraduate Biology Conference

### Celebrating twenty-five years of science at UPEI

BY SHANNON YOUNKER

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ATLANTIC University Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC) was held at UPEI March 4 - 6. This year's event was the largest in the history of the AUUBC, with forty-three students presenting research done in coordination with their Bachelor of Science honours degrees. This conference is, in the words of Dr. Larry Hale, faculty coordinator, "the finest forum for undergraduate research". Twenty students presented seminars on their honours theses, while twenty-three more introduced their findings in several poster sessions during the weekend.

There were five UPEI representatives among the undergraduate researchers. Loretta Hardwick and Andrew MacInnis presented on Saturday, March 5. The poster presentations included submissions by Heather Garnett, Kurt Kimpinski and Deborra LeBlanc, all of UPEI. The seminars demonstrated much more than number crunching. Important topics were addressed in the context of biological research. Hardwick's study dealt with the effects of transplanting necessitated by the takeover of natural ecosystems by commercial interests. Andrew MacInnis analyzed the effects of

pesticides on animals in different positions in the food web. These students gave the 1993 AUUBC the highest level of UPEI presentation yet.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph Shorthouse (from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario), gave an especially interesting lecture: "For the love of a rose: gall wasp - rose relationships across Canada". He spoke for an hour and it felt no longer than the fifteen minutes allotted to each of the undergraduates. Shorthouse has been an inspiration to many Canadian biologists, including Debbie LeBlanc. Her poster presentation dealt with the topic of

insects living within rose galls on Prince Edward Island.

The level of professionalism at this conference was extremely high, and a wide variety of interesting scientific topics were discussed. I found the conference made honours degrees seem worthwhile and within the realm of possibility without understating the amount of hard work involved. An honours degree in biology usually involves devoting an entire summer to field work as well as submitting a written thesis and oral explanations (like this conference's presentations) of one's work. Students were not only speaking in

front of a lecture theatre full of people, but they were also being judged. Every participant seemed completely unfazed by this-- another impressive accomplishment.

The conference has put the Biology department of UPEI on the map and impressed many of the participants. Alan Pinder, who attended the conference from Dalhousie University, said that he came away from the weekend with a "high regard for UPEI and its people". None of this would have been possible without the help of many people from the Biology Department here at UPEI, primarily organizers Chris Ripley, Sylvie Desmereaux, Andrew MacInnis and Dr. Larry Hale. As well, Kaye Ross, department secretary extraordinaire and Dr. Daryl Guignon, chairman of the biology department kept things

running smoothly. Last but not least, there were too many student volunteers to mention here, but you know who you are and thank you! One delegate to the conference, David Scarratt, former head of Aquaculture in Atlantic Canada for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, said that this year's AUUBC was the "best organized ever".

Finally, it is interesting to note, although definitely irrelevant to the level of excellence of the conference, that of the twenty seminars given, sixteen were given by women and only four by men. The twenty-sixth annual AUUBC conference will be held in late April, 1995 at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. I am certain that UPEI biologists will maintain their excellent reputation and make an impact on that session as well.

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