ARUCC

CONTACT

Volume 18, No. 16
Fall 2007

ARCHIVES

ARUCC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — David Hinton

***Transforming Data into Intelligence**: The start of Fall Term is always energetic and full of great expectations. It is also the time for generating student data in response to what seems like an ever increasing number of requests. Taking from the notion "if we build it they will come", the more data we have, the more they will ask for. I must confess, I enjoy "pivoting" the data, looking for information that will be of interest to my institution. Within our institutions, the efforts are increasingly on transforming data into intelligence with the focus more on student engagement and academic success, and less and less on the numbers themselves. This is definitely adding value to our data.*

There is also a growing interest and need for a similar focus outside our campuses and I am very pleased to see this. Each fall institutions prepare reports in response to this growing interest. My own office provides an enrolment report to the Atlantic Association of Universities (AAU) for posting on their web site. Then there is the complex PSIS/MPHEC submission. We also provide an annual report to the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) for use in their "report card" on Atlantic high schools. We continue to provide a data set to MacLeans for their annual report on Canadian universities. We also prepare information from the various student surveys we participate in such as NSSE and CUSC. I expect institutions across the country could add many more reports and surveys to this list. However, each report we prepare in response to this growing interest has a unique focus and unique data sets. Unfortunately this expands the number of isolated data sets available. Adding more is not always better!

In order to develop meaningful institutional, regional and national polices and strategies, we must begin with data that is, at the least, comparable and of high quality. At the moment there are numerous information sites backed by expanding data sets but I doubt we could effectively "pivot" across these. I am not about to suggest another national data set. We already have ESIS or is that PSIS now, or do we? Rather, I would challenge post-secondary institutions to work together and with key agencies to reform our present data sets to allow "pivoting". I know that as part of this article I should offer strategies to meet this challenge. I regret I have no magic spreadsheet that will serve this purpose. I have no magic workshop for developing comparable data sets of this scope. I am confident though, if we work together "to build it, they will come".

I would welcome input from ARUCC members on this topic. Your comments may appear in a response section in the next CONTACT.

EDITOR'S NOTES — Mike Sekulic

New Format Contact Newsletter, DocAlert-L & Archive of Surveys: *Welcome to a new edition and format for Contact. We are trying this email format to see if it is more 'relevant'. But we do so asking a number of questions. Does a newsletter serves the needs of the membership? Have ARUCC-L and email replaced our newsletter as a way of sharing information? Or, are we all too busy to contribute to a newsletter? Members -- what do you think? Since the last Contact we launched a new list serve dedicated to document alerts. Members who have been nominated to be on the DocAlert-L (for guidelines, see http://www.arucc.unb.ca/docalertguide.htm) list have been sending and receiving document alerts since mid-summer, and we continue to refine list membership as staff change and institutions continue to confirm their members. We hope that the service is working well for you! Another service we hope to provide by the next newsletter is an organized archive of ARUCC surveys. If you have questions on academic regulations, convocation, examinations, and other topics, you will be able to look at the questions others have asked, and the summarized responses. Gathering the questions and answers together, and organizing them, has taken some leg work. We do have a plan to engage the membership in helping maintain the archive. Currently, ARUCC Members who send out questions often provide summaries to the membership. In the future these members will be able to easily upload the summaries to our web site, to the organized archive of survey's and responses. Let us know if we are on-track with the services we are changing, adding and improving!*

WESTERN REPORT — Stefanie Ivan

One of the major challenges this year in Alberta was a housing shortage for our students. *Many students found it difficult to source affordable housing in a market with a very low vacancy rate. Several post-secondary institutions put out calls to the local community to make rental space available to returning students.*

This past year, the provincial government in British Columbia undertook a strategic visioning initiative called Campus 2020.

According to the Minister of Advanced Education, Murray Coell, one of the goals of the Campus 2020 initiative is "to establish a learning landscape in British Columbia that responds not only to who we are today, but imagines the kind of educational system we will need over the next 10 to 20 years." The report was released in April with 52 recommendations including establishing a Higher Education Presidents' Council and a Higher Education Board; establishing a provincial accreditation process and system for all public and private degree-granting institutions; creating 3 new "regional universities" (formally University Colleges); and establishing a regulatory framework for tuition that provides institutions with the ability to set their own tuition rates within the Higher Education Price Index. To view the full report, visit the Campus 2020 web site at http://www.campus2020.bc.ca.

The BC Council on Admissions and Transfer just released their 2006 Mobility of Transfer Students in B.C. report.

In the past two years BCCAT studied "the number of potential and eligible transfer students in colleges, university colleges and institutes in the fall of each year and the number that enrolled in

a BC public university in the subsequent year with transfer as the basis of admission." The study found that transfer to universities is down by 4.1% coupled with declines at most colleges, university colleges and institutes in transfers to universities. In fact 48% of students eligible to transfer remained at a college, university college or institute. To view the full report visit BCCAT's web site at: http://www.bccat.bc.ca.

The WARUCC 2007 Conference was held in Richmond, B.C. *at the River Rock Casino Resort from June 24-27, 2007. We had a record turn out with over 200 registrants and 14 Sponsors and Exhibitors. The focus on From Sea to Sky – Pathways to Student Success, yielded a wonderfully rich program with broad topic areas such as Recruiting Underrepresented Groups, Best Practices in Service Delivery, Leveraging System-wide Data for decision making, e-Strategy in Service Delivery, Content Management, Provincial Application and Transfer Initiatives, Web Redesign, and Rediscovering our Roles as Enrolment Professionals. Sorry you missed out on some wonderful presentations? Not to worry. Watch for the posting of these presentations coming soon to the WARUCC conference web site.*

Thanks again to our Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors:

- *Senior Sponsor – Astra Schedule*
- *Sponsoring Exhibitors – AMBiT, Decision Academic and Edge Interactive*
- *Exhibitors – AACRAO, Academica Group, Capella University, Infosilem, On-line Course Exchange, Oracle Systems and Vangent Canada*
- *Exhibitor Associate – Cambridge Exams, Impressive Software Solutions, and World Education Services*

And thanks again to the wonderful Organizing Committee:

- *Jody Gordon, Kwantlen University College, Conference and Program Chair*
- *David Johnston, University of Calgary, Vendor/Sponsorship Chair*
- *Joshua Mitchell, Kwantlen University College, Entertainment Chair*
- *Julia Denker, Kwantlen University College, Nutrition/Catering Chair*
- *Byron Henry, Simon Fraser University, Publications*
- *Marnie McFarlane, Kwantlen University College, Advertising and Publications*
- *Shannon Kloet, Kwantlen University College, Program*
- *Ravinder Birk, Kwantlen University College, Program and Site Host*
- *Caitlin Zotzman, Kwantlen University College, Local Arrangements*
- *Jim Knoepfli , Grant MacEwan College, Finances*
- *Deepinder Dhillon, Grant MacEwan College, Finances*
- *Alessandra Hardy, Grant MacEwan College, Finances*
- *Anita Kranz, Kwantlen University College, Site Host*
- *Joanne MacNeil, Kwantlen University College, Site Host*
- *Melinda Henson, Kwantlen University College, Site Host*
- *Linda Siemens, Kwantlen University College, Site Host*
- *Maureen Moore, Kwantlen University Colle ge, Site Host*
- *Neerje Harvey, Trinity Western University, Site Host*
- *Carrie Lintinen, Trinity Western University, Site Host*

At WARUCC 207, the following members were honored for their contribution to the profession: *Dr. Lawrence VanBeek, President, Rocky Mountain College (former Registrar at Trinity Western University); Dr. J.David McLeod, Director, International Education, Grant MacEwan College (formerly Director of Enrolment & International Services at Brandon University); Linda Hoover, Retired Registrar, Lethbridge College; Mr. Larry Hogue, Retired Registrar, Assiniboine Community College; and Gail Thompson, Retired Assistant Registrar, University of Regina.*

Some time back, the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS) started a new initiative to compile comprehensive information about educational systems in the world from a Canadian perspective.

A comprehensive information system on how international credentials compare to educational standards in a Canadian province has not yet been developed in Canada. This project is a first within Canada. The project uses international resources and the considerable expertise and information within the IQAS, as well as outside sources, to compile these international education guides.

So far IQAS has completed education guides for the following countries: China, United Kingdom, South Korea, the Philippines, Russia and former USSR, and India. The information presented is based on up-to-date information and research, as well as information contained in most of the existing publications and databases across the world related to international credential evaluation. The International Education Guides (IEG) include the following specific information: country overview, historical educational overview, description of school education, higher education, professional/technical/vocation education, teacher education, grading scales, documentation for educational credentials and bibliography. In addition the IEGs include suggested placement recommendations for benchmark credentials within the educational system, i.e. how a credential generally compares to a credential in Alberta/Canada.

Currently IQAS is preparing the completed IEGs for publication and also developing a website where they can be housed and accessible to stakeholders. The first publications on China and South Korea will be launched in early November this year.

IQAS continues its initiative and is presently working on International Education Guide on Colombia and starting to compile information on Pakistan.

Before the publications are available and the new website ready the Guides can be retrieved from the following URL sites:

- *Completed Country profiles, including placement recommendations for China, the Philippines, South Korea, and the United Kingdom can be retrieved from http://immigration.alberta.ca/iqas-profiles.*
- *For individuals who are directly involved in credential assessment more detailed credential templates for the respective countries are available at http://immigration.alberta.ca/iqas-templates.*
- *If you need any clarification and further information about the IQAS research initiative, please contact Irena Blodgett at mailto:irena.blodgett@gov.ab.ca.*

University of Calgary

The U of C went live with PeopleSoft in February 2007. A lot of very good work was done to manage the transition by staff in Enrolment Services as well as colleagues across the university. They expect that they will continue to go through the usual first year of hiccups and challenges as they encounter each part of the annual cycle for the first time with the new system. Kathleen Massey, Registrar, expresses her personal gratitude to her team members in Enrolment Services who have really risen to the challenge and served the students and faculties well in a time of extraordinary change; they are the salt of the earth and outstanding professionals!

In other news from the University of Calgary, they are pending final approval from the Minister to launch the new Veterinary Medicine program in September 2008. This is a new addition to program offerings at the U of C and its introduction marks the second such program in Western Canada. In total, 120 seats will be available at steady state.

The U of C is also pleased to announce that one of its institutional partners, Red Crow Community College, has been approved for membership in the Alberta Transfer System. Red Crow, which is located on the Blood Reserve in southern Alberta, has partnered with U of C on a number of successful initiatives, including the provision of Social Work degrees on site at the College. Red Crow's transfer credit agreements will be reflected in the ACAT Transfer Guide in the near future, a benefit of membership in the system.

The cranes are also starting to appear at the U of C campus. The university has begun construction in support of its $1 billion capital plan. The Alberta government recently approved $260 million in funding to build the new home of the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and the Economy. It is planned that the new building will include features that promote experiential learning, such as new labs. In addition, the university is building International House, a residence for international students and visiting international scholars. The Taylor Family Digital Library, funded in large part by a contribution of $130 million from the provincial government, is scheduled to begin construction in the near future.

Newman Theological College

The College and Seminary buildings have been sold to make way for a new highway, and so we will be moving in 2009. Our new location has not yet been announced. Carol Anne Seed is the new Registrar as Sharon Gauthier retired last year.

Millar College

We have had a significant leadership change in that Dennis Wiebe has moved on from Millar and Josh Munan is now the Academic Dean. Thus, we are in a year of transition and refocusing.

Great Northern Way Campus

In September 2007, the new Centre for Digital Media at the Great Northern Way Campus welcomed its inaugural class to the Masters of Digital Media Program as full-time studies began. The launch of the Centre - a state-of-the-art multimedia facility for education and research - is the result of an extraordinary collaboration between the BC Provincial Government, Industry, and four of BC's major post-secondary institutions: the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

The Masters of Digital Media program is the first offering out of Vancouver's new collaborative campus. This innovative, full time professional graduate degree program offers students team-based experiences focused on project learning in close collaboration with the international games and digital media industry. The MDM is a 20-month program, including a paid summer internship. Graduates will develop the professional skills required to be effective creators, practitioners, and senior managers in this rapidly growing industry. The parchment they receive upon graduation will be globally unprecedented: it will bear the seals of all four academic partners.

University of Saskatchewan

2007 is the Centennial of the U of S, and there were many special events and celebrations held for our 100th. The highlight was the Congress of the Canadian Federation of the Social Sciences and Humanities in June, which brought over 5000 academics to the U of S. One of the more interesting news of note was the development of a unique University of Saskatchewan

Centennial lily which proved very popular.

The provincial government provided additional funding allowing for a second year of no tuition increases at the U of S.

Enrolment has remained fairly stable at the U of S, and it looks like it may even be slightly up in 2007-8 (contrasted to the University of Regina, which reported this week a decline in enrolment). We have close to 20 000 students, with an increasing proportion of them being international and Aboriginal. There has been impressive growth in graduate studies as well.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic, Michael Atkinson, left the position on June 30, replaced by Acting Provost Ernie Barber (former Dean of the College of Agriculture). The search for a new Provost is ongoing.

The College of Commerce has changed its name to the N. Murray Edwards School of Business, reflecting a very generous gift of $11 million dollars from Mr. Edwards, an alumni and successful businessman. The U of S intends to introduce several other new interdisciplinary schools over the next few years, including a School of Public Policy, a School of the Environment and Sustainability, and a School of Public Health.

We introduced online Confirmation of Enrolments for students (full and part time status) this past summer, which significantly reduced in-person traffic at Student Central.

We eliminated our print calendar! Our calendar is now entirely online, and we are implementing a Content Management System to improve it over the next 1-2 years.

The U of S will be upgrading to Banner 7 this November, and everyone is hard at work on this project. The division responsible for the Banner student information system (called SiRIUS at the U of S), was reorganized and now is a part of the Student and Enrolment Services Division (they were previously part of Information Technology Systems), of which our office is also a part.

As for leadership, the team in Academic Services and Financial Assistance (the Registrar's Office) added Tonya Wirchenko, as Manager, Student Central, who took over from Russ Isinger and Janelle Hutchinson, Manager and Assistant Registrar (Administrative) last summer. Kelly McInnes remains Registrar and Director of Academic Services and Financial Assistance.

Mount Royal College

Mount Royal College launched its new Bachelor of Nursing program this fall; it was previously offered through a collaborative partnership with Athabasca University. In addition, in response to a critical nursing shortage in Canada, Alberta Advanced Education has approved an increase in funds for Mount Royal's unique Bridge to Canadian Nursing program. The extra money will go towards helping nurses who were educated outside of Canada 'bridge' over to careers as registered nurses (RNs) in the Canadian health care system.

There have been some changes in personnel at Mount Royal College: Jacqueline Pasloske, Manager, Enrolment Services I.T. Systems; Sue Gemmell, Manager, Records and Registration; and Victoria Cabot, Coordinator, Enrolment Services Communications.

Grant MacEwan College

In September, students at MacEwan began classes in the new Robbins Health Learning Centre. The Robbins Centre will accommodate an additional 2000 students and will provide continuing education opportunities for Alberta's 25,000 practicing nurses. Drawing from extensive healthcare experience, the architects designed the Robbins Centre to emulate a teaching hospital. Procedure rooms, patient care units, along with classrooms and simulation labs have been created to ensure maximum efficiency.

Members on the Move

*The University of Calgary welcomes **Ms. Ann Tierney**, newly appointed Vice Provost (Students). Ann comes to the U of C from Carleton University in Ontario. The University of Calgary said farewell to **Kathleen Massey**, as she left to take the post of Executive Director Enrolment and Registrar at McGill University. As the University's Registrar and Assistant Vice-President (Enrolment), Kathleen led a number of important initiatives, including the introduction of One Stop Service and the roll out of the student module of PeopleSoft. Effective November 15, **David Johnston** became acting Assistant Vice President Enrolment and Registrar.*

*The new Director of Student Services/Registrar at Medicine Hat College is **Mr. Craig Hart**.*

***Colleen Rausch** has moved from Norquest to NAIT to become the new Associate Dean of Admissions.*

***Karen Bennett** has assumed the position of Dean of Student Services and Office of the Registrar at Norquest College, and **Karlene Uusikorpi** has moved from Associate Registrar, Admissions, to Registrar.*

*At Grande Prairie Regional College, **Don Brown**, Director of Student Services (Registrar) retired in the spring and **Jean Nordin** is now acting Director of Student Services while they recruit for a permanent director.*

*At Providence College and Seminary, **Mark Little** moved from Registrar to VP for Student Services, and **Jason Clapp** has moved from Associate Registrar to Registrar.*

*(picture from left: **Stefanie Ivan**, Registrar; **Tim Crisall**, IT Architect; and **Cathryn Heslelp**, VP Student Services at MacEwan's 22nd annual MadHatters Gala, the college's signature black tie fundraising event in support of student scholarships, bursaries and awards)*

ONTARIO REPORT Alex Goody

***Ryerson University**: While Ryerson has always been about change, the changes of the past five years have been unprecedented, particularly in terms of the impact of changes on the work of the Registrar's Office. Mushrooming enrolment and applications for admission, a host of new graduate and undergraduate degree programs, and the introduction of a new Student Administration System following 20 years using a "home grown" SAS have all added to the usual challenges of the Registrar's Office team. Ryerson has been working to confirm a new organization structure for the Registrar's Office to meet these challenges while delivering a first-rate experience for Ryerson students. The reorganization has now been finalized and we look forward to continuing our work in support of Ryerson's ongoing evolution.*

University tuition continues to climb - the following article appeared in the Star newspaper on October 19, 2007: http://www.thestar.com/News/Ontario/article/268544.

***College Enrolment Update**: First-year enrolment at Ontario's 24 colleges increased 6% this year over last year, with more than 94,000 enrolments in first-year programs at the 10 day count period. Statistics from the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) show the number of full-time, enrolled first-year students increased by approximately 5,000 students over last year.*

Ontario College Information Fair – October 22, 2007

Centennial, George Brown, Humber, Michener, Seneca and Sheridan have once again partnered to host the Ontario College Information in Toronto, at the Direct Energy Centre. The event is expected to draw more than 8,000 high school students, adult learners, teachers, guidance counselors and parents. For more information on the Ontario College Fair, visit http://www.collegefair.ca.

Ontario College Application Service (OCAS)

The Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) has completed a re-branding exercise dividing their web presence into two distinct business portals:

- *http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/ – for applicants and parents*
- *http://www.ocas.ca/ – for college staff, high school counselors and high school boards*

The "Find a College Program" search engine has also been completely redesigned. The search engine now accurately provides detailed information on over 2000 college programs, allowing prospective students and applicants the ability to compare programs and save them to a wish list.

Ontario College System Data Warehouse

The Ontario College System Data Warehouse hosted by OCAS and used by college staff has been upgraded to Cognos 8.0. OCAS has also developed and made available, 40 standard reports detailing application and enrolment data over the past five years and allows users to compare specific college data against the entire system.

ACAATO gets a facelift … Introducing Colleges Ontario

The advocacy organization for Ontario's Colleges has un-dergone a major facelift. Colleges Ontario, formerly known as the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario or ACAATO, has established a new brand and appointed Linda Franklin as the CEO. Details about the changes to Colleges Ontario are available in the February 2007 Colleges Ontario Newsletter located on their website http://www.collegesontario.org.

EDI (Electronic Transcript Exchange) in the Ontario College System

The Ontario College System now has 22 colleges fully EDI compliant and 1 college in the final stages of testing. The electronic transcript exchange permits the Ontario Colleges to exchange transcript data in a safe and secure fashion to partnering Ontario Colleges and Ontario Universities.

Members on the Move

Ray Darling *is the new Registrar of Wilfred Laurier University (previously Associate Registrar, Admissions - University of Guelph).*

QUÉBEC REPORT — Manon Vaillant

Fall 2007 semester — slight enrolment increase in Quebec universities: *168 651 students enrolled full-time and 89 150 part-time, for a total of 257 801 students. The 2006 enrolment increase was 0.2%; total enrolment has increased by 0.6% this year. However, for the first time in the past ten years, there has been a small decrease in the number of full-time students (-0.2%) that is mostly attributable to lower enrolment in graduate level studies. As far as part-time studies are concerned, there has been a 2.1% increase in enrolment. The part-time study increase is especially marked for graduate courses at master's degree (8.0%) and Ph.D. (7.4%) levels. These are the preliminary findings from enrolment data gathered from institutions, excluding Télé-Université who is not included in this data collection because of its ongoing enrolment process. In the past few years, another important observation relates to the number of women attending universities. They make up 57.8% of students in 2007, 56.3% of them study full-time while 60.8% study part-time. Women represent 58.9% of undergraduate registrations, 55.9% at the master's level and 48.0% at the doctorate level. Finally, women make up 58.6% of new undergraduate full-time enrolees. The situation has been shown to vary greatly from one institution to the other. For this reason, one must examine the data of specific institutions to identify the causes of these client variations. Refer to http://www.crepuq.qc.ca/IMG/pdf/incr2007.pdf for detailed information on each institution.*

Montreal's HEC celebrates its centennial

Canada's first business school, the HEC, celebrates 100 years in 2007. As early as 1886, Joseph-Xavier Perreault, agronomist, MNA, publisher and one of the founders of the Chambre de commerce du district de Montréal, launched a movement calling for a university-level business school where courses would be taught in French. On March 14, 1907, l'École des hautes études commerciales de Montréal is officially founded. The School, modelled after European institutions, was independent of the Université Laval. This was a first in Canada and, indeed, in North

America. When it opened its doors, the HEC welcomed 32 students. Up to this day, 57 000 students have graduated from the business school. The school now employs 250 tenured professors and owes its leadership role in the field of research to about fifty research chairs, centres and groups. The HEC was the first one to merit the three most prestigious international designations in the field: AACSB International, EQUIS and AMBA. http://www.hec100.ca.

The new masters degree program in research practices and public action at the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS)

This Fall, the Centre for Urbanization, Culture and Society of the INRS welcomes its first students to the program. It is design to prepare students to assume a variety of roles that relate to the interface between social research and action; this could be as a social research professional as well as, for example, an analyst, a knowledge mediator, an interpretive writer, a consultant or a research project manager. This degree offers a unique learning environment since students are in direct contact with research teams and their partners in the field. Contact: Françoise-Romaine Ouellette, Professor at the Centre for Urbanization, Culture and Society. Email: francoise-romaine.ouellette@ucs.inrs.ca.

The INRS will host the 76th Acfas Convention in Quebec

The INRS will host the 76th Acfas Convention, the most important multidisciplinary scientific event in the Francophonie. Close to 5 000 delegates are expected in Quebec from May 5 to 9, 2008. The theme of the convention is « La rencontre du savoir avec 400 ans d'histoire ». A first in INRS history! Enjoy this wonderful opportunity to increase your public exposure, to make your activities known and to share your research findings while discovering Quebec City during the festivities of its 400th anniversary! To find out more: http://www.acfas.ca.

Vice-Provost, sustainable development

The University of Sherbrooke is the first one in Canada to appoint a Vice-Provost to sustainable development. The mandate of the Vice-Provost, administration and sustainable development, was entrusted to Alain Webster, a specialist in the matter. Professor Webster has been a lecturer and a visiting consultant for various working groups and parliamentary commissions, including the parliamentary commission on the Kyoto Protocol in 2003. In the past few years, he was in charge of the sustainable development committee and of the U of S action plan in this regard.

Important Reform in Researcher Training

The challenge of the new Chair in research at the U of S, headed by Professor Jean Nicolas: to better prepare researchers for the labour market realities of the next decades. The Chair for innovation in research training will receive more than 1.2 M$ in financing over five years from La Fondation de l'Université de Sherbrooke. First of its kind in Canada, this chair will bridge the work of researchers and potential employers. In this age of knowledge, one of the main objectives will be to renew doctoral training so that future researchers in engineering, sciences and medicine are better equipped to meet societal needs.

Partnering with Beijing to create the Quebec Confucius Institute

On October 4, the University of Sherbrooke, Dawson College and the Beijing Normal University launched the Confucius Institute in Quebec. Its goal is to promote the teaching of the Chinese culture and language in Eastern Canada. The Institute will be located at Dawson College and at

the University of Sherbrooke. Both for credit and not for credit activities will be offered to sinophiles, businesses as well as to the general population.

TÉLUQ (tele-university) celebrates its 35th anniversary

This year, TÉLUQ celebrates its thirty-fifth year of existence. Its mission: university training and research. Each year, TÉLUQ welcomes over 18 000 students who benefit from distance training at all university levels. It is the only Quebec university that focuses exclusively on distance education. Established on October 18, 1972, by the Board of Governors of the Université du Québec, TÉLUQ has become, over the years, a tool to facilitate access to knowledge on its territory and beyond. On October 26, 2005, TÉLUQ et UQUAM joined forces to create the largest university in the Francophonie to offer two teaching modalities, making it possible to offer both on campus and distance learning. This link is designed to improve the choice of distance learning programs and to continue the desired transformation of Quebec universities. Inaugurated 35 years ago as a small scale social and learning experience, TÉLUQ proves once more that it is possible to learn differently.

Members on the Move

*Mr. **Normand Shaffer** was nominated to the position of Registrar at the Université du Québec, Three Rivers, on August 13, 2007; Mr. **Claude Arbour**, previously Registrar, was named Director, Rector's Office.*

***Sinh LeQuoc**, Scientific Director at the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS), received another mandate; he will pursue his endeavours to promote research development and training in the second and third university levels, nationally and internationally.*

***Yves Bégin** is the new Director of the Water, Hearth and Environment Centre of the INRS; the Centre's activities are intended to foster the sustainable development of natural resources and to train excellent scientists.*

ATLANTIC REPORT — Rosemary Jotcham

Atlantic universities launch high performance computing cluster: *7 Atlantic universities will form the Atlantic Computational Excellence Network, a high performance computing cluster similar to others across Canada (SHARCNet and WestGrid). The cluster will be used by researchers at all 7 institutions to perform complex calculations or run simulations. The project is funded by a $9.9 million CFI grant. IT Business. The Atlantic Computational Excellence Network, (ACEnet) is made up of seven members including Memorial University of Newfoundland, the University of New Brunswick, Mount Allison University, Dalhousie University, St. Francis Xavier University, St. Mary's University and the University of Prince Edward Island. The group was given a $9.9-million grant last year from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and a mix of financial contributions from the provinces and the private sector.*

The final report by the New Brunswick Commission on Post Secondary Education was released recently.

The commission recommends the integration of the post-secondary education system with the

amalgamation of a number of universities with community colleges. "New Brunswick has a unique opportunity to be the first province in Canada and perhaps the first jurisdiction in North America to establish such an integrated, student-focused, public-private system. This will be the province's strategic advantage", said Commissioner Rick Miner. The report can be found at: http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/promos/cpse/index-e.asp. In the wake of protests sparked by the Commission's proposals, New Brunswick has announced a working group of university presidents and college principals that will plan the future of PSE in the province.

US Patriot Act requires Canadian schools to keep data in Canada: *For some time now, Canadian universities have been subject to privacy legislation and have carefully protected student and alumni data. When that data is housed on servers based on US soil, however, the US Patriot Act permits Homeland Security to demand access to the data without a warrant, regardless of Canadian privacy concerns. As a result, Canadian universities must carefully ensure that their student data, survey data, and even online plagiarism tools are based on Canadian soil, and professors must not carry laptops with student information across the border. Nova Scotia and BC have particularly strong legislation. The Globe and Mail*

Nova Scotia faces declining PSE enrolment: *The numbers are in, and Nova Scotia's PSE enrolment numbers are down by 870 students -- the largest decline in years. Acadia University suffered the most significant drop, a 9.7% decline from last year. St. Francis Xavier, Mount Saint Vincent, and Saint Mary's Universities saw 4.3%, 3.5% and 2.6% drops respectively. Fortunately, SMU saw a 7.7% increase in international student enrolment. Nova Scotia's universities are home to the highest tuition fees in Canada, and lack a "comprehensive, needs-based system of grants" according to the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations chair. The Chronicle Herald* | *ANSSA News Release*

A comprehensive view of enrolments in Atlantic Canada for the current academic year is available on the Association of Atlantic Universities' website: http://www.atlanticuniversities.ca.

Members on the Move

*UNB Fredericton**: Shirley Carroll**, Associate Registrar - Admissions at UNB Fredericton has moved to Qatar to assume responsibilities as Registrar for the College of the North Atlantic campus in Qatar. **Andrea Bishop** has joined the Registrar's Office at UNB Fredericton as Assistant Registrar - Registrations & Records Services. Andrea joined us from Yorkville University here in Fredericton and prior to that was Registrar at Atlantic Baptist University in New Brunswick.*

*UNB Saint John: **Doreen MacAulay** has joined the Registrar's Office as Assistant Registrar responsible for Undergraduate Admission and Canadian Undergraduate Recruitment.*

*Saint Mary's University – **Murray Wilson**, Associate Registrar retired in June. **Heather Harroun** has been appointed Assistant Registrar, Graduation and Publications and **Sarah Gaudet** has been made Assistant Registrar, Scheduling. It saddens us all to report that, **Elizabeth A Chard**, Canada's longest serving Registrar (1973 to 2005) passed away since our last edition of Contact.*
.
*Mount Allison - **Ron Byrne** comes from the University of Regina to take up the newly created position of Vice-President Student Affairs in January. The Vice-President Student Affairs (VPSA) will bring together the full range of student affairs that includes Student Life, Student Services, and Physical Recreation and Athletics.*

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design - NSCAD welcomed a new registrar this summer. ***Laurelle LeVert*** *comes to Halifax from the University of Toronto.*

Mount Saint Vincent University - ***Brigitte MacInnes*** *became the Mount's new registrar in August.*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND IMMIGRATION (ACISI) — Yves Jodoin

The were two ACISI meetings this Fall. The latest one occurred November 23, 2007. The main concerns were issues about international student fraud cases.

Media coverage about two international student fraud cases led the Immigration Minister to ask for a review of policies in the International Student Program on August 1, 2007. The two fraud cases subsequently led to jail sentences and fines.

Let's recall that the CBSA was created out of the department of Immigration with a clear mandate to apply IRPA (Immigration and Refugee Protection Act) rules. IRPA was a piece of legislation voted in 2002. Up to 2006, the RCMP had the mandate to investigate offences under IRPA. On June 1, 2006, CBSA (Canada Border Services Agency) Investigations unit undertook IRPA criminal investigation responsibilities from the RCMP. There's not much data about what the RCMP did previously since the RCMP main concern are national security and organized crime, not international student fraud cases. Since the CBSA will now be more active in investigations of immigration fraud, the Education Community dealing with international students should be aware that policies may eventually change and become more restrictive. Right now, the department of Immigration through ACISI and other bodies, such Provincial Governments is consulting about policy changes. No changes have been announced as of yet.

A final comment on this issue: as reported in the Spring 2007 issue, ENS (Electronic Notification System) work about continues at the department of Immigration. I believe that if new policies are implemented for verification of attendance of international students, it can only be done comprehensively through ENS. I have been defending this point at ACISI for several years. University Registrar's Offices should not be added the responsibility to fill paper forms in this day and age, as they are for other governmental requests such as the RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan). Everything should be done through secured electronic procedures and while respecting privacy laws.

The department of Immigration issued by province statistics on the Off-Campus and the Post-Graduate work permits programs:

Number of Post Graduation and Off Campus Work Permits Issued by Province – 2006

Province	PGWP*	OCWP**
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	122
Prince Edward Island	9	43
Nova Scotia	320	457
New Brunswick	276	440
Quebec	801	2 256
Ontario	4312	3 708

Manitoba	320	737
Saskatchewan	162	377
Alberta	1040	1 174
British Columbia	1284	1 916
Missing or Invalid	36	
Total	8572	11230

**Post Graduation Work Permit*

***Off Campus Work Permit*

**** Nunavut, Northwest Territory and Yukon are not present due to the fact that the number of permits issued in 2006 were below 5.*

The Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada
Association des registraires des universités et des collèges du Canada
http://www.arucc.ca