

• Campus Connection

Mount Saint Vincent University

December 11, 1989

Maritime universities call for increased funding

Maritime universities may be forced to limit overall enrolments if funding levels are not increased, according to a recent brief submitted by the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) at the request of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

The AAU is calling for a 5.9 per cent increase in sustenance funding (that is, to maintain current levels of programming and services) and an additional 4.7 per cent in recovery funding (as the first of five annual payments to restore the system to the required per-student funding levels of 1979-80).

In the brief, the AAU points out that since 1979-80, provincial government support per student, after correcting for inflation, has dropped by more than 22 per cent. During the same 10-year period, enrolment has increased by 43 per cent. "This combination of a sharp rise in enrolment and a sharp drop in financial support from governments cannot help but affect the standard of university education in the Maritimes," according to the report.

Dr. Willie Eliot, president of the University of Prince Edward Island and chair of the AAU, and Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom, commented on the funding brief at a Nov. 30 press conference held at

the Mount.

"During this transitional period, following the Adlington report and the resulting MPHEC study of the funding formula for post-secondary education in the region, the university presidents were hesitant to submit a statement," said Dr. Eliot. "But the MPHEC assured us that it was important to do so."

Since the imbalance between enrolment (and therefore costs) and funding has increased steadily, he explained, the universities are looking at enrolment as a factor over which they themselves have control.

Limiting enrolment at Maritime universities "is a cry of desperation, not a threat," according to Dr. Hersom. She said that capping enrolment would be a very serious solution, especially since much of the increased demand for university entrance has come from women. "Women now represent 50 per cent of the entrants to undergraduate programs in Canada. The Mount is especially sensitive to the consequences of limiting accessibility for women."

On the other hand, the AAU brief stresses that the lack of funding is threatening the quality of education and

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SEASON'S GREETINGS



Citations presented in memory of Mount faculty

This year the Mount community was saddened by the deaths of faculty members Dr. Hugh Wallace, recently retired from the history department, and Dr. Ron Pearson, public relations department. At the November 27 Senate meeting, Dr. Ken Dewar, history department chair, and Dr. Bob Lake, public relations department, presented citations in memory of their colleagues. The following excerpts appear with their permission.

Dr. Hugh Wallace

Hugh Wallace died suddenly on October 19th. He had been a member of the Mount faculty from 1969 until his retirement in 1986. During that time he taught a wide variety of courses in the history department and served two terms as department chair. His chosen field was Canadian history, particularly the history of the Canadian North. His book, The Navy, The Company and Richard King: British Exploration in the Canadian Arctic, 1829-1860, received uniformly high praise when it was published in 1980 and has become something of a classic in its field.

Hugh's interests and his knowledge ranged widely over the history of Western culture and beyond. He sought an integrated understanding of the past and present. This quest was especially apparent in the project that lay uncompleted at the time of his death, his response to George Grant's Lament for a Nation. This work, which he always referred to as his "letter" to Grant, amounted, in fact, to an extended and intricate statement of his own philosophy of history.

Hugh combined a broad intellectual outlook with personal warmth and a wry sense of humour. He will be remembered by friends and colleagues with respect and affection.

Dr. Ron Pearson

Barely six years ago Ron Pearson came eagerly, amiably and with a hope of home-coming to the world of university teaching and scholarship. To his deep and abiding satisfaction he discovered here that to him teaching and scholarship were indeed home. Tragically his lease on that home was short, and cruelly terminated.

In 1985 he proceeded to Ohio University for a doctorate. In his two years there and in the following year back at the Mount he accomplished much. He completed his doctorate with distinction. He was recognized as a good teacher on the road to excellence. He produced over a baker's dozen of scholarly pieces, some of which won awards.

Three years of accomplishment, seemingly guaranteeing further, richer achievement. The accomplishment stands. Of the guarantee, he was cheated. Ironically, the day he died a book arrived in Halifax, just published, with a chapter by him.

This year as cancer spread through his body, Ron was not stripped of his dignity or integrity. Though unable to come to work, he demanded progress reports on students in his courses and on co-op terms. He prepared his dissertation for review for book publication. Papers he worked on were given in California.

In short, he fought a gallant end-game. Not alone, of course. Amid great stress Janet Pearson moved herself, three children, and belongings to Toronto so Ron might have a home during leaves from the hospital. Courage is contagious and Ron's bravery fed on Janet's, as hers fed on the love of their children.

Dr. Pearson asked that a library endowment be established in his name. In life he was a promising scholar and teacher. In death Ron abides as our good and amiable friend. In our new library stacks his publications and memory will find a lasting home.



Church Scene, Africville 1949

*All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth among us all
Begin and never cease.*

— Adapted

**May the spirit of peace and joy
be with you throughout the holiday
season and the coming year**

Naomi Pearson

'Tis the season . . .

The Halifax Neighbourhood Society hosts a Christmas party each year for approximately 150 homeless men in the city, who typically eat at Hope Cottage and stay at the Society's overnight shelter. Small gift donations (gloves, toques, candy, etc.) can be dropped off to Ruth Jeppesen, public relations office, Evaristus 231, by Dec. 15.

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Mount employees are reminded that the university closes from Friday, Dec. 22 to Tuesday, Jan. 2. Pay cheques dated December 29 will be distributed on

December 22. Employees on the Royal Bank Automatic Deposit System will have their December 29 pay cheques deposited on that day.

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Heading out of town to spend Christmas with parents? Don't forget that the Mount Art Gallery's 16th Annual University Community Art, Craft, Baking, Hobby and Talent Show is coming up February 8-18. This may be your last chance to dig out a special piece of artwork or collection which deserves to be displayed. Happy rummaging!

Life of Elizabeth Seton focus of film

Most members of the Mount community know that Elizabeth Bayley Seton founded the order of the Sisters of Charity who, in turn, founded Mount Saint Vincent Academy/College/University. But how much do you know about Elizabeth Seton?

Born in New York City in 1774, she was canonized as America's first native-born saint in 1975. Her remarkable life is dramatized in a 1980 American

Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) film, to be shown by the campus ministry office to commemorate her Jan. 4 Feast Day. Viewings are free, Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Renewal Centre, Mount Saint Vincent Motherhouse; and Thursday, Jan. 4 at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Don MacNeil Room, Rosaria Centre. The film stars Kate Mulgrew, John Forsythe, Lorne Greene and Rossano Brazzi.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

LEARNING AND LEADING



George Creelman, acting president and general manager of Oland Breweries Limited/John Labatt Limited, presents Mount president Dr. Naomi Hersom with the first cheque of his company's five-year, \$50,000 pledge to the Learning and Leading capital campaign.



Earlier this year Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada made a five-year, \$15,000 pledge to the Learning and Leading campaign. Paul Sydney, Mount alumna and Sunlife representative, presents the first cheque to Dr. Hersom.

A fitting way to burn off exam stress

With exams underway and term paper deadlines looming, stress levels can get very high. And we often let our fitness routines slide during these hectic times. "Yet, this is just the time when we should make and take time for a little physical activity," says Lisa Boudreau, fitness co-ordinator with the athletics/recreation office. "Regular physical activity provides an outlet for built-up stress. During a work-out the body increases the production of endorphins, a natural sedative, and catecholamines, a chemical that helps stabilize moods. As a result, tense muscles relax."

To help you work in a work-out, the athletics/recreation office is offering a stress burner fitness program, free to all members of the Mount community till Wednesday, Dec. 20. The program, which includes

fitness classes and pick-up sports, takes place in the Rosaria Gym, which isn't being used for exams this term.

Aerobics classes are 9:30-10:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, Dec. 11 to 14 (with free babysitting), and Monday and Wednesday, Dec. 11 and 13, 12 noon-1 p.m.; strength and tone classes, 5-6 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, Dec. 11 and 13; and Lunch Crunch strength and tone classes, Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 12 and 14.

Join friends for a recreational co-ed pick-up game. Badminton is Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30-9 p.m.; volleyball, Thursday and Sunday, Dec. 14 and 17, 7:30-9 p.m.; and basketball, Friday, Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m.

The gym will be open for general use up until Friday, Dec. 22.

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universities should turn students away rather than lower their standards.

"The members of the Association are not prepared to let our universities become second class. We know what will happen to a region so educated, and we would betray

the trust between us and society if we said or did nothing," the report states.

(Ed note: The idea of limiting enrolment to preserve academic excellence is not a new one to the Mount. See CAPP proposal, below.)

CAPP proposal endorsed by Senate

The necessity of limiting enrolment to ensure that Mount Saint Vincent University lives up to its mandate and its mission is not a new idea, according to Mount president, Dr. Naomi Hersom.

The university Senate recently endorsed a proposal from its Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP) that efforts be made to meet the following targets by 1993-94:

- o that overall enrolment be limited to 4,000 individual students;
- o that the overall student to faculty ratio be 17:1;
- o that the university strive to maintain a balance of approximately 55 per cent full-time/45 per cent part-time enrolment.

"All of this is based on the assumption that the provincial government is able to live up to its commitment to provide equalization in funding," says Dr. Hersom. "This is partly reflected in the

recovery grant required by all Atlantic universities. The Mount has made its case repeatedly -- most recently in our August submission to the provincial government's advisory committee on university finance -- that equalization funding is essential to maintain our academic standards."

For the past three years, the university's committee on planning and budgeting, and CAPP, have been developing an academic plan, including enrolment considerations, she explains. "In fact, the Mount's institutional role and planned capacity statement affirms that to maintain the standards of academic excellence, and to fulfil our mission statement, we must look at the effects of overall enrolment levels on student to faculty ratio in light of our goal to maintain a university that is characterized by a high degree of personalized education."

Employee representatives list incomplete

The list of employee group representatives for 1989/90, in the Nov. 27 issue of Campus Connection, omitted two representatives of the Operating Engineers

(representing housekeeping and maintenance employees): Rick Walkden and Eric Densmore.

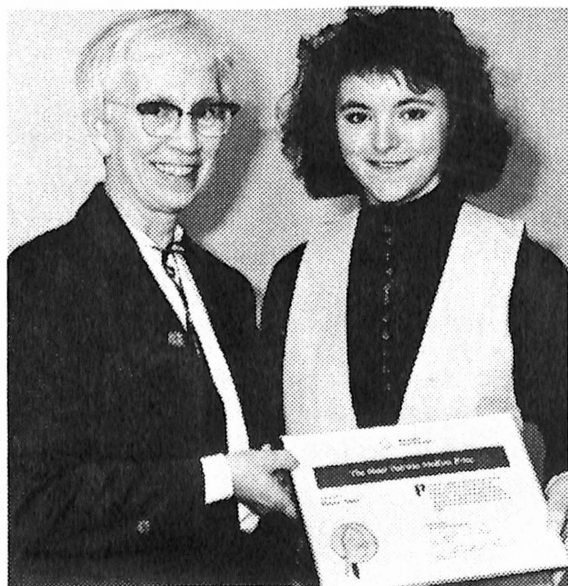
Lend a helping hand at tax time

Each year Revenue Canada, Taxation co-operates with community volunteers to assist disadvantaged people in completing their tax returns. Revenue Canada offers a short training course to instruct volunteers in completing straightforward income tax returns.

If you can spare some time between January and April, contact Leslie Theriault, public affairs office, Revenue Canada in Halifax, at 426-7934.

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Mount computing staff are now providing support service to a wider range of on-campus microcomputer hardware. Two years ago, in an effort not to strain limited human resources in computer services, the Mount's computer committee approved a policy restricting support to Digital DECmates and Zenith PCs, along with WordPerfect and a few other software programs. Since then, the supply of Zenith products has become unstable, partly due to a takeover of the company, so the computer committee has authorized computing staff to expand its support services. For more information contact Wayne Stickney, coordinator of user services, computing and communication technologies, at ext. 330.



Sister Patricia Mullins (left) congratulates Florence Power, a third year student in the Mount's Bachelor of Science in Home Economics degree program, as recipient of the Sister Patricia Mullins Prize in Chemistry. Inaugurated by the chemistry department on Sr. Mullins' retirement as dean of humanities and sciences, the award is presented annually to a returning full-time student for outstanding performance in Chemistry 110 and other entry-level science courses.

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The mathematics and computer studies department is offering a Mathematics Placement Test Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 3 p.m., in Evaristus Room 108. The test is required for entrance into 100-level courses and Mathematics 203, except for students with the proper university prerequisites. Students must write the placement test before registering for their mathematics courses, but not necessarily in the same semester.

No pre-registration or fee is required, and results are given at the time of writing. Maximum time for writing is two hours. No calculators are permitted. Please bring a pencil. Sample questions are displayed on the bulletin board, Evaristus Room 158. For more details consult the 1989-90 Mount calendar, page 105.

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The Universities Telephone Directory for 1989-90 is now available through the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). New features include an institutional index and information on AUCC associate members.

The Directory is bilingual and is available for \$14.95 (Canadian) from AUCC Publications/com, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5N1.



Campus Connection is published bi-weekly during the academic year by the Public Relations Office, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6. Copy should be submitted to Room 231, Evaristus Hall, no later than 10 days before the Monday of publication. Editor: Charmaine Gaudet, 443-4450, ext. 339.