

# the connection



Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia



## New Computer Laboratory

When President E. Margaret Fulton cut the blue ribbon to officially open the Mount's new Computer Laboratory recently, the crowd poured in and, in no time at all, every computer terminal was being operated by small boys, middle-aged ladies, interested faculty or nervous greenhorns.

A CBC television crew took miles of film, and a fascinated CBC producer quizzed Dr. Fulton and Ron Smith, Director of Computer Services, about the capabilities of the new system.

Dr. Fulton pointed out that "we had to have the best, because we are training women and unless we provide them with the best equipment, we relegate them to second-class positions."

The facilities in the new lab include a

VAX 11/750 computer, a terminal room, a computer lab containing GIGI colour graphics terminals, and other video-display and hard-copy terminals.

Dr. Fulton believes that too few people are expert in the use of computers and that a mystique has been created which frightens people off. "We would like to see this mystique broken down," she says, "and that is why computer literacy courses are so important."

The Mount's program in Computer Studies emphasizes practical computer applications in the students' primary area of interest. Many employers agree that a Minor in Computer Studies gives graduates entering any sector of the work force an advantage in obtaining a rewarding career.

## Hair Zinc Research Useful



Lecturer Bonnie Anderson of Mount Saint Vincent University's Home Economics Department, together with

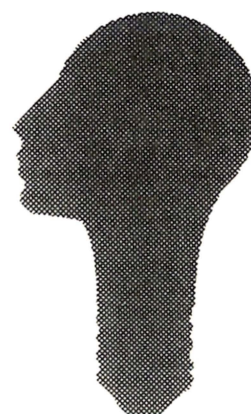
researchers from the University of Guelph, has been involved in research on the possible effect of hardness of water on hair zinc concentrations.

Too little zinc in the human body can be undesirable. Lack of this mineral can, for instance, stunt growth and make individuals more susceptible to certain diseases, especially if they happen to be on a poor diet.

A total of 100 children between the ages of 4 1/2 and 5 1/2 years old were chosen for the research experiment — 25 boys and girls from both Halifax, Nova Scotia and Guelph, Ontario. Their normal food intake was recorded and they were basically the same height and weight.

Hair zinc levels were found to be higher in Halifax where the water is softer. In Guelph, where the water is very hard, a

*continued on page 5*



**CANADA'S  
ENERGY IS  
MINDPOWER**

## All Canadian Teams

Two students from Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, have been chosen from the Nova Scotia College Conference to join the All Canadian Basketball and Volleyball teams.

They are Deborah Ashley, of Saint John, N.B. and Nanette Elsinga, of Kensington, P.E.I. who was also recently named Athlete of the Year at the university's annual Awards Night.

The announcement was made at the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association banquet held recently in Calgary at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.



## alumnae update

When Barbara Jean Dionne graduated from the Mount in 1980 with a Bachelor of Child Study degree, she was awarded the special President's Prize. (This prize is awarded annually to a graduating student who "best fulfills the university ideals of self-sacrifice and all-round cooperation, and who gives promise of continued loyalty to the university and of service to the community.")

It seems that President Fulton made a wise choice!

On a very brief visit to the campus recently, Barbara confessed she was on her way to have blood tests done, as she had been ill with two types of malaria. She'd been home (in Fredericton) from Zambia for about two months, recuperating, but was hoping to get back by Easter.

She had spent the past 18 months in an isolated area of northern Zambia, trying to make life a little healthier and easier for the women of the villages. In a world where the supernatural ruled and the women took their sick children to a witch doctor before they would take them to the rural health centre, Barbara worked with four qualified midwives/nurses and a "flying doctor" who literally dropped in about once a month.

The 1980 statistics showed that in this region of Zambia, out of every 10 children born, five would die before the age of five, three would be malnourished, and only four would go to school. Of the women, 95 per cent did not speak English and 99 per cent were illiterate.

The health centre where Barbara had been working saw 120-150 women per day, mostly for immunization and nutrition clinics. There was also a mobile clinic which dealt with upward of 300 women each day, as it made its rounds.

While a student at the Mount, Barbara did a practicum with the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children in Halifax, but although it was good experience, it had no relationship to the work she now does. "We have no oxygen, no blood, none of the basic drugs much of the time."

She pointed out that having a 'children's ward' and an 'adult ward' really made no difference at the health centre. "When a woman comes for treatment, the children have to come along; and when a child is ill, the mother comes along."

Barbara went on to tell about the witching of families, and the many taboos these women accepted which affected the health of their children. She had already built up a lifetime of experiences, but would probably never have time to write them down. She's too busy carrying on with her service to the community.

## Awards Night



This year's Student Union, Athletics and Alumnae Awards Night was a huge success and here's your chance to match names and faces of those very deserving award winners: (L to R) Maureen Connolly, (Council Pin); Rachel Backman (Most Valuable Soccer Player); Gary Tang, (Most Valuable Badminton Player); Michele d'Entremont, (Digital Equipment of Canada Limited Merit Award); Nancy Burns (Graduation Award); Karen Stone (Graduation Award and Student Services Award); Jackie Melanson (Most Improved Volleyball Player); Libby Douglas (Award Certificate); Nanette Elsinga (Athlete of

the Year); Kerry Moorhead (Award Certificate and Mount Student Assistant Award); Oonagh Enwright (Council Pin); Noreen Richard (Thank You Certificate from Assisi Hall, Award Certificate and Mount Student Assistant Award); Gerry Shea (Maud Crouse Robar Biology Award); Margie Grant (Award Certificate); Kathryn Dunster (Award Certificate); Alice MacKichan (President's Award and Council Pin); Anne Kane (Award Certificate); Karen Deprey, Cathy McPhee and Dr. E. Margaret Fulton (Council Pins).

## Off to Nain

Three faculty members from Mount Saint Vincent University's Child Study program will be spending part of the Spring and Summer in Nain, Labrador, teaching a course in early childhood training.

Last January, Dr. Patricia Canning, Director of the Mount's Child Study program, was invited by the Nain Women's Group to visit their town, the largest Inuit community in Labrador, to advise them on the type of course needed for the staff of a new day care centre which has been set up there.

Dr. Canning developed a 10-week training program and is returning to Nain in April for two weeks, to give instruction in child development techniques and how to deal with children who have special needs. Assistant Professor Edith Shantz and lecturer Carol Anne Wein will visit Nain in June to demonstrate the practical aspects of child care. Canning will make a couple of additional trips in May and late Summer for follow-up.

The Child Study faculty has invited the

Nain Women's Group to come to the Mount next year to take part in a course that will be specifically designed for them.

The project is being funded by both federal and provincial governments, through the Nain Women's Group.

## Student Presented Paper

At the 13th annual Atlantic Universities Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC) held recently at Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, the Mount science students were represented by Peg Langille, Karen Alexander, Sharon Fisher and Carol Nash.

Peg Langille was one of 21 students who presented papers on research done during the past year. Hers was entitled "High Lethal Temperatures for Several Fe Understory Species".

## St. Patrick's a Success

The Shamrock Road became a well-worn highway on St. Pat's Night at the Mount, when the Multi-Purpose Room held nearly 500 people, all under the spell of various leprechauns, disguised as entertainers, who keep the place jumping from 8 p.m. to midnight.

As a result, Project One: Futures for Women is richer by \$1,250 and the committee who organized the whole great affair has relapsed into a contented stupor, after putting in such a gigantic effort over the past six months.

Planning began last September, and rehearsals were underway by January. "Most of the time spent on the production was during our off-hours" says chief organizer, Neita Castle "but the work we all put in was well worthwhile." She is particularly pleased with the good student participation, both on the stage and at the tables. "I think they gave us more support than for any other event on campus," she says.

The entertainment ranged from the highly professional, to talented amateurs, and all was given free of charge to help Project One. It was good to see administration, staff and students being brought together in this way.



Mount students Debbie MacDonald (left) and Mary Lou LeRoy were a popular pair on St. Patrick's Night, with a comedy act they had put together themselves. Student participation in the event was considerable.

## How Much Do You Know About Rape?

### Myth

Most rapes are reported to the police.

The rapist is a stranger to his victim.

Most rapists are "insane".

Most rapes occur in deserted alleys, parks, or parking lots.

Women frequently "cry rape" falsely for reasons of revenge, pregnancy, etc.

If a rape case goes to trial, the evidence will be justly weighed.

If found guilty, the rapist will receive a stiff sentence.

Only "loose" women get raped.

### Fact

Only an estimated 10% of all rapes are reported to the police.

In over 50% of reported cases of rape, the offender is known to his victim.

Most rapists do not suffer from mental illness. One study revealed that only 3% of rapists are considered psychotic.

1/2 of all rapes occur in a residence; 1/3 of all rapes occur in the victim's home.

Crime statistics reveal that rape has the same false accusation rate as any other crime of violence: 2%.

The outcome of a rape trial is still largely determined by the victim's moral character and her socio-economic status. Conviction rates are highest if the victim is virginal, married, or professional.

The average sentence for rape is 4 to 5 years and the accused is eligible for parole after serving only 1/3 of his sentence.

Rape can happen to any female. The oldest victim on record was a 93-year-old woman. The youngest was a 6-month-old infant. The moral character of the victim does not negate the fact that she has been forced to have sexual intercourse against her will.

These and other Facts About Rape are included in a brochure published by the Information Office, Dalhousie University.

## Open Week - We Try Harder

Upwards of 200 Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island high school students took advantage of the Mount's invitation to spend a little of their March break on campus recently with interest running high in the general Arts program.

Again, as since 1976, all faculty participated in Open Week and, according to Admissions Officer Susan Tanner, who headed up the four-day event, this year's crop of prospective university students seemed more committed than usual with some 75 per cent of them applying for entrance to the Mount.

In the past, planners had provided a number of choices for visiting students.

This year, the daily agendas were more structured with classes during the morning and early afternoon, athletic and recreation events held later in the day and the special activities slated for the evening. "It seemed to work out well, with less confusion. Everyone knew where they wanted to be."

The introductory courses in Psychology and Sociology seemed to be most popular with the students and, according to Associate Admissions Officer Ann David Dr. Rosemarie Sampson's course on "Psy-

chology of Sex Differences" attracted more than its share of visitors.

New Brunswick students had arranged to come to the Mount earlier in the month as their Spring break differed from the one held in Nova Scotia.

Apart from this, Tanner said she saw an increase in the number of high school tours to the campus and this could be the way of the future. Very few universities held an "open week" where out-of-town students have the opportunity to stay overnight in student residences. Needless to say the planning of such an event and

continued on page 5



# Learning from Objects

Learning from textbooks is something we've been familiar with all our lives — but learning from objects, that's something different.

It's the philosophy behind a new and immensely popular course recently introduced at Mount Saint Vincent University, for the Halifax metro community.

The first of its kind in this region, the innovative "Introduction to Museum Studies" was started last Fall by Mary Sparling, Director of the Mount's Art Gallery.

Designed to help students become self-sufficient museum users, the course introduces the historical aspects and basic concepts of museum studies as well as basic museum operations.

Because museum collections are based on objects, all the lectures, on-site experiences, assignments and readings are designed to develop the students' understanding of the significance of the object.

Halifax is rich in museums and associated cultural organizations which make it a perfect setting for such a course. Mount students get the chance to work alongside top-notch curators in such places as the Nova Scotia Museum, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Parks Canada, Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage Museums, the Mount Art Gallery and the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

"It's been a huge organizational job," Sparling says, "partly because it's a new course but mostly because we're involved in working with professionals within all

those organizations. We had to determine what aspects of the course would be taught in each institution."

The opportunity to find out what goes on behind the scenes at museums and art galleries is invaluable, and the practical aspect of the course really delights the students. They learn the care and handling of collections, exhibit design, organization and management of museums, the link between museums and society and other aspects of museum studies.

"For a long time," Sparling points out, "museums have been the only places which allowed people to learn in an informal way. To get the maximum out of this type of learning it's useful that a course such as ours exists to show people how they can best make use of museums and cultural institutions. Most museums are open seven days a week, 12 months a year, and can provide a year-round learning experience. Our course provides insights into how to learn from them and also an understanding of the 'backstage' work that goes on."

Sparling believes that in an increasingly leisured society, museums are a resource that people can turn to. "During the Depression," she says, "museums became great informal teaching institutions."

Sparling's students range from age 21 to the mid-60s. Some are back in university for the first time in 30 years. There are also undergraduates who are taking Biology, History, English or Home Econ-



Mary Sparling, Director of the Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, started the innovative "Introduction to Museum Studies" course last Fall.

omics and some students from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. According to Sparling, "It makes for a very interesting mix."

A handful of those attending are already employed in museums or allied institutions and are taking the course to round out their knowledge. George Quigley, who is with Parks Canada, is a case in point.

"I'm taking the course to get background information on museum policies," he says, "and to learn about the behind-the-scenes work. I feel it will help to further my career and give me a better understanding of museum operations. It's a

*continued on page 5*

## Holiday Declared

A President's Holiday was declared on Friday, March 26 to celebrate the success of various events recently sponsored by students, staff and faculty.

It was a welcome break in what seemed a long drawn-out winter and much appreciated by students, faculty and staff. In order to keep facilities open at the Mount, support staff took their holiday on a staggered basis and at least some of them will be saving the treat for later in the year.

**PRE-REGISTRATION DAY  
for 1982-83  
has been rescheduled  
for Monday, April 5  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
4th floor, Seton**



Jennifer Fisher (centre), Mount Art Gallery Programs Officer, gives some guidance to Barbara Richardson (left), a Bachelor of Fine Arts student at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and Tammy Veno, a B.A. Art Education grad from the Art College. Both are students in the "Introduction to Museum Studies" course.

*continued from page 4*

its operation "is time consuming and expensive from a staff point of view and the program has to be evaluated carefully," said Tanner.

"It could be that with the increase in campus tours, that we may cut back on the number of days the event is held. We seem to get our greatest concentration in the first two days and then attendance begins to drop off."

Tanner said Student Assistants, who work out of the Student Services Office, were of great help in acting as tour guides. Both Maureen Richard and Kerry Moorehead, who were presented with Admissions Office Awards at the recent Awards Banquet, were among those who rendered "invaluable" assistance during the week, she said. Fourth year Public Relations student Nancy Burns was also actively involved "co-ordinating on campus evening activities".

The Nova Scotia map on the wall of Tanner's office has more than 100 red circles on it — on site visits by herself or David. Then there are all the out-of-province visits — more than 129 in total. And the work goes on!

## The Mount Playhouse

If you're expecting visitors this summer and wondering what to offer them in the way of unique local entertainment, try bringing them along to the Mount Playhouse dinner-theatre and cabaret.

For a very modest \$14 per person, you get a full evening's entertainment combined with a dinner that features Maritime specialties.

Starting at 6:30 p.m. guests mingle in a cocktail hour enlivened by theatrical sketches. Strolling musicians provide dinner music and after coffee, at about 8:30 p.m., a complete play is performed by the repertory company.

All this takes place three nights a week — Monday, Wednesday and Saturday — in Vinnie's Pub, Rosaria Centre, on campus. Menus and entertainment are different each night and the season runs from July 5 to August 14.

The brainchild of English Professor Renate Usmiani and Conference Officer Frances Cody, the Mount Playhouse is an innovation which should prove popular with visitors and those attending summer school and the many conferences planned for the Mount this summer.

As seating capacity is restricted to 60 each night, it will be advisable to reserve a table by calling the Conference Office, extension 351.

## Faculty on the Move

Dr. Marguerite Flinn, Assistant Professor in the Mount's Biology Department, represented this university at the Spring meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Committee on the Sciences (APCS) held recently at Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish. Dr. Flinn was elected to the executive, as secretary, for a two-year term. Other new appointments were chairperson Dr. Ninian LeBlanc, from the University of Prince Edward Island, and vice-chairperson Dr. Martin Willison, from Dalhousie University.

The APCS, among other activities, supports the Atlantic Universities' Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC) each year. Sr. Sheilagh Martin, Associate Professor in the Mount's Biology Department, accompanied Dr. Flinn to the AUUBC conference held at the same time as the APCS meeting.

Associate Professor Sr. Agnes Martha Westwater, of Mount Saint Vincent University's English Department, has been invited to present a paper at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association conference, to be held at the

University of Southern Florida in May. Her paper will be entitled "The Victorian Nightmare of Evolution: Charles Darwin and Walter Bagehot".

A national workshop on Career Development in Public Relations, which is being held in 11 centres across Canada, was presented in Halifax recently. The workshop was led by Norman Dann, a senior member of the Canadian Public Relations Society, assisted by Jon White, co-ordinator of the Mount's Public Relations degree program. White accompanied Dann on the Ottawa, Toronto, Moncton and Halifax trips.

Mary Sparling, Director of the Mount's Art Gallery, participated in a recent seminar as part of the Canadian Studies program at Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. The interdisciplinary course, "Shaping the Canadian Landscape" included a lecture by Sparling entitled "The Maritimes — Visions of a New Land".

*continued from page 3*

good course, valuable and worthwhile. The projects are interesting and I like working with artifacts. There's plenty of variety."

Christine Carroll, a B.Sc. graduate from the Mount, says: "I signed up for the course for my own personal interest. I enjoy the practical work and I'd really like to see the course expanded."

Tammy Veno, a B.A. Art Education grad from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, worked with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia last summer and became interested in the idea of a Museums Studies course. "My advisor at school suggested I take it," she explains, "and I'm really enjoying myself. It also means that I have another option — another door has been opened for me."

Now well into its second semester, Introduction to Museum Studies is a full credit course which gives students a knowledge of what museums are and do, an understanding of the kinds of resources that museums can provide and an ability to interpret environmental and cultural landscapes and our own material culture.

"It's a new way of learning," Sparling says, "by finding out what objects can teach us. The course shows our students aspects of techniques that they can apply to museums all over the world and helps

*continued from page 1*

high concentration of calcium in the water may prevent the absorption of zinc from the intestine.

The research provides a relatively simple way to monitor zinc levels in the bodies of young children. "It's far easier to take a sample of hair from a child than a sample of blood," Anderson points out. "Also the mineral levels in the hair don't fluctuate as they do in blood."

Although obtaining the hair sample is easy and less stressful than taking a blood sample, the work that follows is painstaking. The hair must be washed in a special mineral-free soap and rinsed in distilled water. Everything must be done under scrupulous laboratory conditions so that there is no contamination of the hair. Samples are irradiated in a nuclear reactor, after which levels of zinc and other minerals can be determined.

The research will be useful in helping to pinpoint those children from low income families who may risk a zinc deficiency owing to inadequate diet in areas where the drinking water is hard.

The research findings will be presented in a paper at a meeting of the Nutrition Society of Canada in Edmonton next June.

them find their place in that scheme of things



# Out-Of-Province Students

More Canadian students now attend university outside their home province than at any time in the past 30 years, according to a Statistics Canada study. The proportion of out-of-province students is by far the highest in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where more than 30 per cent of all full-time students come from other provinces.

Students from Ontario are the least inclined to leave their home province,

reports the study, with only 3.5 per cent choosing to attend university elsewhere in Canada. Statistics Canada attributes this to the fact that Ontario has close to one-third of the country's universities.

Québec residents were equally reluctant to study outside their province during the 1950s and 1960s, Statistics Canada adds. By 1980, however, 13 per cent of Québec's university students were enrolled elsewhere.

## Image Committee Seeking Data to Complete Study

The Senate's Image Committee, established earlier this year, will have a good idea of what students, alumnae, faculty, government/business representatives and others think of Mount Saint Vincent University when it meets again in mid-April.

At that time, committee members will be expected to table four preliminary reports based on information obtained from hundreds of questionnaires sent out to the university's various publics.

In early February, a questionnaire was drawn up by committee co-chairpersons Dr. Marguerite Flinn and Jon White following consultation with committee members Dr. Susan Clark and Dr. Erdener Kaynak.

Image Committee members then divided into small groups and accepted the responsibility for contacting the various segments of the university community as follows:

- **CONTACTS OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY:** Dr. Erdener Kaynak (group leader), Susan Tanner, Dr. Mairi Macdonald, Dr. Susan Clark;
- **CONTACTS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY:** Jon White (group leader), Karen Stone, Sr. Patricia Mullins;
- **ALUMNAE:** Dr. Marguerite Flinn (group leader), Dulcie Conrad.
- **FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE:** Carole Hartzman (group leader), Dr. Margaret Fulton, Carolyn Goodfellow.

Since it would be impossible to contact all students, alumnae and faculty, the groups have had to handle their research in their own way. The majority have sent out questionnaires (which do not have to be signed) while others have used the telephone and interview methods.

### ALUMNAE

In the case of the alumnae, questionnaires were sent to all 21 members of the executive of the Mount Saint Vincent Alumnae Association plus five alumnae from each of the 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1980 graduating

classes.

These names were pulled at random from computer printouts. Three of the five were from the Halifax-Dartmouth area where most of the Mount's alumnae live, one from another part of Nova Scotia and one from out of province. One of the five selected from the 1975 and 1980 clusters is a male graduate.

Another segment of the university community contacted were some 80 foreign students representing 23 different countries. They were contacted by Assistant Professor Hartzman and asked to return the questionnaire by late March.

At the last meeting of the Image Committee, Dr. Flinn said she had received a copy of a recommendation contained in the Jeff Holmes Report to the university's long-range planning committee which indicated that the Mount should stick to its "article of faith" as being the women's university in Canada.

According to university consultant Holmes: "if that faith is misplaced, no amount of 'please everyone' will work."

Mr. Holmes said there would be a great temptation to play safe in the 80's by trying to appeal to a variety of student publics. "But the dozen postsecondary institutions in the Atlantic region which offer general arts and science education will compete vigorously and there is no guarantee that the Mount will do well in a general competition," said Mr. Holmes.

Dr. Flinn said these comments would be considered in the overall context of the Image Committee's final report which was due in September.

Old Chemists Never Die —  
They Just Fail to React.

## Don't Forget

All library borrowers are reminded to return books and other items before they leave campus for the summer. Prompt returns avoid recall notices, postage and fines.

## Women in the Work World

A committee has been set up to discuss the development of a research program in the field of women in the work world. Funds were allocated by the government to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), upon a recommendation following a conference held at the University of British Columbia in 1981.

The theme of the conference was women in the Canadian economy, broken down into sub-themes dealing with the changing structure of the labour force, the relationship of the domestic unit to the labour force, the role of education vis-a-vis women's participation in the work world and the character of government involvement in these areas.

From this conference emerged the recommendation that a strategic program be set up to provide for academic and policy-oriented research on women in the Canadian economy.

Committee members are: Julyan Reid, Ministry of State for Social Development; Lorna Marsden, University of Toronto; Fred Wein, Dalhousie University; Beverly Tangri, University of Manitoba; Evelyn LaPierre-Adamcyk, Université de Montréal; and Susan Trofimenkoff, University of Toronto.

## the connection

The Connection is published bi-weekly through the office of Public Relations, Alumnae and Development, Mount Saint Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6.

Copy should be submitted to Evaristus Rm. 215, 12 days prior to publication.

Editor: Ruth Jeppesen