

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 13 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 19 october, 2006

Grant MacEwan changing by degrees



NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

With Grant MacEwan College (GMC) able to grant four-year degrees, students who previously would have transferred in their third-year of study to the University of Alberta now have more options.

Last fall, GMC became the first public college in Alberta to be awarded degree-granting status by the provincial government. Because of this, students studying towards a Bachelor of Arts at GMC are now able to major in anthropology, economics, English, history, philosophy, political science, psychology or sociology without having to transfer to the U of A. They have also begun enrolling people in a new four-year bachelor of child and youth care degree program that was introduced to complement existing diploma programs being offered at the college.

However, according to U of A Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, it remains to be seen whether there will in fact be a significant reduction of transfer students coming to the U of A.

"We've had a couple very very preliminary discussions with the Ministry [of Advanced Education] ... [and] we will maintain our overall enrollment in the Faculty of Arts and increase it if that's what the government wants us to do," Amrhein said. "The mix may change, but I think it's too early to see that we might in fact have a reduction of transfer students."

GMC Dean of Arts and Science Dave Higgins described the atmosphere at the College as being a major attractant to students who previously would have left for the U of A and he affirmed that GMC was committed to maintaining its smaller community environment.

"The size of the classroom [at GMC] allows a much more interactive experience between students and instructors. It allows plenty of

enrichment opportunities for students with instructors in a context that is more personal in a sense," Higgins said.

"The model that we've developed in the proposal [to the Campus Alberta Quality Council] is ... to maintain the class sizes at the existing comfortable small environment size—that's integral to the proposal itself so we don't have any plans nor anticipate changing or increasing class sizes," Higgins stated.

"The mix may change, but I think it's too early to see that we might in fact have a reduction of transfer students."

**CARL AMRHEIN,
U OF A PROVOST AND VICE
PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)**

But Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf noted the U of A has the benefit of being a research institution and said quality of education cannot always be determined by class sizes.

"We're putting a great deal of effort across the University into teaching initiatives, recognizing that the argument about the smaller, more intimate classes are often made in connection with the colleges," Woolf said. "I would also point out that we have some really remarkable teachers in large classes and a graduate program that supports tutorial or breakout sessions in many of those large classes."

"It's not quite as simple as the large class, small class economy that we're often hearing about."

Woolf also said the Faculty of Arts is preparing to try and enlarge its undergraduate pool by re-evaluating admission requirements.

PLEASE SEE MACEWAN ♦ PAGE 4

TICK-TOCK The waiting game is over for students who wanted the option of receiving four-year degrees from Grant Mac.

KIM SMITH

Both sexes tell big ones in the bedroom

ROBIN COLLUM
News Staff

If you have ever found yourself skeptical of the answer a new boyfriend or girlfriend gave when you asked them how many sexual partners they've had, imagine how a telephone surveyor must feel asking the same question.

Researchers have long known that self-reported data on this subject is unreliable, and it has caused problems for scientists studying it. What little information that has been gleaned suggests that men tend to give figures that are too high, and women tend to under-report "their number."

However, research by cognitive psychologist Dr Norman Brown at the University of Alberta, gives some idea as to the reasons for these discrepancies. He has done work on how people come up with numbers, and applied his expertise to the problem sex researchers were previously having.

"In surveys, it's common to find that the average estimate that men give when asked about their opposite-sex partners is 2-3 times larger than the average estimate that the women give," Dr Brown explained. "This is a problem because it undermines the credibility of self-reports."

Dr Brown's research indicates that women are more likely to count their

sexual partners, a method that tends to produce underestimation, while men are more apt to simply guess, which leads to an inflated figure.

"There are a couple of ways that people come up with numbers, and they each have their own biases," Dr Brown said. "If you were to just count up your boyfriends, you'd say, 'There was Bill, and there was John, and Sam and Joe, and that other guy,' which is enumeration."

This technique is known to produce low numbers, in contrast to the method which Brown found men more likely to use, rough approximation.

PLEASE SEE SEX TALK ♦ PAGE 3

Finish line now in sight for U-Pass referendum

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

A motion passed by Students' Council Tuesday night has set the framework for a referendum question on a Universal Transit Pass.

The motion, brought forward by Students' Union Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer, would ask students to approve a U-Pass that allowing undergraduate students at the University of Alberta unlimited access to the Edmonton, Strathcona and St Albert transit

systems. According to the referendum question, the pass would be funded by a mandatory \$75 per semester fee. Cournoyer explained that the price of the U-Pass would be much lower than what bus passes now cost students, and that the number was reached with help from both the University and area transit authorities.

"The University has committed to funding \$15 per student, on top of the \$30 per student that the [cities are] contributing into the program," Cournoyer explained.

PLEASE SEE U-PASS ♦ PAGE 3

Inside

News	1-4
Opinion	5-7
A&E	8-11
Feature	12-13
Sports	14-17
Comics	19
Classifieds	19



On the road again

The Elected's Blake Sennett has a lot of projects on the go. Ryan Heise finds out what his latest adventure is.

A&E, PAGE 8



The sound of silence?

Libraries should be a quiet place of study. Maria Kotovych makes the rounds to see who's breaking the rules.

FEATURE, PAGE 11

Sigh, mid-terms ...

The Gateway won't be making an appearance on Tuesday, as we'll all be drinking coffee and praying we don't fail. But we'll be back like butter on Thursday, 26 October with more soy-based, inky goodness.