

# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 43 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.thegatewayonline.ca • thursday, 27 march, 2008



JENNIFER MCKENZIE / THE BRUNSWICKAN

**MONCTON MIRACLE** The Golden Bears won their 13th CIS national title, beating the UNB Varsity Reds 3-2. The Bears scraped into the finals after losing their first game against Moncton. Full story page 21.

## First year a success for U-Pass—ETS, SU

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

For many University of Alberta students, public transportation has always been a necessity, but after this year's implementation of the U-Pass, increased ridership and environmental benefits are making the service significantly more relevant to university students and the surrounding community.

In a report issued by ETS, 30 885 of an eligible 33 648 students picked up a U-Pass in the fall 2007 semester, while 27 799 of an eligible 31 686 did so in winter 2008. Students' Union President Michael Janz pointed to these numbers to indicate the success of the first year of the program.

"We think it was one of the most successful victories for student activism in the last decade," Janz said. "It took five years to get everyone to the table to finally work on this project, but the benefit has been overwhelmingly worth it."

Gordon Dykstra, ETS's project coordinator for the U-Pass, agreed that while costing the ETS some money,

the introduction has been very impressive.

"It's cost us a few dollars to do, but ridership is up, and students are happy. We've been able to put in enough service to compensate for the volume. It's gone very smoothly.

**"It took five years to get everyone to the table to finally work on this project, but the benefit has been overwhelmingly worth it."**

MICHAEL JANZ  
SU PRESIDENT

"It's actually quite remarkable," he added, noting the hard work that the U of A, the SU, and Transit Planning did in making sure the distribution went well.

PLEASE SEE U-PASS • PAGE 6

## Sign language interpreter shortage leads to collaboration on new training program

KIRSTEN GORUK  
News Staff

In the face of a critical nationwide shortage of interpreters, anyone with an interest in sign language will have the chance to try their hand at a new program come this fall.

The diploma program, which is offered through Lakeland College, was created in collaboration with the University of Alberta. The University serves on the advisory committee at Lakeland and has remained a link to consolation and advocacy on the issue of training interpreters.

"We anticipate that we'll draw students from across the country and even potentially internationally," said Dr Debra Russell, Peikoff Office Chair in deafness at the U of A and director of the Western Canadian Center of Studies in Deafness, about the three-year, two-part program.

"The first year is called the Deaf Studies Program, and it's a certificate program," she explained. "Students have ten months to study American Sign Language, deaf culture, deaf arts and literature, that kind of thing."

From there, students can enter the

two-year diploma program: Sign Language and Interpretation, which takes 16-18 students per term and is a blended delivery course. Russell explained that this means some courses will be available online, some will be intensive, face-to-face affairs that last for three weeks, and some offered on weekends.

She believes that the flexible nature of the blended delivery will attract students to the program. Russell has hopes that in light of the shortage, those people who are interested in sign language or interpretation will be able to take advantage of this new option in training.

As Russell explained, there are a number of factors contributing to the shortage.

"The inclusion of video relay services (VRS), which employs interpreters, is probably the most growing employer in North America," she said.

VRS allows deaf people to communicate through sign language via video conference, which requires employing a large number of qualified interpreters. It's a face-to-face alternative to having someone speak to an inter-

preter, who would then sign to the deaf recipient.

Other factors leading to the demand include a consistent enrollment of deaf children in public schools from K-12 and the numerous health, legal, and work-related situations that arise regularly for deaf people.

With these concerns in mind, the U of A and Lakeland College set to work creating a feasible and easily accessible program to train interpreters.

Although the shortage has caused less distress at the U of A campus, Tracy Hetman, interpreter and coordinator with Communication Support Services, believes that the career of an interpreter is full of invaluable life experience that spans a variety of areas of study.

Hetman, whose interpreting experience spans 16 years, has worked in every faculty but medicine.

"As an interpreter, you get to bounce around to all these areas that deaf people have their individual interests and do your best to interpret," she said.

"You have this unique opportunity and responsibility to learn; you're in situations where you learn every single day."

## Inside

News	1-7
Opinion	9-12
Feature	14-15
A&E	16-20
Sports	21-25
Classifieds	26
Comics	27



## Shakespeare? Classy!

Studio Theatre is presenting *Twelfth Night*, a comedy of mistaken genders and interlocking love triangles.

A&E, PAGE 16



## Reader? Survey!

Do we suck? Do we rock? Want some prizes? Tell us what you really think in the *Gateway's* reader survey.

READER SURVEY, PAGE 25