

President's Message

This being my first message to the membership-at-large, before saying anything else I wish to thank you for entrusting me with the presidency of the Federation. I will endeavour to maintain the same high standards as those of the immediate Past-President, Prof. Jack Vanderlinde, and those who preceded him.

On your behalf Prof. Vanderlinde, the Executive Director and I had an extremely successful meeting with (then) Minister of Education for New Brunswick, Hon. Elvy Robichaud, on September 27

last. The Minister was accompanied by the two Deputy Ministers of Education, Karen Mann and Raymond Daigle, and the Executive Director of Post-secondary Affairs, Louise Boudreau-Gillis. It is rewarding to know that the issues which the Federation wishes to discuss with government are perceived by it to be sufficiently important to merit this level of interest.

Unfortunately, the Minister was able to devote only a few minutes to the meeting, owing to his being unexpectedly called to the Premier's office. We were able, however, to discuss briefly with him - and in much greater detail with his senior staff - the disaffection of our members with the degree-granting status granted earlier this year to the commercial enterprise known as "Lansbridge University".

We left the meeting reassured that, henceforth, the conferral of degree-granting status by this province on any institution will not be done without full consultation with the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission or another such educational authority.

Also discussed was the need for research funding from the provincial government to help to stop the flow of faculty to other parts of Canada and out of the country. We were pleased to hear that the Lord government has been taking the "brain-drain" issue very seriously recently, and has been actively working on identifying sources of funds to allocate meaningful sums to promote research initiatives in the universities and other sectors. (Since the meeting, of course, Hon. Peter Mesheau, the newly-appointed Minister of Finance, has announced the probable freezing of funding at present levels in all sectors because of the unex-

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Notice of Board Meetings

All FNBFA Board meetings are open to individual faculty members, and an invitation to attend is extended to anyone wishing to do so.

For information concerning dates of upcoming board meetings, log on to: www.fnbfa.ca

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Website's "Passive" Role in Lobbying

The website has been very successful over the summer, having garnered an average of 1,840 hits per month during June, July and August. It is one of the goals of the communications committee to reach an average of 2,000 hits a month. The reason for our interest in promoting the website is that we view it as a passive lobbyist. As you are all well aware two of the many functions of FNBFA are to lobby the government and to inform the public about the concerns of university faculty. We accomplish the former mainly by actively lobbying members of government, either through informal means, i.e., meeting them by happenstance - at the market or at social functions, for example - or by asking for formal meetings. (The techniques used by a lobbyist were extensively discussed in the July edition of the **Bulletin** in the article entitled: "Lobbying Hints".) The latter is accomplished through regular articles in the media, and being invited as guest speakers at public functions.

However, the web site now gives us both a new lobbying tool and a new tool to inform the public. I refer to this lobbying as "passive lobbying" because we are not actively seeking out government officials and others; instead they are seeking out our website. In doing so they are effectively being lobbied, for by reading our press releases, briefs and Bulletins, they are receiving the same information we would have imparted to them if we had actively approached them. Instead of meeting with a Minister and his/her deputies one at a time, we can reach a number of them simultaneously. Furthermore, when it comes to informing the public, if they come to the website they will be able to get a better understanding of the concerns and positions of faculty. Over the summer months, potentially more than 5,500 people were either lobbied or informed as they visited our website; in fact many of those visitors downloaded information from our web site onto their own machines. The web site is working!

In order to increase the number of people visiting the web site, the communications committee has decided to promote it in the print media. Be on the lookout for advertisements in some of our local dailies.

We have also made the home page of the website more appealing. We have added pictures of all the universities of the province surrounding the FNBFA logo, and if one were to click on any one of the pictures it would be magnified. In this way the viewer gets a better idea of whom and what FNBFA represents.

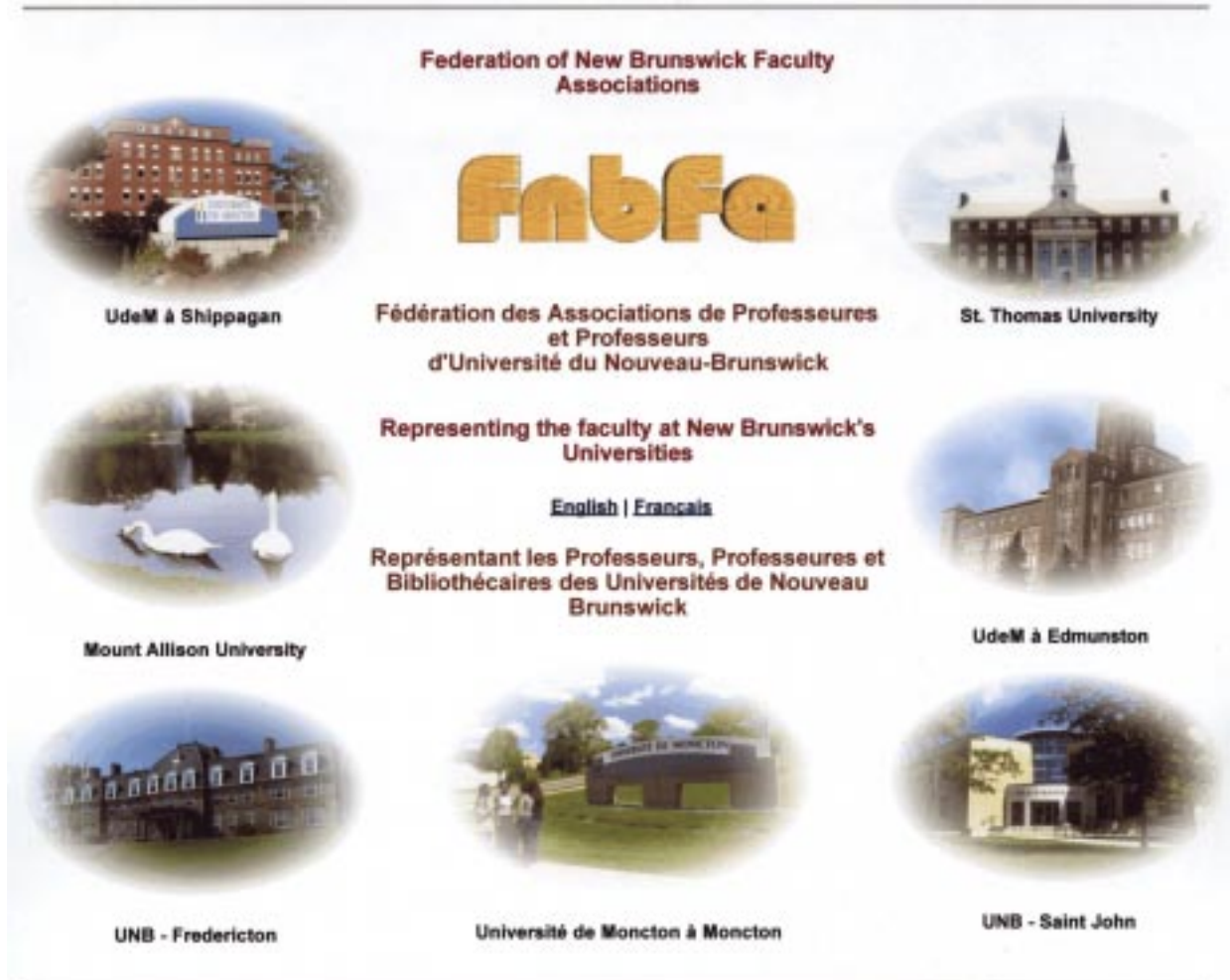
Hopefully with these new initiatives we can increase the number of people visiting the web site which, in turn, will result in a greater number of passively lobbied MLA's and a better informed public.

Ian H. Fraser,
Communications Chair

Executive Director Getting More Ink!

Soon after his most recent "Readers' Forum" article ["U.S. Must Punish Only The Guilty" (see page 4 - **Ed.**)] was published, the Executive Director, Desmond Morley, was also invited to join the Telegraph Journal's provincial Editorial Board. He will be a regular contributor of editorials on a variety of social issues from now on, in addition to his regular "Readers' Forum" pieces. Congratulations Desmond!

Ian H. Fraser, Communications Chair



Our new and more informative Home page

Federation Gets Plenty of Press Over the Summer

Be sure to visit the Activities section of the web site at www.fnbfa.ca. Since the last **Bulletin** we have had five items published in the Telegraph Journal: a letter to the Editor from the Past President, rebutting the letter of Micheal Gaffney, the President of Lansbridge University, responding to the Executive Director's July 9th guest column; a letter to the Editor from the Communications Chair, commenting on the demise of the ITI technology training facility; and three "op-ed" pieces, *Federal Program Causing Problems, Province Must Loosen Funding Grip*, and *U.S. Must Punish Only The Guilty*, by the Executive Director in his ongoing guest column.

A visit to the "Bulletin and Brief" section of the web site to peruse our submission to the Senate Finance Committee is also recommended.

Ian H. Fraser,
Communications Chair.

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pected slowing of the economy. The Federation will be keeping abreast of developments in this area, and will respond accordingly.)

As this issue of the Bulletin goes to press the Vice-President, Prof. Hans vanderLeest, the Executive Director, and I are scheduled to appear before the Finance Committee of the House of Commons, at its invitation, on October 18 in Hali-

fax. We will urge the committee to recommend to Parliament the introduction at the federal level of permanent post-secondary education funding legislation of the nature proposed by CAUT.

In closing, I wish to welcome Hon. Dennis Furlong to his new portfolio as Minister of Education, and I look forward to maintaining the amicable and

co-operative relationship with his Department which presently exists.

Claude Dionne
President

U.S. Must Punish Only The Guilty

[The Executive Director, Desmond Morley, was invited by the Telegraph Journal to submit an article addressing the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, and their aftermath, from the point of view of New Brunswick faculty. It was published in the "Readers' Forum" on September 26, 2001, and is reproduced here in its entirety - Ed.]

Timothy McVeigh was a terrorist. He hated the government of the United States with such fanatical passion that he conspired with others to, and on April 19, 1995 succeeded in, reducing the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City to rubble with a homemade bomb, killing or injuring almost 700 innocent people in the process.

Mr. McVeigh also was an Anglo Saxon who claimed to be a Christian.

There was, though, no subsequent vengeful rain of cruise missiles and - to coin a phrase - B-52 droppings on Anglo Saxon Christians throughout

the world. No U.S. administration would dream of holding all Anglo Saxon Christians accountable for the aberrant actions of only a few of them.

So it must be with the members of any and all ethnic groups and with the adherents of every religious faith.

Consequently, the overwhelming hope which unites university faculty in New Brunswick with their colleagues - not only in this province but throughout the world - is that reason will prevail in the collective mind of the wounded colossus south of us; and that, in the weeks to come, the restraint of its response to the depravity of the

Oklahoma bombing will also characterize its agenda for action in the aftermath of the recent events in New York and Washington.

However, the U.S. administration seems convinced Osama bin Laden, an Arab radical and suspected terrorist who now reportedly enjoys the support of the Taliban, the rulers of Afghanistan who share his Muslim faith, masterminded the recent destruction and carnage at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

As a result, disturbing rhetoric which bodes ill for the Afghans in particular, and for Muslims in general, is flowing from all

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quarters of U.S. society, including the highest levels of its government.

Given the appropriate stimuli, grief and anger are common among human beings; in the present circumstances, the monumental despair and unmitigated rage of our American neighbours are readily understandable.

Nevertheless, these heightened emotions must not be so indulged as to become the rationale for the scything of another swath of indiscriminate destruction through yet more innocent bystanders - though, this time, on the other side of the world.

In a letter to President George W. Bush and the Members of the U.S. Congress signed by numerous esteemed academics from all parts of the Western Hemisphere is the simple statement "revenge breeds revenge".

Nothing could be more true; the events in the Holy Land, Northern Ireland and elsewhere have confirmed this over the years as the body count has continued to mount.

The letter goes on: "The craven acts of terrorism in New York and Washington are dignified intolerably by their classification as acts of war".

We could not agree more.

To so describe them elevates, by definition, the deranged fanatics who perpetrated these outrages to the level of "warriors" in the eyes of those whom they seek to convince that they are fighting a "holy war" against the United States.

Wars have a way of spreading - Laos and Cambodia saw a considerable measure of involvement in the Vietnam conflict.

Consequently, in any military response, the U.S. must be careful that it does not ignite a conflagration which quickly runs out of its control.

Furthermore, the declaration that they have been successful in starting a war is exactly what the terrorists want; and the situation was not helped by the ill-chosen vocabulary of President Bush in his recent announcement of a "crusade" against terrorism.

The Muslim world in general, according to numerous reliable reports, has perceived this unfortunate choice of words to be a veiled threat directed more against Islam itself than against the terrorism of a handful of misguided extremists.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that his subsequent clarifications have been well received.

It is one thing to threaten to

bomb Afghanistan further back into the Stone Age than the Russians already did only a decade ago; it is quite another to carelessly offend the shared sensitivities of the world's Muslims - who reportedly number almost two billion - and, in so doing, risk precipitating the new Holy War between Christendom and Islam.

That, after all, seems to be the ultimate *raison d'être* of the recent campaign of terror against the United States.

Therefore, only the guilty must be punished.

If American retribution against bin Laden and others of his ilk is warranted, let it be meted out only to them, and not to the vast majority of innocent Muslims, within Afghanistan and elsewhere, who both believe in, and observe, the Koran's prohibition of the taking of innocent lives.

At this terrible time for all of humanity, Muslims are unjustly being forced to endure an additional burden; that of a collective blame which they have neither brought upon themselves nor even remotely deserve.

(Desmond Morley is the Executive Director of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations.)

Colleague Gracious In Accepting Award

[The following is the full text of the acceptance speech delivered by Prof. George De Benedetti (MAFA - *ret'd*) when he was recently presented with the 2001 Prix Nicole Raymond Award. We are most grateful to him for his gracious and encouraging words - *Ed.*]

I wish to thank Claude Dionne for his comments, and Berkeley Fleming for his kind words of praise in his citation. It is an honour to have been presented with the award by Jon Thompson, an illustrious past recipient. I wish to acknowledge the support through many years of my spouse, Angelica, those of my colleagues at Mount Allison and other universities. As well, my thanks to the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations for having honoured me, and to all of you who came from near and far for this occasion. Un grand merci à mes amis francophones qui ont voyagés ici aujourd'hui. Je suis très chanceux d'avoir des collègues comme vous.

I find myself in good company among the past recipients of the Award. In addition to the professors and librarians who have received the Prix Nicole Raymond Award: Al Sharp, Jon Thompson, Rick McGaw, from UNB; Arsène Richard & Edgar Léger, Claude Dionne, from l'Université de Moncton; Gwen Ebbett, Elmer Tory, from Mount Allison; Claudia Whelan, from Saint Thomas; there is Jeanne d'Arc Gaudet, from Shippegan, who was the Chair of the New Brunswick Status of Women Committee; Willie Eliot, President of UPEI; Tim Andrew, Past Chair of the

Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission; and Reavely Gair, Director of the Teaching Center at UNB.

Where the principal activity of the Federation is lobbying, I congratulate the Federation on its improved communications with the public at large in raising the profile of higher education in the Province. Jack Vanderlinde is to be congratulated for the Federation's superb web site. I was especially pleased to see several excellent *op. ed.* pieces in the Telegraph Journal by our Executive Director, Desmond Morley. As well as these excellent ongoing lobbying efforts, I recently came across some evidence of past lobbying efforts.

In his review of Frank McKenna's performance in reforming various economic sectors, Donald Savoie in his book, *Pulling Against Gravity: Economic Development During The McKenna Years*, noted that two important sectors had been neglected for reform by Frank McKenna. One was the University Sector and the other Electricity. "In the case of universities, it is surprising that McKenna did nothing. He neither challenged them to increase their research and development, nor did he ask university administrators to

alter the status quo in their own institutions. . . . He never initiated a debate, let alone concrete action, on possible changes to the governance structures of New Brunswick universities."

In defence, McKenna commented: "I was brought up to believe that universities function best when they are independent and when they are free to chart their own course. This view may no longer hold, given the pace of change in society...." (Page 117)

The sentiment expressed that universities function best when they are independent is a tribute in part to the past lobbying efforts of the FNBFA. The sentiment that this view may no longer hold, presents challenges for academics as professors and administrators. University Boards will have to become more accountable, through their composition and actions, by serving society at large and not corporate interests.

And what of other societal challenges facing academics for the 21st Century? I could list a number of them including global interdependence, human cloning, and threats to the environment. But there is another problem that I want to emphasize, and that is the

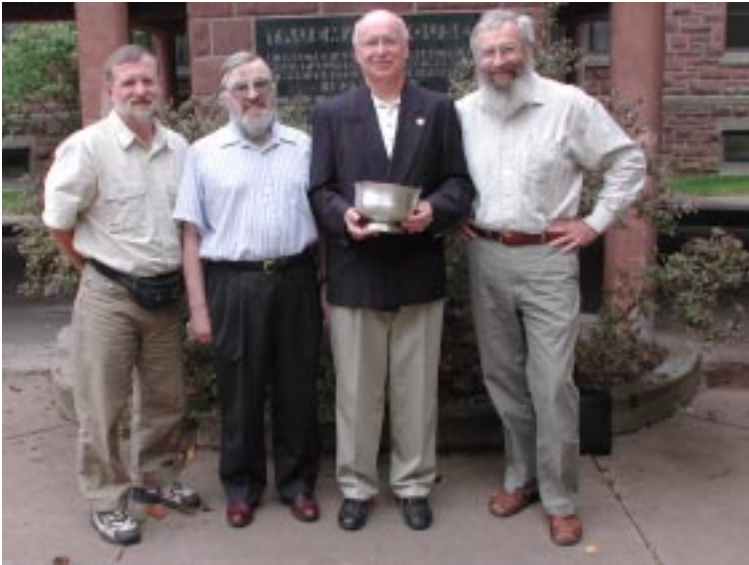
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A dinner to honour Prof. George De Benedetti [centre left, with his wife Angelica] a founding member of the Federation and its 2001 Prix Nicole Raymond Award recipient, was held at the Marshlands Inn, Sackville on August 24th, 2001.



Prof. De Benedetti accepts the 2001 Prix Nicole Raymond Award. [See page 6 - Ed.]



In good company. Prix Nicole Raymond Award recipients (l-r) Claude Dionne (1999 - ABPPUM) and Elmer Tory (1995 - MAFA) join 2001 recipient George De Benedetti (MAFA - ret'd) and Jon Thompson (1992 - UNB).

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preservation of democracies in the context of increasing globalization and the corporate agenda. Even in Canada where there is no effective national opposition party, where power is being concentrated more and more in the Prime Minister's Office, where MP's and the Cabinet have less and less influence, our democracy will be threatened, if reforms to our Parliamentary institutions are not initiated soon.

I am sure that scientific solutions will be found to many of our societal problems. But, more important, solutions can only come through a framework of ethical values, and this is where our universities and their academic staff can make the greatest contributions. For it is through our universities that values are discussed and disseminated. It is what differentiates us from other public and private post secondary institutions. Thank you.

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2001-2002

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Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Executive and/or Board of FNBFA/FAPPUNB

Your Opinions are Welcomed

A special invitation is extended to those members of local associations who are interested in commenting upon university life in general. Readers are invited to send their opinions and/or comments, in writing, to the address above.