

English Professor Shares Brazilian Connection

Neil Besner, chair of the English Department, has had plenty of opportunities to share his love of Brazil and the Brazilian Portuguese language with students lately.

In addition to his usual duties with the English Department, Besner is teaching Brazilian Portuguese through the University's Continuing Education Division. The class is a first for both Besner and Continuing Education.

"I've taught English in Spain and I've taught English to Chilean refugees in Canada, but this is totally different," says Besner, a Canadian who grew up in Brazil. "You can't just teach the language so I bring in Brazilian music and books."

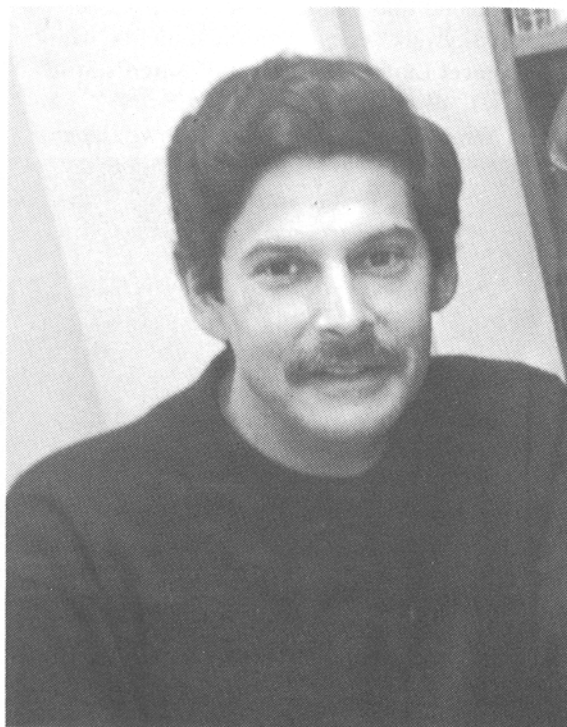
The upcoming Pan-Am Games contributed to Continuing Education's decision to offer Brazilian Portuguese for the first time this fall. However, only two students plan to volunteer with the Games; the rest travel or do business in South America.

"There are 11 students in the class," reports Robyn Tully, assistant director of Language Programs and a class member. "Most are already fluent in French and Spanish."

Besner, who visits his family in Brazil annually, jumped at the chance to teach this new course. "Any chance I get to speak Portuguese I take," he says. "I love the language and I love Brazil."

Besner's involvement in "English Studies in Focus," a team-taught course based on current faculty research, also has a Brazilian connection.

In September, he asked
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United Way Campaign Kicks Off

Fall isn't just time to start a new academic year; it's also time to kick off the University's 1997 United Way Campaign. The campaign began on Oct. 22 with the traditional pancake breakfast in Riddell Hall.

"Our goal for this year's campaign is \$50,000," reports campaign co-chair Shirley Payment. "We'd like to meet or surpass it. We'd really like to see everybody get involved."

Last year's campaign raised \$52,853, 98 per cent of its \$55,000 goal. However, the number of donors increased from 41.9 to 43.4 per cent of all University employees. The average donation was \$77.72.

Payment and co-chair Rais Khan recognize that everybody's budgets are tight due to government cut-backs, but the need for funds still exists. "We're encouraging people to dig deep," says Payment.

Contributing to this year's campaign is an effective way to help others in our community because the United Way assists over 65 member agencies. Ultimately these agencies serve one out of every three Winnipeg families. Plus, 100 per cent of every dollar raised goes directly to agencies and services.

The campus community is participating in this year's campaign in many different ways. The University of Winnipeg Students' Association raised about \$430 for the United Way through a recent book sale. Adds Khan, "The Faculty and Staff Club is going to donate 50 cents on every drink sold at the Annual General Meeting."

The ever-popular United Way bake sale will end the campaign on Wed., Nov. 5. (See *Coming Events* for details.)

For English Professor Neil Besner, teaching Brazilian Portuguese is a welcome departure.

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know. Send **written** information to Lois Cherney, University Relations, 10 working days in advance of the event. Basic details are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

SAT., OCT. 25

• David Copp, professor of philosophy at the University of California at Davis, will speak on the perennial Canadian issue: "**Social Identity and Individual Identity in Multinational States.**" Copp's talk, scheduled to take place in Theatre B at 4:30 p.m., is open to the public and free of charge. Copp is the featured guest lecturer at the Western Canadian Philosophical Association (WCPA) annual conference to be held Oct. 24-26 at The University of Winnipeg. For further information, contact Peter Miller in the Philosophy Department at 786-9832.

SUN., OCT. 26

• **Fall Convocation** will begin at 2 p.m. in Duckworth Centre.

MON., OCT. 27

• **The Board of Regents** meets in Tony's Canteen at 5:30 p.m.
• **Music at Noon** presents alumna pianist Cheryl Pauls '86. This concert will be taped for broadcast on CBC-Radio Two. 12:30-1:20 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Free admission.

WED., OCT. 29

• Skywalk Series—**Diane Kristjansson**, a consultant with Continuing Education's Communications Programme, offers *The Balancing Act*.
• **Music at Noon** presents **Modern Quartet**. This Toronto group was formed to create and perform new music for string quartet. 12:30-1:20 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. Free admission.

THURS., OCT. 30

• Skywalk Series—**Fink & Posen play Jazz Standards**: Shayla Fink, accordion/vocals and Kinsey Posen, double bass.

FRI., OCT. 31

• **English Studies in Focus**—The Research in Process Discussion Series features presentations by English Department faculty members. From 2:30-5:30 p.m., Deborah Schnitzer will present "*When landscape broke the lens and smacked his face/with a blue flag*": *Techniques of the betwixt and between in Paul*

Klee, Virginia Woolf and P.K. Page in Room 3M69. After her presentation and the discussion with students enrolled in the course, members of the University community and the public are invited to take part in general discussion.

MON., NOV. 3

• **Theological Lunch Discussions** will address "**Ethical Sexual Conduct and Relational Integrity in the Church.**" Rev. Mort Paterson, ministry in criminal justice (Uxbridge, Ontario) will lead the hour-long discussion, which begins at 12 noon in Room 2B13, Bryce Hall. All are welcome.

WED., NOV. 5

• The UWSA Student Employment Centre will hold its **Career Fair '97** in Duckworth Centre's main gym from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. The Career Fair gives students the opportunity to talk with a wide range of employers about education and training requirements, employment opportunities and trends, and volunteer and entry-level positions. As part of the fair, Winnipeg businessman Sam Katz will speak about his entrepreneurial experiences at 12:40 p.m. in Duckworth Centre's second floor lounge. Admission is free.
• Skywalk Series—**Joanne Boucher, Margaret Laurence Chair in Women's Studies, discusses *Acting Responsibly? The State, Pregnant Women and Drug Dependency.*** Is the state justified in forcing drug-dependent women into treatment? How do such strategies intersect with issues of race and class?
• **The United Way bake sale** will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Atrium.

THURS., NOV. 6

• Skywalk Series—**Keystone Bluegrass Quartet offers *Four Masters of Grass.***

SKYWALK SERIES

The Skywalk Concert and Lecture Series happens on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. at the Winnipeg Centennial Library's 2nd Floor Auditorium, off the skywalk.

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students to critique three separate drafts of "Brazil in Bishop's Eyes," a paper-in-progress about Elizabeth Bishop's Brazilian poems. (A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Bishop lived in Brazil for 17 years with her lover.) Besner incorporated the students' suggestions into the draft he presented at the Elizabeth Bishop Conference and Poetry Festival in Worcester, Massachusetts from Oct. 6-12.

"This was one of the best experiences I've had in 20 years of teaching," observes Besner. "The students had courage, insight and honesty. It's just so interesting to see what they can do."

Last summer Besner also served as an interpreter when a group of professors from universities in the Rio Grande do Sul area of Brazil visited The University of Winnipeg to discuss the possibility of setting up exchanges in a variety of research areas. "They want somebody to go down to their universities to teach their faculty some English," adds Besner, who seems tailor-made for the job.

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