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For immediate release

WLU sociologist's work helped  
with computerized family tree

Computers at three major fairs recently popped out all sorts of questions about the ethnic roots and present-day impact by the many peoples of Canada.

The section on the Portugese, who now number more than 100,000 since the start of serious immigration in 1952, was written by Prof. Grace Anderson, a Wilfrid Laurier sociologist, and historian David Higgs of the University of Toronto.

Their work comprises a chapter in the recent book, *The Canadian Family Tree*, which tells the stories of all the differing peoples who make up the Canadian mosaic. The book was published by the multiculturalism directorate of the secretary of state.

The chapters have been summarized and worked into a computer question-and-answer game that drew crowds at the Canadian National Exhibition, the Pacific National Exhibition and Expo Quebec.

Dubbed Multifax, the computer information package found people prepared to line up for more than half an hour to learn about their ancestral heritage.

A spokesman for the multiculturalism directorate said it is hoped to have Multifax at other fairs, possibly at the Central Ontario Exhibition in Kitchener if there is a request.