



Fall 2018

# International Student Office Newsletter

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## Welcome

by International Student Office Staff

Welcome to the fall 2018 edition of our newsletter. Big news- we have moved. You can now find us on the fourth floor of Dalton Hall. Don't worry; you will still see the same friendly student staff at the welcome desk to greet you.

We are also very excited to announce that long-time former student staff member Nouhad Mourad has returned to the office this fall. She joins Richelle Greathouse as the second international student advisor on campus. Nouhad can be reached at [nmourad@upei.ca](mailto:nmourad@upei.ca), or you can stop by the front desk on the fourth floor of Dalton to book an appointment.

### New Guide Available

Are you looking for information on UPEI admissions, immigration, housing options and social activities?

Our new 2018/2019 International Student Guide is now available. In addition to the above mentioned items, the guide also provides information about Prince Edward Island, ideas for what to pack and not to pack, as well as suggestions on what to do when you arrive on campus. The guide is available on our [UPEI website](#).



UNIVERSITY  
of Prince Edward  
ISLAND

### The Buddy Program

It has been a busy fall. In September we were thrilled to welcome our largest cohort of international students to date. Many of these students were matched with a new "Buddy".



### Halloween on Campus

The UPEI campus was filled with Jack-O- Lanterns this fall. Students had an opportunity to try out their artistic skills, and impress us with their creativity.

## UPEI International Buddy Program

The International Student Office was pleased to welcome Robyn Dann to the team this fall. She is the new 2018/2019 Buddy Program Coordinator. Robyn is a 4<sup>th</sup> year student from the Bahamas and knows everything about UPEI ☺

The Buddy Program has hosted a tonne of events this fall. Here is a sampling of the types of activities that you can take part in as a member:

- Karaoke
- Fall apple picking trip
- Pumpkin carving
- Haunted House



### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM PLEASE STOP BY THE OFFICE. 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR DALTON

EMAIL  
[buddy@upeisu.ca](mailto:buddy@upeisu.ca)

## Fall 2018 Apple Picking





## NEPAL



## Freya

Our international student recruiter Freya spent time in China and Nepal this fall. Nepal is a new and emerging market for UPEI.



*Freya was invited to be a guest speaker at an event in Nepal*

## Our UPEI Recruiters around the world



## Jerry (right)

Our recruitment team has been pleased to see an increased number of students from Vietnam make UPEI their new home. This fall Jerry attended many recruitment fairs in Vietnam.



Vietnam

Nepal

China

## Columbia

**Logan** has been on the move this fall!

He has been attending

fairs in **Mexico,**  
**Columbia** and  
**Ecuador**



(Above) EduCanada Fair in Bogota, Columbia

(Right) Quito, Ecuador

(Below) Monterrey, Mexico



## Rwanda



Email [rgreathouse@upepei.ca](mailto:rgreathouse@upepei.ca) if you have any pictures that you would like to submit for our next issue



## Saying 'Jambo' and sharing the Kenyan Vibe at the UPEI Global Village

By Anne Shileche, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholar

Jambo is the most famous greeting phrase used in Kenya. I want to believe that Kenya is somehow well known by people over the world, partly because of our excellent track record in long distance running. Nonetheless, I never miss the opportunity to talk about Kenya and its global positioning – it is one of the best known countries on the African continent.

The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) prides itself on having a multi-cultural student community. UPEI is always seeking ways to support its students, especially the international students, to live and integrate into the Canadian culture. Among the numerous activities assisting students to enjoy their studies and time on campus, one favorite event is the Global Village. The global village is a fun-filled afternoon and evening that gives international students an opportunity to showcase their culture. The Kenyan team thought of the Global Village event as an excellent place to share the vibe of their land with students from Prince Edward Island and the rest of the world.



Kenyan team; from right, Peter, Dorcas, Anne, Grace and Sarah. Emily standing next to poster

Credit: UPEI Student Union photographer Pravakar Thapa

It took the team a few weeks of planning for the event. As all Kenyans who participated in the event are graduate students, time was in short supply, and it took a lot of commitment to hold group meetings. We supplemented our physical sessions with the use of WhatsApp.

Communication through the online group made things easier and faster, progress was tracked and problems solved by instant feedback. Tasks were distributed among members. The team settled on showcasing the Kenyan culture in the following themes:

- (1) National identity featuring the flag, emblems of the spear and Swahili language;
- (2) Tourism featuring the big five animals;
- (3) Indigenous tribes;
- (4) Traditional foods;
- (5) Art featuring bracelets and paintings; and
- (6) Dressing style.

We also reached out to several members of the UPEI Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Program led by John VanLeeuwen, and Farmers Helping Farmers, a non-profit organization working in Kenya, who had been to Kenya and had some souvenirs.



Team members took turns to explain to visitors at the booth about Kenya in general and about the exhibits in specific. Guests were curious and asked questions about the wild animals; the taste of white corn, what we call maize; and why our flag had four colors. As we explained and answered questions, we could read excitement and amazement on the visitors' faces, while others would express

this loudly. I remember one person double checking that there were no winters in Kenya. Another wanted to know how he could volunteer for a wild animal conservancy. It was a proudly engaging moment for all members of the team. Having this opportunity to talk about things that identify the nation of Kenya and its people made us feel at home.

Before the end of the evening, I got a chance to visit several booths and learn about other world cultures. I went over to the Saudi Arabia station and observed their sparkling white robes with attractive head gears, tasted their sweet dates and strong Arabic coffee, and got a writing of my name in the Arabic language. At the Bahamas booth, I learned that this island nations is made up of a combination of over 700 small islands, each unique in its own way. One Bahamian talked about an island known for its pink sandy beaches. My attention was captured, and the Bahamas is added to my bucket list. Aside from the booths, there were electrifying presentations on the stage from countries including China, Spain, Iran, Rwanda, and Japan. The Global Village was a happy and fulfilling event for me. I look forward to taking part in it again during 2018 winter semester.



Grace showcasing her dress bearing the Kenya flag

Credit: UPEI Student Union photographer Pravaka Thapa



Jennifer Taylor (UPEI Professor) came out to support Kenyans



Sarah posing with some of Kenya's essential artifacts



## UPEI Language Exchange Program

Language Exchange Program is a free program run by the International Student Office which aims to connect students who wish to learn and practice their communication skills in an additional language. This program began in September 2017, and so far 152 UPEI students and staff have been involved and shared 11 languages, such as Arabic, Bengali, French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish and so on.

In this program, every participant is paired with a language partner to teach each other their own languages, and in turn, learn the mother tongue their partner speaks. Every week, student assistants from the International Student Office organize a group session where language partners meet and exchange languages. The group sessions are casual and are open to everyone. Even if you are not part of this program you are welcome to join us!

Photo: Yuuki Seguro (left) and Jonghyun Yeom (right) in a language exchange group session



Yuuki Seguro is teaching some basics in the Japanese language to her language partner, Jonghyun Yeom. Jonghyun is an exchange student from South Korea who has a great interest in Japanese culture. His intention to get an internship in Japan makes him passionate to learn more about the Japanese language and Japanese culture.

There may be no other better way to learn a language than directly speaking with a native Japanese speaker. The Language Exchange Program is not just about learning a new language alone. It also helps to strengthen students' communication skills, which will contribute to students' future job skills.

Photo: Yuuki Seguro in Myanmar



During the summer Yuuki was doing her short-term internship in Myanmar teaching Japanese to local employees in a company. We are very proud that this program offers a platform for UPEI students to share their unique culture through language exchange, to promote the understanding of cultural diversity, and to help build a closely connected community. We hope our Language Exchange Program has helped Jonghyun acquire some cultural preparations for his dreamed-of internship in Japan, and we hope Yuuki has had a wonderful experience in her journey in Myanmar!

## UPEI English Summer Camp

In summer 2018, the UPEI English Language Centre continued to welcome visiting groups of international high school and university students for short-term language programs. The program is growing and this past summer we had eleven groups. Students attended academic English classes in the mornings, and participated in educational and social-cultural programs in the afternoons. This program provides an opportunity for visiting students to build up their English communication skills and learn about Canadian culture in historical Charlottetown.

Nanhua University - This is the 1st time that we host students from Nanhua University from Taiwan.



Students from Dankook University, South Korea and Nanhua University, Taiwan, had fun activities with UPEI students in Victoria Park.



Students from University of Tsukuba from Japan and Chang'an University from China in Cavendish Trip.



Girls from St. Hilda's High School, Japan, at Anne of Green Gables House Heritage.





These workshops and activities allowed students the opportunity to practice the themes from the morning content in authentic learning environments with a variety of local community members. The participants also lived with host families from our homestay program, giving them a full and rich language and cultural experience.

EAP Customized Programs grew from three groups in 2015 to eight groups in 2017. Program participants included high school students, university students, and faculty members from China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Plans are currently underway for continuing growth and another exciting year of customized language programs in 2019.

Photo from Cecia Huang



Student Assistant Jiahui Huang



## The Atlantic Canada Study & Stay PEI program™

### Final year international students encouraged to remain in P.E.I.



Forty carefully selected international students from UPEI and Holland College took part in a retreat 26-28 October 2018 to launch the Atlantic Study & Stay PEI program. Study & Stay PEI is an international student attraction and retention pilot program aimed at final year international students and open to international students in the province's publicly-funded community colleges and universities.

Taking place at the Stanley Bridge Country Resort, the students participated in a selection of group activities, including an immigration pathways discussion group (Province of PEI), an intercultural growth mindset workshop (UPEI), and a mentorship orientation session (EnPoint).

The objective of the retreat is to introduce the students to life in rural PEI and at the same time immersing them in an intercultural environment. Having students surrounded by key community members and providing with a full weekend of support from the onset allows the participants to understand that a future in PEI can be more than just a dream, but a reality.

Amie Swallow Macdonald, Director of Rural and Regional Development and Giselle Bernard, Community Development Officer (Province of PEI) also talked about rural life in the East and West of P.E.I., highlighting that P.E.I really is "The Mighty Island" driven by its instinct for hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. It was proven that P. E.I has a stable work force and is a great place to live and operate a business.

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*Arantxa Clarke, 23, a Holland College tourism and travel management student from Jamaica, said the biggest takeaway from this retreat was learning about professional networking and building confidence step by step. She also appreciated the mentorship comes from someone who was also an international student.*

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The Honorable Sonny Gallant, P.E.I.'s minister for Workforce and Advanced Learning, also addressed the students. He stressed to them that there was more to P.E.I. than Charlottetown, and encouraged them to make P.E.I. their home following graduation.



As the retreat drew to a close and Halloween approached, the students also took part in pumpkin carving and played board games during the retreat. Many new friendships were also forged.



Following the retreat, and over the next ten months, participants will receive full support on transitioning from student to professional from the Atlantic Canada Study and Stay PEI program team, such as job search assistance, mentoring with professionals and possible future employers, CV and letter writing assistance and career building and networking training.

*"This program is modeled after the EduNova Stay Program, in Nova Scotia and was so successful that the program was expanded to the other regions of Atlantic Canada and branded in PEI under the name Atlantic Canada Study and Stay PEI Program," (Sherilyn Acorn-LeClair, International Liaison Officer, Office of Study Abroad & International Collaboration at UPEI.)*

**Applications for the 2019 Atlantic Study & Stay PEI program intake will be open in the fall of 2019.**