



Brittany Jakubiec is a second year Master of Education student.

**Message from the Editor: Brittany Jakubiec**

If you are reading this, you are among the very first to lay eyes on the UPEI Graduate Students' Association monthly newsletter! This idea was a long time coming, and it took a lot of work. I would like to thank all those who contributed, in one way or another, and to those reading! If you would like to contribute in the future, please email me at [gsa@upei.ca](mailto:gsa@upei.ca).

**The Research Journey**

Simply said, I love research and all activities related to it. Essentially, research is about cogitating on a topic of interest, meeting and talking to people located within that topical environment, and articulating the experience spent in that reflective zone of research.



Dr. Preston is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education.

More specifically, for me, research starts with a vision that is refined to a clearly-articulated purpose and one to five honed research questions. The creation of a new research project is often supported by a graduate student working with me to identify the methodology, research design, and theoretical lens best aligned with the purpose of the study. When working within the qualitative paradigm, it is time to collect the data, transcribe interviews, and analyze transcripts. Next, the research team *gives birth* to a paper that depicts the research path from its initial vision to its end results. Writing this paper is often time-consuming, frustrating, and liberating, all at the same time. With paper in-hand and suitcase packed, conferences are the next logical step. Not only do papers presented at conferences represent the knowledge and experience gained from the research, conferences are also opportunities for social networking and travel. Usually, after receiving feedback at the conference, minor revisions are done to the paper, and it is submitted to a journal in hopes of publication. The publication process is another emotionally intense process, imbued with anticipation, anxiety, and exultation. Frequently, feedback from peer-reviews indicates that the paper needs revisions, and the authors and I need to re-think and better articulate key issues. Using the prescriptive suggestions provided by reviewers, we improve the paper and, in turn, are often met with publication success.

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**UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Valerie Campbell (President), Brittany Jakubiec (VP Internal), Satyajit Sen (VP External), Jill Martin (Media Relations), Babafela Awosile (AVC Rep), Kate Liu (Education Rep), Keefe Deighan (Business Rep), Danielle Perry (Nursing Rep), Kshitij Trivedi (Science Rep), Mark Currie (Arts Rep)

In application of the above process, 2014 has been a good year for my co-researchers and me. To highlight two of my recent favorite articles, check out Preston, Jakubiec, and Kooymans (2013) and Preston, Ogenchuk, and Nsiah (2014). These documents represent research I have conducted with a graduate and undergraduate student and research that I initiated with my graduate friends when I was a PhD student.

As a final point, I have found that the first step on the journey of research is often a conversation with a colleague or close friend. I applaud the Graduate Students' Association and its production of this newsletter, because, I believe, this document will be a springboard to fertile research conversations among graduate students. I wish you great enjoyment on your research journey.

#### References

Preston, J. P., Jakubiec, B. A. E., & Kooymans, R. (2013). Common challenges faced by rural principals: A review of the literature. *Rural Educator*, 35(1), 1–12.

Preston, J. P., Ogenchuk, M. J., & Nsiah, J. K. (2014). Peer mentorship and transformational learning: PhD student experiences. *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, 44(1), 52–68.



#### Meet the GSA President: Valerie Campbell

Valerie, who originally grew up in Eastern PEI, is a third year PhD student in Educational Studies. Valerie has two adult children. Her research interests include ethics, youth, research in digital spaces, gender, and social justice. She is the Project Manager for the Young Lives Research Lab at UPEI as well as a sessional lecturer in the Sociology/Anthropology department at UPEI. She aspires to complete her PhD and find a post-doc position in youth studies, with an emphasis on ethics, possibly outside of Canada. Valerie has been involved in the Graduate Students' Association since 2013 and has received numerous scholarships, awards, and prizes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

- My Journey Through Graduate School seminar series. [Coming in 2015!](#)
- Canadian Federation of University Women Charlottetown Graduate Scholarships. [Deadline January 30, 2015.](#) Contact [hkeoughan@upei.ca](mailto:hkeoughan@upei.ca) for more details.
- Islander Day. [February 16, 2015!](#)
- UPEI Reading Week. [February 23-27, 2015!](#)
- UPEI Mental Health Week. [March 8-13, 2015!](#)

#### Surviving Grad School as a Parent: Krystal Mayne & Brittany Jakubiec

- 1 Time management is key, but leave room for flexibility and the unknown.
- 2 Never leave things until the last minute. It causes too much pressure.
- 3 Avoid take-out and prepare your meals instead. It will save time and money.
- 4 Make time for sleep and downtime! Don't forget that you are important, too.
- 5 Family time is important. Schedule quality time with your kids and do family homework nights.



Krystal Mayne is in the MBA program.

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## GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION WINE AND CHEESE NOVEMBER 17, 2014

The annual wine and cheese event, hosted by the UPEI Graduate Students' Association and sponsored by the VP Research and Graduate Studies office, was a huge success this year. It was held November 17 at 7 pm in MacMillan Hall and was well attended by faculty, staff, and graduate students. There were friendly games of poker and blackjack all evening with special guest dealers. There were delicious snacks and refreshments. An addition to this year's event was the fun and playful photobooth (with photographer Ryan Boudreau) which was enjoyed by many attendees. New this year was a 50/50 draw where a lucky graduate student took home \$50 and the other \$50 will be donated to the Colleen MacDougall Graduate Student Travel Awards.



This year there was a massive representation from the Faculty of Education, I am proud to say! I also proudly announce that both the Faculty and the Staff GSA Awards went to individuals associated with the Faculty of Education. Nominations came flooding in and voting took place days after. I am happy to announce here that the GSA Faculty Award was received by Dr. Jane P. Preston (who could not attend due to prior commitments) and the GSA Staff Award went to Cathy Hennessey! Good work Jane and Cathy! Your commitment to UPEI and to graduate students is appreciated and noticed. Congratulations!



### DO YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Email your ideas,  
suggestions, and  
articles to  
[gsa@upei.ca](mailto:gsa@upei.ca)



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