

Message from the Co-Editors:



Brittany Jakubiec is a PhD Student in Educational Studies



Mary MacPhee is in the 5th year of a PhD in Educational Studies



Anne Shileche is a Master of Science student in their first year.

Hello to our readership! Happy New year to all graduate students. Many graduate students, staff, and faculty took some well-deserved downtime, donned ugly sweaters, and got together for the GSA ugly holiday sweater social in December. We had a great time, and we wish to extend congratulations to the recipients of the GSA Faculty and Staff awards: Dr. Pedro Quijon and Trudy MacMillan-Affleck. Stay tuned for information about a GSA Town Hall on January 31 at 4:30 pm until 6 pm. Finally, and as always, the GSA is looking for students to take part in our board and executive, and for writers for the newsletter. If you want to take part in either of these initiatives, please email us at gsa@upei.ca



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conditions. It is therefore the **University's policy for everyone to avoid the use of scented personal care products.** Help those with whom we share our indoor work and study environment.

For more information on UPEI's Scent-Free Initiative, visit <http://www.upei.ca/policy/files/policy/Scent-Free%20Initiative.pdf>.

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Kudos to all grad students working hard to complete their thesis and coursework.

KUDOS to Hannah Gehrels for defending their Master's thesis!

KUDOS to Khalid Alshammari for defending their Master's thesis!

KUDOS to Amanda Sproule for defending their Master's thesis!

KUDOS to Dr. Pedro Quijon for receiving the GSA faculty award.

KUDOS to Trudy MacMillan-Affleck for receiving the GSA staff award.



UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Mary MacPhee (VP), Frederic Chatigny (VP), Teresa Zhang & Elliott Roellchen-Pfohl (Education Representatives), Leon Libang (International Student Representative), Logan MacIntyre & Dylan Michaud (AVC Representatives), Bsmah Thabet (Science Representative), Lynda Walker (Business Representative), Vicki MacInnis (Nursing Representative), Sarah Gallant (AHS Representative), Ravinder Sappal (Post-Doctoral Representative), Mark Carr-Rollitt (MAIS Representative)

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RECAP OF CFS CONFERENCE

GSA



Attending 35th CFS ANGM as UPEI International Students

by Leon Libang and Teresa Zhang

(Pictured here: Leon, Teresa, Mary, and Valerie)

We represented UPEI GSA in the Canadian Federation of Students' Annual National General Meeting, which was held in Gatineau from November 18 to 21. As international students at UPEI, it was our pleasure to attend the national CFS meeting. We spent five nights and four days discussing topics concerning post-secondary education with our peers through different lenses, especially in the international constituency, the national graduate caucus, and the maritime regional meeting. Even though the schedule was very tight during those days, we learned so much about how educational policies and movements were made. We also gained insights into the Canadian educational system when comparing to that in our home country China.

As UPEI GSA delegates, we participated in the educational policies making process, which was a unique and precious experience. The meeting came after the Nov 2 Day of Action fighting for universal access to post-secondary education. As first time delegates, we came to understand the origin and importance of student movements. By amplifying the voice of students through movements, our needs will be heard and potentially met. For example, as international fees had been increasing year by year without counseling international students in Canada, we supported keeping international fees locked at a certain range and a national campaign coming in the near future.

The issue of international fee increase was only one of the many concerns brought up by universities across Canada at the conference. There were also a lot of other issues related to the racialized, marginalized, indigenous, and oppressed groups of students either being international or domestic being discussed and voted at the national level. The UPEI GSA is a great platform for students like you and us to voice our concerns and contribute to future changes to our educational system. Please feel free to come to our GSA office at Duffy Science Center 403 and share your experience!

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GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIAL

GSA



On Saturday, December 10, graduate students, faculty, and staff gathered in the AVC learning commons for a winter social, and the theme this year was once again ugly holiday sweaters!

At the social event, the recipients of the GSA Faculty and Staff awards were announced. The winner of the GSA Faculty Award was Dr. Pedro Quijon (Biology), with two close seconds, Frederic Fovet (Education), and Bill Montelpare (Health Sciences). The winner of the GSA Staff Award was Trudy MacMillan-Affleck, who works at Samuel's in the library, with close seconds, Dr. Ron MacDonald (Dean, Education), and Grace McCourt (Business). The silent auction raised almost \$200. Winners of the ugliest sweater contest were Jamye Rouette and Brittany Jakubiec (pictured below).

**Did you know that the GSA is on Twitter?**

Follow us @UPEIGSA to get updates on GSA and campus events and other helpful information.

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UPEI STUDENT DIVERSITY OFFICE by Emilie Eddie

UPEI's Student Diversity Office (SDO) is a student directed office under the leadership of the current student Coordinator Emily Eddie, in association with Student Affairs and the Diversity and Social Justice Studies program. SDO operates out of Student Affairs, office number 240.

We are mandated at the SDO with promoting understanding of the complexities of identities of all members of the campus community, including students, faculty and staff. Our goals include challenging normative, oppressive assumptions by raising awareness of social justice issues. We foster a campus community focused on inclusivity, accessibility, and acceptance. Through hosting events, such as Rants & Raves, What Else is Sex, Mental Health Week's Lets Listen, and Difficult Dialogues, we encourage student engagement and discussion of social justice issues.

The first semester of the 2016-2017 year at the SDO was a busy one. In collaboration with Jam for Justice, a school club that promotes well-being through music on UPEI campus, the SDO was part of the semester's "Concert for Comfort", a concert full of many different forms of musical expression and held in the open environment of the Chaplaincy Centre. SDO also worked with AIDS PEI to create the SDO's version of the Hands Up for #HIVprevention Campaign on UPEI campus. In terms of day-to-day work, you may see interactive installations around campus such as the "Post as Secret" wall, and the "Outrage Tree".

The Student Diversity Office encourages students to think critically as a way to better understand the variety of issues and concerns raised by the campus community. We provide a space where community members can feel comfortable to engage with the coordinators about issues they feel are important.

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. GSA Town Hall, January 31 from 4:30 to 6 pm. Location to be announced. At this event, we want to hear from all graduate students across campus. What is going well? What challenges do you face? The final report from this town hall will be provided to stakeholders (e.g., Dr. Larry Hammell, interim dean of the new School of Graduate Studies), so it is very important to have your voice heard! If you cannot attend, please send your comments to gsa@upei.ca
2. GSA Meeting, January 16 at 12 noon in Duffy 403. All graduate students are welcome to attend.
3. Call for abstracts for the Annual Graduate Research Conference at the University of New Brunswick. Deadline is January 15. All information can be found on the conference website www.grc.unbgsa.ca.

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