

Message from the Editor: Brittany Jakubiec



Brittany Jakubiec is a second year Master of Education student.

Oh my goodness. Can you believe this winter? I apologize for not releasing a February issue, but I was too busy shoveling snow. With that said, I am so happy to bring you the March Issue of the UPEI Graduate Students' Association Newsletter. It's a good one! There were many events to attend as of late, and many more to come! I hope that you all get a chance to enjoy them. If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please email me at gsa@upei.ca.

The PEI Peoples' Social Forum – Mark Currie

The PEI Peoples' Social Forum (PSF) is a critical public space aimed at fostering activist involvement of individuals and civil society organizations that want to transform PEI as it exists today. It is a space for social movements to meet and converge, for the free expression of alternative ideas and grassroots exchanges. It seeks to inspire practical involvement in social movements and develop networked action strategies aimed at fostering the convergence of struggles, toward building a broad strategic alliance against neo-liberal and neo-conservative policies in PEI.

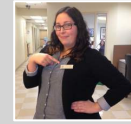


Social justice, Original Peoples rights, sustainable development, international solidarity and participatory democracy create the overarching frame to address the concerns for Island issues. The PEI PSF is an inclusive space that must be occupied by all people and activist organizations convinced that another PEI is not only possible, but above all, necessary.

As graduate students and faculty, even if you are not from PEI, these issues affect you. The structures of democracy and representation require consideration and adaptation within student government as much as provincial legislature. While you work and struggle to complete your research, food still needs to be bought, student loans have to be paid, and a roof should be over your head, so income security is crucial to your academic success.

Issue 3, March 25, 2015

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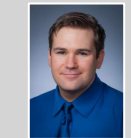
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Valerie Campbell (President), Brittany Jakubiec (VP Internal), Satyajit Sen (VP External), Jill Martin (Media Relations), Babafela Awosile (AVC Rep), Kate Liu (Education Rep), Keefe Deighan (Business Rep), Danielle Perry (Nursing Rep), Kshitij Trivedi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

Issues for academics need just as much attention as the rest of society. We're all in it together. Make sure your voice is heard.

For information on issues or becoming involved, and details on upcoming meetings and events, check out the PEI PSF Facebook page or send e-mail (see below). The main PEI Peoples Social Forum will take place in August of 2015, with exact dates and locations to be announced.

Mark Currie (Arts Rep, GSA): gsa@upei.ca

Peoples' Social Forum email: peoplesocialforumpei@gmail.com

Facebook: PEI Peoples Social Forum

Reflections on the National Graduate Caucus – Valerie Campbell

Last month I had the privilege of representing the UPEI GSA at the Annual General Meeting of the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The NGC is the body within the CFS which focuses on the interests of graduate students, which are often different from those faced by undergraduates. For example, a presentation on student debt highlighted that, while debt is an issue faced by students at all levels of post-secondary education, doctoral graduates carry a significantly higher debt load. Some of the other issues presented and discussed at the meeting included the need for parent/child friendly campuses, rape culture, ensuring students with disabilities have full access to programs, the upcoming federal election, and so on.

It was a very intense two days; we began at 8:30 each morning and finished at 6:00. But there was time for a bit of relaxation also. We were treated to a gala night out at the National Museum of Science – music, dance, dinosaurs, and, best of all, face painting!

Friendships were forged, information was shared, and if we didn't solve the problems of graduate student life, we did make them seem more manageable through working together. My biggest take-away from the meeting was the knowledge that the UPEI GSA needs to discover the specific issues facing our members. So, in the next few weeks, expect to receive a survey via email asking just that.



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Meet the GSA Business Representative: Keefe Deighan



I am a current student in the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) program at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a double minor in English and Psychology on May 10th, 2014. I am also the supervisor for the UPEI fund-raising phonathon in the department of Development and Alumni Engagement. I have held that position for two years. Beforehand, I worked for ten years in the telecommunication field where I excelled in customer service, sales, and information technology (IT). I am strong advocate for literacy and supporting students with learning disabilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- *My Journey Through Graduate School* seminar series.
March 30, 2015 from 12:15 to 1:00 pm – Dr. Debbie MacLellan and Dr. Richard Lemm (Faculty Lounge, SDU Main Building)
Contact Brittany Jakubiec at bjakubiec@upei.ca for more details.
- BMO Financial Group Scholarship.
Deadline is April 9, 2015 to apply. Contact Colleen Gallant at cgallant@upei.ca for more details.
- Are you a parent and student? Check out the UPEI Parenting Students group on Facebook!
Upcoming event on April 4, 2015!
- “Creating and defending your comprehensive portfolio.” Memorial Hall 308, 11:30, March 26, 2015!
- 3MT Competition at The Wave! 7:00 pm, March 26, 2015!
- UPEI Department of Psychology Fiona Papps Colloquium Series presents, “The Lived Experiences of Women Leaders in Two Universities: Perceived Barriers, Challenges, and Supports,” a presentation by Brittany Jakubiec. This event is Friday, March 27 at 1:30 pm in Memorial Hall 215.

DO YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Email your ideas, suggestions, and articles to gsa@upei.ca



Are you looking to keep on top of university news, career advice, and job listings? Grad students should take a look at University Affairs, which provides a number of ways to stay informed about and connected with Canada's university community. The magazine is published

10 times per year and is free to those who work or study at UPEI and other Canadian universities. In addition to [news](#), [opinion](#), and [career advice](#) being posted each month, www.universityaffairs.ca offers access to the largest higher ed [job listing](#) service in Canada. University Affairs also has weekly [e-newsletters](#) to keep subscribers informed about the latest feature stories and online content. Take a moment to have a look!

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