

Message from the Co-Editors:



Brittany Jakubiec is a PhD Student in Educational Studies at UPEI.



Mary MacPhee is in her fourth year of doctoral studies at UPEI



Denise Happ is in her second year of her MSc at UPEI.

Brittany Jakubiec This issue of the UPEI GSA Newsletter came out later than initially hoped. One of the reasons is because I was finding a team to help me! I am happy to announce that Mary MacPhee (PhD, Education) and Denise Happ (AVC) will be assisting me with the newsletter as co-editors. This is exciting as my workload as a first-year PhD student increases. With some helping hands, it is my hope to have a consistent, monthly newsletter. I thank you all for your patience!

Mary MacPhee is doing her PhD in Education Studies. Her research is about the experience of non-francophone parents who have chosen a francophone school for their children. Mary has two children in grades four and six. Mary is eager to lend a hand with GSA affairs and graduate student interests and concerns.

Denise Happ is a second year MSc student in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the AVC (she is not a vet though!). Denise is originally from Germany, but has been living on the island for almost 2 years now. Her research interests are in the field of neuroscience, and stroke specifically. Denise is one of the International Representatives on the GSA board and excited to now be a part of the GSA newsletter as well!

Issue 9, December 18, 2015

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UPEI GSA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING (NOVEMBER 19, 2015) **BY VALERIE CAMPBELL (GSA PRESIDENT)**

A small but enthusiastic group of graduate students met in SDU Main Building on a Thursday evening to discuss the business of the UPEI-GSA. We had an ambitious agenda, with the biggest piece being the discussion on the proposed new By-Laws and amendments to the Constitution. Brittany did a great job of putting the documents together in a format that was clear and easy to understand. After discussion, and one slight amendment, I'm happy to say that both documents were ratified by the members present. This was a big project and, I believe, an important step in re-invigorating our organization.



As no general meeting is complete without food, we took a short break to grab a drink and slice of pizza, then moved on to the second big part of the agenda – a presentation by David Etherington from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Dave is the CFS Maritimes Organizer and provided us with information on the history of the student movement in Canada as well as CFS services and campaigns. It was enlightening for many present.

Although the group was small, I consider the meeting to have been very successful; discussion was lively, those present learned a great deal about how the UPEI-GSA operates, and some discussed continued and deeper involvement in graduate student issues.

The meeting adjourned (and almost within the time limit) and those who were interested moved down the Avenue to UpStreet Brewery – did you know you can bring your own food there? - where we relaxed and celebrated a positive S-AGM. Sadly, due to an unfortunate incident, the remaining pizza did not make it. If you want to know more about your GSA, or view the By-Laws and Constitution, check out our website (<http://www.upei.ca/research/officeofgraduatestudies/graduate-students-association>), email us at gsa@upei.ca, or find us on campus.

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UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING



Valerie Campbell, UPEI GSA president and Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Prince Edward Island representative with UPEI GSA delegate Mary MacPhee attended the CFS Semi-Annual National General Meeting (NGM) in Gatineau from Nov. 21 to Nov. 25, 2015. The event offered CFS student representatives from post secondary institutions across Canada an opportunity to come together. We shared information, challenges, successes, discussion, debate, and motions to work toward improved post secondary conditions and access to education for all post-secondary students in Canada.

The five days of the NGM were packed full of sessions from morning to night, which drew attention to a plethora of student needs and concerns. Motions were debated at approximately 25 meeting groups through diverse lenses including Aboriginal, francophone, international, racialized, part-time and mature, queer, artist, women's, and students with disability groups. Caucus meetings also occurred to discuss needs of students representing large institutions, small university associations, colleges and institutes, and Graduate students. Additionally, each province held separate meetings to discuss issues pertinent to their area. Due to the fact that PEI and NB each have only one active member local (UPEI GSA and UNB), we both joined with NS to form a Maritime component.

The delegates had high levels of energy, motivation, confidence, and interest in student-focused topics. There was impressive care given to how workshops were organized so to ensure that diverse voices be heard in safe spaces before final decisions on motions and CFS future actions were made. Workshops were offered to make all in attendance aware of power struggles and different forms of oppression that occur in Canadian post-secondary institutions as well as campaigns, strategies, and resources to counter oppression. Student delegates from undergraduate and graduate levels shared personal and institutional perspectives. Student skills and competency were developed and evident in public speaking and advocacy, and support was offered from regional and national groups to approximately 200 delegates representing 60 member locals across our country to help meet student needs when they return home to their post-secondary institutions.



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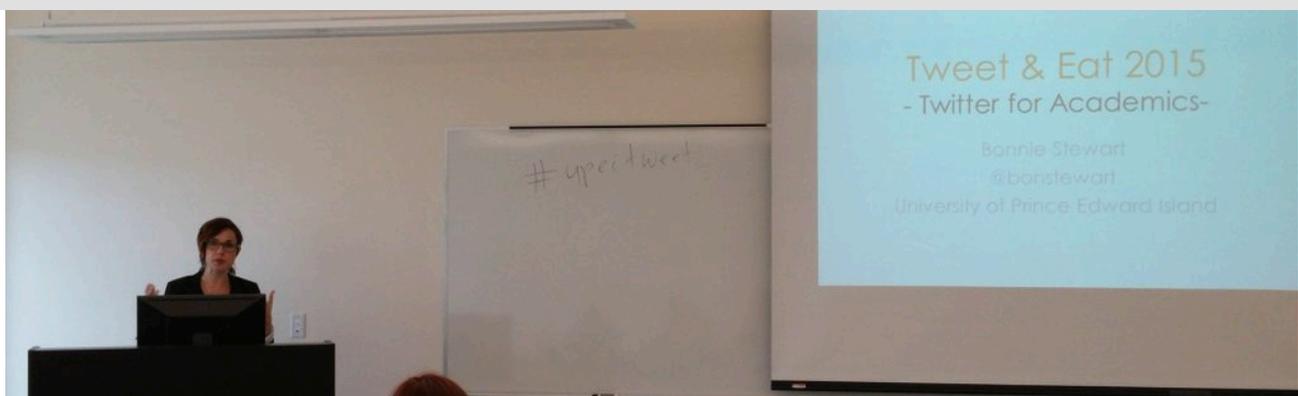
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Any of UPEI's graduate students with an interest to join or a need to be represented and have their voice heard are welcome and encouraged to attend GSA meetings at UPEI and to consider representing UPEI GSA nationally. There are many advantages of belonging to CFS, including the many services and resources available to our GSA student body, lobbying government for positive change, and the potential to make connections, develop skills, and build community with other students across Canada.

GSA EVENT "TWEET & EAT" WAS A SUCCESS



On November 16th, 2015 all of campus was invited to attend the GSA event, "Tweet & Eat" with guest speakers Dr. Bonnie Stewart and Dr. Brian Wagner. The event was well attended. The hashtag #upeitweet was created so those people tweeting could make connections and have conversations. A post-workshop twitter discussion was scheduled for Dec 1 at 8:00 pm and for an hour, Bonnie moderated a discussion based on Jesse Stomel's "Intro to Twitter" piece. For a recap of the conversation on Nov 16, keep an eye on the GSA Media webpage for a video upload. You can also revisit the tweets by searching "#upeitweet" on Twitter, or reviewing @DaniGirl's storify (<https://storify.com/DaniGirl/upeitweet>). At one point, even the @UPEIFox was chiming in!



Bonnie Stewart @bonstewart · Dec 1

A1 v.2: Twitter's also where i learn about what's going in the world & my field. exposes me to difference, to challenge, to news. #upeitweet



Carol Dobson @cjdobsonpei · Dec 1

@bonstewart I use twitter to keep up on news and to have fun jousting with other tweeters! #upeitweet



Brittany Jakubiec @brijaay · Dec 1

@cjdobsonpei @bonstewart the news component is huge! whenever anything "big" is happening, i always have twitter open #upeitweet



UPEI Fox @UPEIFox · Dec 1

@brijaay @cjdobsonpei @bonstewart it helps when you ARE the news #upeitweet

LIKES

2



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GSA WINE & CHEESE UGLY SWEATER HOLIDAY SOCIAL DECEMBER 12, 2015

The UPEI Graduate Student's Association hosted the annual Wine and Cheese event (sponsored by the VP Research and Graduate Studies) on December 12 in the AVC Learning Commons, and once again it was a big success! Faculty, staff, and graduate students put on their ugly holiday sweaters to enjoy great company and delicious snacks and refreshments. There was a fun and playful photo booth (with our photographer Katie O'Hanley) again as this was a big hit last year. Additionally, we held a silent auction with many great items to bid on such as a Parks Canada gift certificate, jewelry from local businesses, and Yoga classes. Thank you all for participating in the bids and for your contributions!



The winners of the ugliest holiday sweater contest!

To recognize and highlight outstanding staff and faculty that play a monumental role in supporting graduate student life and research at UPEI, we called for nominations for the 2015 Graduate Student Staff and Faculty appreciation awards. We are happy to announce that the Graduate Student Staff award was received by Dr. Robert Gilmour and the Graduate Student Faculty award went to Dr. Brian Wagner. Congratulations to both of you! Thank you so much for your commitment to UPEI and to graduate students!



DO YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

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



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THE WRITING CENTRE IS COMING! THE WRITING CENTRE IS COMING!: UPEI WRITING CENTRE AT *WRITING CENTER (R)EVOLUTIONS*

By Mark Currie – MAIS Candidate, UPEI

Pittsburgh: steel town of America, land of French fries on a salad, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Penguins, and Steelers, and birthplace of Andy Warhol. It was also where the International Writing Centers Association held its annual conference this October 8–10. The conference theme – *Writing Center (r)Evolution*s – attracted over 800 participants from around the world and, for the first time, three of them were from UPEI's Writing Centre: Dr. Robin Sutherland, Mark Currie, and Chris Thompson. The trio presented their paper-in-progress, *ELLE of an Opportunity: Writing Centre Staff Volunteer their Time & Expertise for the Canadian Heart & Stroke Foundation*.

The conference attendees offered questions and congratulations as Robin, Mark, and Chris challenged the unbecoming stigma of writing centres as places of remedial-level writing assistance. The UPEI Writing Centre works with the philosophy that writing is integral to not only the university experience, but also the post-university world. Indeed, *ELLE of an Opportunity* strongly outlines how UPEI's writing partnership with the H&S Foundation can exemplify garnering professional development and civic engagement through writing centres. For the past two years, WC tutors have volunteered their time and writing expertise to craft the creative copy for the live and silent auction items sold at the annual H&S fundraiser, *Norton's Razzle Dazzle Red*. The WC tutors wrote text for roughly 120 auction items for the 2014 gala – helping the H&S Foundation in PEI raise the highest amount of money since the fundraiser's inception – and another 130 auction items for the 2015 event. The H&S Foundation has requested that the partnership continue for the 2016 fundraiser next February.



Chris Thompson and Mark Currie, IWCA 2015

While in Pittsburgh, the three UPEI representatives met writing centre directors, coordinators, and student tutors from around the world – USA, Brazil, Colombia, and Iran, just to name a few – and it became apparent that the UPEI Writing Centre, while coming from a smaller school, was able to stand tall as an equal and, in many cases, as a leader when compared to fellow writing centres. Both in and outside of sessions, Robin, Mark, and Chris learned about the great diversity that exists in writing centre practice: the many ways the writing centres operate, are institutionally situated and staffed, and how they mandate their work. Panels and workshops explored theories of writing pedagogy, and addressed the debate between tutor practises – direct and indirect revision, as well as the best institutional location of writing centres in universities – department-related or distinct entity. They returned to PEI with much to ponder, and certain of their commitment to pilot new ideas and revolutionize the status quo perceptions of academic writing. (continued on page 6)

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UPEI WRITING CENTRE AT *WRITING CENTER (R)EVOLUTIONS*

(CONTINUED)

Mark and Chris would like to thank the people at UPEI who provided encouragement and financial support to make this journey possible. In particular, they would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Christian Lacroix (VP Academic), Dr. Robert Gilmour (VP Research & Graduate Studies), Dr. Nebojsa Kujundzic (Dean of Arts), Ms. Treena Smith (Manager of UPEI Student Affairs), and the UPEI Student Union.

Dr. Robin Sutherland is the UPEI Writing Centre Coordinator. Mark Currie is a Master of Arts in Island Studies Candidate at UPEI and the UPEI Writing Centre's Project Manager. Chris Thompson is an Honours Bachelor of English Candidate at UPEI, one of UPEI Writing Centre's Senior Tutors, and the 2015-2016 Editor in Chief of the UPEI Arts Review.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- January fitness classes will be offered for all students- and we pay for these in our fees! Attending to fitness means healthier students: physically, mentally, emotionally, and academically. There are various fitness classes (<http://www.upei.ca/ar/fitness-classes>) most days of the week. You have already paid for these classes in your fees <http://avc.upei.ca/files/avc/Fees-Breakdown09-10.pdf> so go! Your fees also cover your admittance to CARI pool or the gym <http://www.upei.ca/ar/fitness-centre> and walking track.
- The Writing Circle for graduate students is a group of budding writers who have been meeting weekly throughout the fall to discuss how to write well and to help edit and learn from each other's work. Stay tuned for an update in January for the day and time to meet with this group.
- Don't forget to check for deadlines and apply for scholarships and bursaries!
- The next GSA meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2015 from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm (location TBA). Please attend! ☺

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KUDOS!

Kudos to all graduate students working hard to complete coursework and congratulations to those who have celebrated significant milestones:

Michele Moffat, Alaina Roach O'Keefe, Valerie Campbell, and Olive Bryanton (all PhD students in education) who have successfully defended their comprehensive portfolios.

Do you know a graduate student who just achieved a great award or scholarship? Who published a great paper about their research? Or who celebrated another significant milestone? Do you want to give them a shout-out? Email us at gsa@upei.ca

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



On behalf of the board of the UPEI Graduate Student's Association, we would like to wish you a happy holiday and a happy New Year!

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