



UNIVERSITY  
of Prince Edward  
ISLAND

# International Relations Office Newsletter August 2016

## Contents:

- Welcome
- New Student Guide
- UPEI Abroad
- New Opportunities
- New Student Advisory Committee
- Recent Graduates
- New Markets
- EAP Updates
- Events and Celebrations
- Upcoming Events

## Welcome

Welcome to our new International Relations Office (IRO) Newsletter. Our newsletter will be distributed electronically three times a year. We hope that you enjoy our first issue.

### Coming Soon

Are you looking for information on UPEI admissions, immigration, or registration? The IRO is pleased to announce that we will have a new International Student Guide available for download this September.



## UPEI Abroad

### Returning Exchange Students:

Twenty students are returning from academic exchanges in September 2016, and are eager to promote their experiences to other students.

These 20 students participated in programs in Mexico, France, Spain, Belgium, Japan and the United Kingdom, just to name a few. All students reported having extremely positive, eye opening experiences!

Two of our students are returning from a summer program with one of our partner schools, **Dankook University**. They spend four weeks here teaching conversational English to small groups of Korean students. They follow this up with four weeks of academic course work, cultural programs and excursions.

Are you interested in going  
on an international  
exchange?

Speak with our coordinator, Sherilyn Acorn  
sdacorn@upei.ca



### **Anouk Paradis**

(Seated above) at the  
Japan Canada Academic  
Consortium Student Forum in  
**Japan**

### **Global Internship Conference 2016:**

Sherilyn Acorn

This conference allowed the IRO staff to learn new ways of properly cultivating international experiential learning through international internship placements. This in turn will lead to the creation of the global leaders we are committed to educating. The GIC was a first for UPEI and it was extremely productive. Meeting with other universities and third party program managers proved extremely useful. The main objective for attending this conference was information gathering, as the area on international internships is new to the IRO and we are looking forward to promoting some new



opportunities this fall, 2016.

Plus- keep an eye out for our new fall "Travel Tuesday" posts on the UPEI IRO Facebook page.



### **Shianna Cormier**

2016 Killam Fellowship  
Recipient to Arizona  
State University

### **Christie Maastricht**

2016 Liberation Scholarship  
Recipient through our  
partner school Zuyd  
University in Maastricht, the  
Netherlands

## ***We're so proud of you Foyin!***

**UPEI Student encourages others to become a part of something extraordinary**

There is an undying fire in me, an urge to grab every opportunity that comes my way, be the very best I can be, and make the people around me even better. Earlier this summer, I had the privilege to represent PEI at the National Youth Ambassador Caucus in Ottawa, organized by Global Vision.

Myself, as well as forty-nine other Canadian delegates, presented our ideas for Canada's 150th celebration next year to Andrew Campbell, Senior Executive Director of Canadian Heritage.

We had amazing interactive sessions with the founder of Global Vision, Terry Clifford, and discussed in depth his book, *The Game Changer*. We visited the Town Hall, met the Mayor of Ottawa, Jim Watson, and explored the city and the beautiful Canadian Historical Heritage.

One the final day of our conference, we visited Parliament Hill, watched question period for the House of Commons, had discussions with Members of Parliament of various regions, had a grand reception and took beautiful pictures.

***After four days of active learning, listening, and participation, I feel empowered, and I am more eager to make an impact.***

I met people who just like me, are ready to take on the world in our youth, and made amazing friends who know it is time to start making a difference in our communities. Finally, I use this medium to thank all those who made this conference possible; my only obligation now is to give back and encourage everyone to become a part of something extraordinary.

**Oluwafoyinsayemi Senbanjo**



## **New opportunity- Florence Simmons Global Experience Scholarship**

The IRO is extremely excited to announce the **Florence Simmons Global Experience Scholarship!**

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to students who have applied and been accepted to participate in a minimum of one full academic semester abroad through the UPEI International Relations Office (IRO), and who have demonstrated an academic average of 75% or greater in all courses to date.

This is the first of its kind in the IRO and we are thrilled to be able to promote such a wonderful gift to our students. This scholarship will help offset the costs of an academic semester abroad.

***The International Exchange deadline for the January semester will be September 1st, 2016.***

## **Congratulations- Jultwahnique!**

In the evolutionary ecology lab at UPEI, we ask questions about how plants interact with their environments, and try to understand some of the genetic factors associated with these interactions. For example, we might ask how warm and sunny climates affect plant growth and reproduction compared to cool environments, and how one species could be adapted to both environments. Because plants (and animals) do not recognize international boundaries, in order to address these questions our research must transcend the borders that often separate us. This means that we sample plants from the many places they grow, and we must collaborate with researchers who know the plant in the various climates we are interested in.

For the past two years, our lab has participated in an international research effort where undergraduate students design and run research that contributes to our knowledge of genotype by environment interactions.

UPEI is the only Canadian institution involved in this research (13 institutions in total), and in our case we have been fortunate to also have a UPEI international student, Jultwahnique McDonald (Bahamas) involved in the work.

Jultwahnique recently presented some of our work at a conference in St. John's, NL and was surprisingly one of the few undergraduate students at the conference!

Way to go, Jultwahnique! In her own words (below), Jultwahnique describes some of this experience and the impact it has had on her.

I have been working in Dr. Karen Samis' lab since 2014, first as a volunteer, then as a research assistant. Over the past two years, I have worked with several students who helped introduce me not only to research, but also to plant genetics research. It has been so inspiring to see how these students exude absolute excitement about their work - with plants!

Before volunteering in the lab, my main goal was to attend medical school. Now, because of the exposure afforded to me, my choice of post-undergraduate education is ecological research.

**UPEI IS THE ONLY  
CANADIAN  
INSTITUTION  
INVOLVED IN THIS  
RESEARCH**

working with my lab mates and Karen, I have become savvy in the practices of proper research, but have also learned that it takes a lot of patience! I have made a few international friends, and have even participated in cross-border lab meetings discussing plant genetics with other students and faculty involved in the research. I wouldn't have guessed this when I first came to UPEI, but thanks to my involvement with this project, I now regularly find myself posting pictures of my cute plants on social media. Because this program allows for such hands-on exposure to research, I hope that it continues at UPEI."

Regards,

**Jultwahnique McDonald**

## Are you interested in making a difference at UPEI?

If so, the International Relations Office wants to hear from you. IRO staff members are very excited to announce the formation of our first ever **IRO Social Advisory Group**. The group meets on a regular basis to provide suggestions and feedback to staff. Sound like something that you would like to be involved with?

Contact Richelle Greathouse [rgreathouse@upei.ca](mailto:rgreathouse@upei.ca)



## Welcome to the IRO Jialin Zhao-

**Jialin (Jenny) is the 2016 recipient of the MacLauchlan McIntosh Postgraduate Fellowship**

The MacLauchlan McIntosh Postgraduate fellowship is sponsored by former UPEI President, Mr. Wade MacLauchlan and his partner Mr. Duncan McIntosh. Each year the fellowship is awarded to a UPEI international student who graduates in May with an undergraduate degree. The applicant is placed with a matched non-profit agency, or educational institution for a period of not less than six months, and not more than one year. The position will vary from year to year. This year the fellowship recipient will be assisting the Provincial/UPEI International Students Employers Liaison.

"Around the time that I graduated, I heard about the fellowship from the International Relations Office. At that time, I was looking for a job and it was not easy for an international graduate who did not have work experience to find a full-time job. Luckily, the fellowship gave me the opportunity for full-time work experience.

Working at the International Relations Office is a great place to start my career. The members of the staff are so professional and helpful to international students. They create a respectful and warm environment for everyone. I can enhance my learning experience by using the skills and education that I received at UPEI to my work. Some of my key duties will be facilitating connections between Island employers and international students; assisting in the services, counseling and coaching international students in relation to their transition to the PEI workforce; and promoting international students to local employers."

## UPEI Graduates

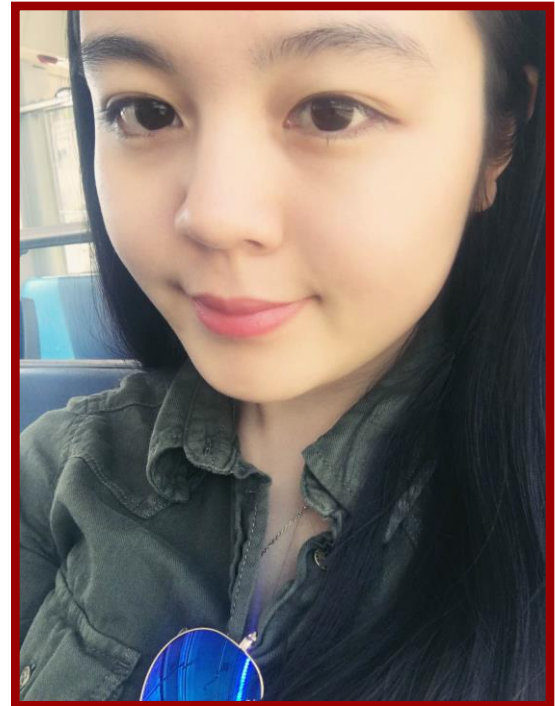


My name is Peng Peng, I am an international student from China; I graduated from the MED program in May 2016. Like all of the other students, I came to the university with a dream; but I needed to try very hard to live and study in a foreign country. However, the most wonderful part is that I always got help when I needed it in this beautiful university.

**UPEI not only educated me, but it also showed me what leadership and entrepreneurial spirit are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

I successfully found a career at a software company, EasyPEI Software Inc., when I graduated. My team and I have worked very hard to develop our first mobile App, EzCity. It is a free App where a user can search for local information in his or her preferred language, and it can really help make international students' lives easier. It is what I learned at UPEI – you have help when you need it, and you offer your help when other people need it.

Hi everyone, my name is **Yoyo**. I am a UPEI panther! I acquired a Master of Education degree from UPEI a few months ago and I am still appreciating this wonderful educational experience. East coast, Education, UPEI etc., it all becomes a label on me that I am proudly carrying for life. After graduation I moved to Calgary, Alberta and I am now working as a Staff Coordinator at a local immigration firm. I always miss my professors and friends at Charlottetown. Wish you all best!



On May 7, the University of Prince Edward Island conferred degrees, diplomas, and certificates to more than 940 graduates as part of Convocation 2016. This cohort includes the first international graduates—23 in total—from the new global perspectives cohort

## New Markets-

Our international recruiters have been busy

As a result of intensive international recruitment activities and strategic planning by the International Relations Office, there is a significant increase of international applications for the 2016-17 academic year. Applications from high schools have doubled last year's number, and we are in the process of securing the conversion of the applications to actual registered students. Top source countries of international applications include Nigeria, China, Ghana, Bangladesh, the Caribbean region/countries, and the US. We also have a healthy number of applications from Mauritius, which is a brand new market for UPEI, but with strategic partnerships and planning, we are seeing a great return on our efforts. South America, Southeast Asia and India are other emerging markets for us, and we are planning recruitment activities to these regions. China is still the largest source of

international students for UPEI, as in cases of most Canadian universities, but competition is intense in China, and we have to diversify our strategy of recruitment in China. We are developing more short term, long term, and faculty exchange partnerships with strong Chinese partners, and we hope to continue the strong momentum and brand recognition in China. Japan is a market for more short-term programs, so is Korea. **Jerry Wang**



### **Fablab samples are always popular when our recruiters attend education fairs**

Our recruitment and admissions team is already seeing a lot of interest in and excitement about UPEI's new Sustainable Design Engineering program.



Freya is on air in Mauritius with other recruiters from all over the world and she is promoting UPEI.



On her way to Mauritius Freya stops to see the largest mosque in Abu Dhabi.

### **Mary-Jane (MJ) On a recruiting trip to India**



## Visiting Lecturer and UPEI Ambassador

Andrew Carrothers



In conjunction with UPEI's International Relations Office, I had the good fortune in May of 2016 to be a visiting lecturer and UPEI ambassador at two of our highly regarded partner universities in China. Sichuan University has three beautiful campuses in the famous cultural and historic city of Chengdu, in the Sichuan province. It is one of China's key comprehensive research universities under the direct supervision of Ministry of Education, and offers programs in humanities, science, engineering, medicine, economy, management, law, history, philosophy, agriculture and education. The student body includes over 40,000 undergraduate and 20,000 graduate students. Chang'an University has five campuses and is located in the beautiful historical city of Xi'an, in the Shaanxi province. Xi'an (Western Peace), formerly Chang'an (Perpetual Peace), was the capital city for ten ancient imperial dynasties. The famous Bell Tower and Drum Tower reside inside the walls of the stunning "old city". Chang'an University is a comprehensive and influential institution of higher education known for its programs in

engineering, management, economics, and humanities. The current student body exceeds 31,000, including 9,000 graduate students. In addition to informal meetings with students, faculty, and staff, I had the opportunity to lecture on international business (with a focus on multinational tax strategies), and to present original research results on my corporate governance work on shareholder activism. During my visit, I was very impressed by the tremendous level of hospitality and engagement. Everyone I encountered was very welcoming and passionate about opportunities to further relationships with UPEI. The students were particularly interested in the "two-plus-two" program that UPEI has in place with both partners. Students accepted into this prestigious program complete their first two years at the "home" university in China, and then travel to Charlottetown for their final two years of undergraduate study. When they complete the program, students graduate with degrees from both the University of Prince Edward Island and their home institution. The program provides a great opportunity to hone English language skills, to experience a new culture, and to better prepare for graduate studies at a Western university.

My hosts were very generous in taking the time to introduce me to some of the fascinating aspects of their cities. In addition to enjoying the exceptional local cuisines, I was treated to an "insiders" look at the famous Terra Cotta Warriors and the Imperial Palace at the Huaqing Hot Springs near Xi'an, and the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

Everyone I encountered was very welcoming and passionate about opportunities to further relationships with UPEI.



**English Academic  
Preparation Program  
(EAP) sees huge growth  
in summer language  
school visitors**

**By the EAP Team**

This summer, the EAP Program continues to welcome international high school and university students for short-term language programs. These programs help support the university's international reputation, aid in international recruitment efforts and raise the revenue profile. The groups attend English language classes in the mornings, taught by our EAP instructors and participate in fun and educational socio-cultural activities in the afternoons in and around PEI. They live with families from the UPEI Homestay Program. This summer we expanded our summer language program from three groups to five. The following groups have been or will be on campus this summer:

**St. Hilda's High School** – This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> summer that we've hosted students from this prestigious Anglican girls private high school from Tokyo, Japan.



**Dankook University** – This is the 6<sup>th</sup> time that students from our partner university have visited. They have experienced PEI in the summer and the winter.

**Tsukuba University** – This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> summer that we will host students from another partner university in Japan.

**Meiji Gauken University** – This is the first summer that we will host 10 students from the Economics department at Meiji Gauken University, Tokyo, Japan. These students will arrive mid-August for a 2 week introductory program and then attend EAP classes in the fall.



**Tsukuba High School at Otsuka** – This is the first time that we will be hosting 16 students from Otsuka, Japan.

**This school has been selected by Japan's Ministry of Education to participate in the very prestigious "Super Global High School "Program.**

These students will attend classes and activities for 2 weeks in August and study 2 very interesting subjects: Immigration trends in PEI and Coastal Erosion. Students will also have the opportunity to attend guest lectures with our very own UPEI Faculty: Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino, Dr. Adam Fenech, and Dr. Jim Randall.

The EAP Program is looking forward to welcoming new students into the both the EAP program and our Graduate EAP program (G-EAP).

With the increase in international applications, we are excited to see our numbers grow!

The EAP team: Joy, Christine, Amy and Cathy



Fallon Mawhinney, one of our new student assistants, helped make it all possible.



Good luck to our long-time volunteer Drew MacEachern- he's off to **Japan!**  
**We'll miss you**

## We love summer at UPEI. Our IRO team has been busy both on and off campus



In July Richelle and Foyin promoted UPEI at the PEI DiverCity Festival



On May 6th, the International Relations Office hosted a board games and movie night in partnership with Student Life. Approximately twenty people were in attendance, taking part in games such as Jenga, Uno, Twister, and Munchkins.



On June 15, the Muslim Student Association of Prince Edward Island hosted an **iftar** dinner for the UPEI student population. The dinner, completely free for students, was a huge success with about ninety attendants in total.



On May 12, the IRO hosted the first event in a series of events aimed to help EAP (English Academic Prep) students improve their English, and to promote new friendships between international and domestic students. The event began at UPEI, where the group took the bus downtown to the Kettle Black. The attendance was overwhelming! Almost forty students, student assistants and friends crowded into the Kettle Black for coffee and sweets.

## International Buddy Program

September is fast approaching and we have **60 students** signed up to be a “Buddy” to new incoming students!

A special thanks to our new **Buddy Program** organizer Hammad (pictured left/ centre). Hammad has a fantastic group of volunteers trained for the new school year.

If you would like to find out more about our Buddy Program, contact Hammad at [buddy@upei.ca](mailto:buddy@upei.ca)

You can also visit our new Buddy Program website <http://projects.upei.ca/buddyprogram/>. You can download our new handbook and fill out a registration form.

