



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

International Relations Office Newsletter December 2016

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Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the International Relations Office (IRO) Newsletter. Our newsletter will be distributed electronically three times a year. If you would like to make a submission to the spring issue, please contact Richelle Greathouse rgreathouse@upei.ca at any time.

We hope that you enjoy our **December issue.**



Fall 2016 ISO

Our Largest Cohort of International Students to Date:

The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) was thrilled to have such a large turnout for our fall 2016 international student orientation.

This year, over a hundred and fifty new students joined the UPEI International Relations Office (IRO) family. Students came from all over the world; some of the top countries of origin included China, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran, South Korea, Brazil, Rwanda, Japan, Taiwan and new this year Mauritius!

We love how our intimate campus culture has changed over the last few years. Each student brings so much to our small island; international students enrich our campus culture and help shape our future. This fall, our international student population reached 938 people! This represents over 20% of the total student body. In fact, "PEI has had the highest growth rate of international students since 2008" CBIE 2015



Are you interested in going
on an international
exchange?
Speak with our coordinator, Sherilyn Acorn
sdacorn@upei.ca

Dr. Barbara Campbell
(Pictured above)
speaks to the Emerging
Leaders of the Americas
(ELAP) delegation at a
reception at the **AVC**

Emerging Leaders of the Americas Program:

The IRO held a very successful networking event at the AVC on November 8th, with 17 delegates representing universities and colleges from Latin America. Several MOUs were signed a week later at CBIE 2016.



Global Experience:

During the 2017 spring semester, UPEI will have 14 students out on exchange to nine partner schools. We will also have 11 Nursing students in four countries taking part in their international clinical placement, and 23 students conducting their education practicum in six countries. We will welcome nine new students to campus for exchange from seven partner schools, while 11 will remain with us from the fall semester.



Sarah Thompson
Killam Fellow
Attending Clemson State
University in spring 2017

This fellowship is offered through Fullbright Canada and is a very prestigious award. We are very proud of Sarah to have received it and know she will represent UPEI well!
Sherilyn Acorn, sdacorn@upei.ca

New Partnerships
Cyraro Ruiz Cabarrus, President, Universidad Da Vinci de Guatemala (Pictured above-centre)
Three MOUs were signed by Dr. Alaa Abd-El- Aziz at the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) Annual Conference in Ottawa. (Galen University, Belize; Universidad da Vinci de Guatemala, Guatemala; Intec Institut de Formation Technique et Professionnelle, Haiti)
Other recent MOUs include: University of the Highlands and Islands, United Kingdom; Hubei University of Arts & Science, China; Technical University of Munich, Germany

WELCOME HOPE

The International Relations office is happy to welcome Hope Klein to the team.

Hope joined the office as the International Student Employer Liaison Officer

The Graduate Networking Program

- Be paired with an international mentor
- Receive first hand advice on exiting university and landing a position in your field
- Create positive relationships and networks with individuals in your industry

*This program will serve 3rd and 4th year students, as well as recent graduates of all majors and programs

Career Exploration Program

- Job shadow an individual in your industry of interest for 30hrs
- Gain knowledge of the Canadian workforce
- Explore different job possibilities and responsibilities in your field

*This program will serve all UPEI international students
These are both great opportunities to help acquire employment after graduation - for more information and to sign up, spaces will fill quickly! Contact Hope Klein.
If you are a UPEI graduate and you are interested in supporting or mentoring fourth year, and newly graduated international students please let us know.



WAYS TO ENRICH YOUR RESUME

The IRO has a new team in employment services. International Student Employer Liaison Officers have been providing students with employment counseling services this fall and will continue into the new-year.

In January there will also be two new exciting programs available to international students to help enrich their resumes. For more information about how our employment liaison officers can help you please contact:

Hope Klein

International Student
Employer Liaison Officer
heklein@upei.ca

902-566-0574

Robertson Library –
Room 234

Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) 50th Anniversary Conference

International student adviser, Richelle Greathouse, and academic coach Ashley Clark were honoured to be among the guest speakers at this year's CBIE conference. Their presentation, "No Small Potatoes: the internationalization of Canada's smallest province" highlighted how the significant growth of international students at UPEI has changed the campus culture.



Minister John McCallum was one of the guest speakers at the CBIE annual conference in Ottawa. He was on hand to announce new changes to Canada's Express Entry system for permanent resident (PR) applications. The new changes make it easier for graduates of Canadian post-secondary schools to qualify for PR.

UPEI's president and vice-chancellor, Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, was the recipient of the CBIE President's Award for Distinguished Leadership in International Education. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz was one of eleven recipients of the 2016 Excellence Award winners; these awards are given annually to "CBIE members and colleagues who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the ideals of international education... and whose contributions pave the way for our collective internationalization goals," said Karen McBride, President and CEO of CBIE.

CBIE 2016 Highlights



Faculty of Education

Trip to China

Dr. Jane P. Preston

Chengdu, China



From September 17 to 27, 2016, Ms. Ashley Clark and Dr. Jane Preston (UPEI, Faculty of Education) traveled to Chengdu, China. The purpose of the trip was to embellish relationships between the UPEI Faculty of Education and Sichuan Normal University and Chengdu University.

The trip was fabulous! In addition to meeting with Deans, Assistant Deans, faculty, and staff at these two universities, Dr. Preston delivered six presentations/workshops. For the first two presentations, Dr. Preston spoke about her research on Indigenous education and decolonization in Canada. She did two presentations relaying information about Canadian and international academic conferences and peer-reviewed publications. She also led two workshops for Bachelor of Education undergraduate students and university instructors on the topic of teaching methods that encourage student-focused learning.

One of the many positive outcomes of the trip was the agreement for Ms. Anhui (Ann) Wang

(Lecturer, Faculty of Education Science Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu) to come to the UPEI, Faculty of Education as a visiting scholar. Ms. Wang will be arriving in January 2017.

During her time at UPEI, she will be doing co-research with Dr. Preston about the experiences of international students in the UPEI, Master's of Education Global Perspectives cohort.

In closing, Dr. Preston would like to thank the UPEI, International Office and their *Prospect Funding Grant*, which made this amazingly productive trip to China a reality.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Conference

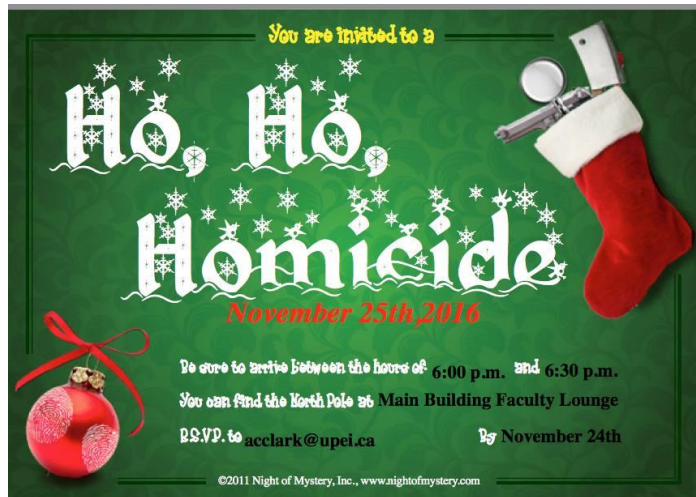
In the spring of 2017, the Faculty of Education will be hosting ***Bringing User Experience to Education: UDL and Inclusion for the 21st century***, the second Pan-Canadian conference on UDL. The conference is an opportunity for practitioners in different sectors from across the country to come together, exchange on UDL practices, and share their vision for the future. The conference hopes to offer a multi-faceted overview of current Canadian initiatives, as well as encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, through five streams: K-12; post-secondary; Student Services and Student Affairs; Instructional Designers; and Learners.

The conference will open on Wed May 31st in the evening with a Keynote and a short reception. Break-out sessions will take place throughout Thursday June 1st and Friday June 2nd. The conference will close on Friday afternoon with a Group Keynote from 3 to 4.15 pm, featuring a 'What Next?' presentation from a speaker from each stream.

The cost of registration will be \$250 for the full conference, and a limited number of one day registrations will be on offer at the cost of \$150. A detailed call for submission will be released on Monday January 9th, 2017. If you have

questions in the meantime about the Call for Submissions process, do not hesitate to contact Frederic Fovet at ffovet@upei.ca

Murder Mystery – Ho Ho Homicide



Education) in order to cover a toy manufacturing conspiracy!



Dean of Education (seated) Ron MacDonald,

Congratulations to those sleuths who uncovered the truth, as well as our award winners Alyssa Liang (Best Dressed), Catherine McAleer (Best Performance), and Sarah Muthee (Most Money)!

On Friday, November 25th, **the Faculty of Education** put on its second annual Night of Mystery murder mystery party that brought together staff, faculty and international students for a 'night of North Pole naughtiness!

More than 40 people attended a shindig hosted by Santa Claus himself, to discover that Jangle the Elf (Cory Mugridge) had killed Jingle the Head Elf (Dr. Ron MacDonald, Dean of



Reindeer, Alyssa Liang, won Best Dressed



Unity Project

I feel it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to imagine that most of us feel that poverty and the subjection of women are significant societal barriers to progress and equality. In spite of this shared feeling, it's difficult to know how to confront issues in our society and how to help overcome them.

Our initiative, called the Unity Project, is one that works with a rural women's village in Kenya called Unity. There are about 20 women who live in the village, along with their children. Unity was founded in 2011 by this group of women, many of whom have been victims of domestic abuse and cruel violence. For them, Unity acted as a refuge where they would be free to pursue the craft and sale of their beaded jewelry and other souvenir goods.

We members of the Unity Project hope to empower the women through education programs. In a general literacy program five students are learning how to read, write and speak in English and Swahili. (Their names are Alice, Ntipayon, Nchekiyo, Senteyo and Dorcas.) In the more advanced digital literacy program, two students are learning how to use a computer and its basic programs. (In turn, their names are Serewana and Gladys.) We work exclusively with qualified local teachers in Kenya to provide these education programs.

Every weekend, we have a Skype call with the women to hear about the progress of their lessons, to learn more about them as people, (and for them to learn about us!) and to make our plans for the future. Right now, the women's children are on vacation from school until January, and so the women are also taking a break from their lessons to take care of their children.

With this in mind, our project is hoping to establish itself on campus, and to engage the UPEI community! We'd love to hear from students, faculty, anyone, who has questions about the project. If you're interested in joining us, we'd be happy to include you on our team! We work with many groups on campus, and you'd be sure to gain valuable experience from your time with us. Furthermore, we are involved in many engaging initiatives in the community, which would prove a great opportunity to meet new people and to have fun!

If you would like to contact our group, our email address is unityprojectupe@gmail.com. I hope we hear from you!

Nick Scott,

Project Manager for the Unity Project

Engineers Without Borders

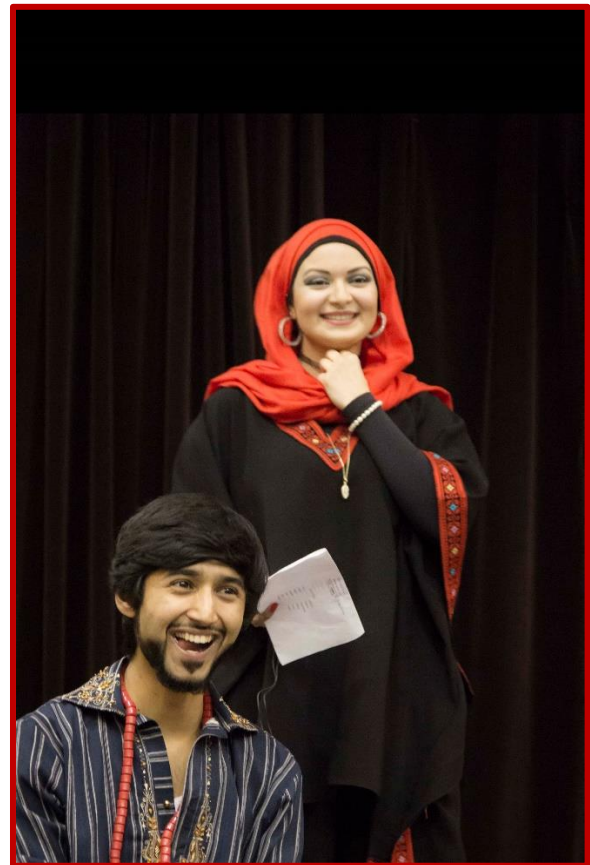


Engineers Without Borders creates change by supporting social innovations in Canada and Africa that can break the systems that sustain

poverty. We promote policies to foster more equitable development.

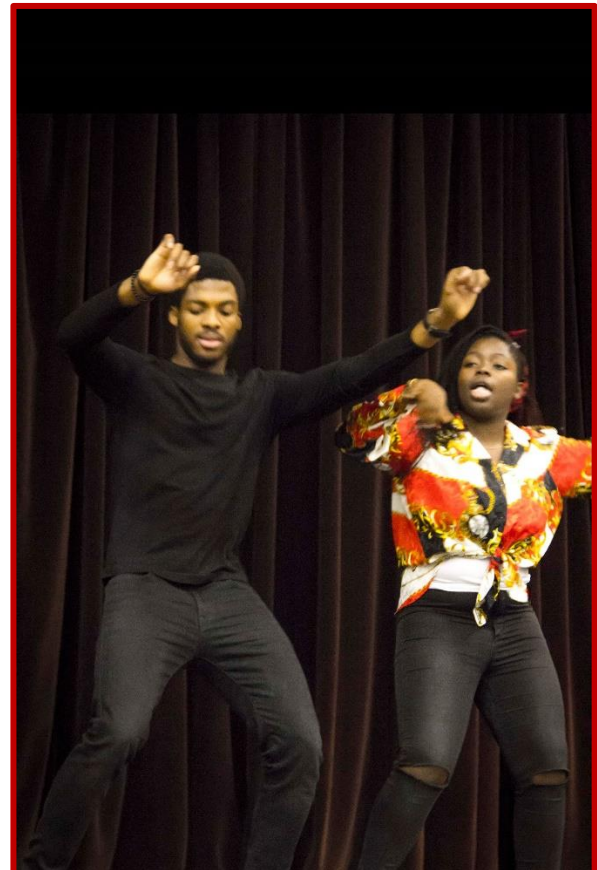
Our Community is made up of students and professionals who apply our leadership model, Systems Change Leadership, to tackle these issues. Leaders engage with EWB through 40 Canadian chapters, six distributed teams, four Fellowship programs, and 13 ventures. At UPEI, we want to utilize our knowledge in sustainable design engineering to develop innovations and ideas to support change in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our goal is to invest in student leaders through member learns, conferences, and fellowships so they feel equipment in their efforts to eradicate global poverty.

Laura Mohan
EWB UPEI President
lmohan@upei.ca
[\(902\)-388-0049](tel:(902)-388-0049)



SIS Global Village fall 2016

In November the Society of International Students (SIS) hosted a Global Village, talent show and after party for UPEI International and domestic students



UPEI leads research/training effort- better food security/nutrition for Kenyan farmers

In 2015, UPEI was awarded \$500,000 from the new Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program for a trans-disciplinary project that aims to improve the nutrition, food security, and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in central Kenya. The 4-year project is called "Integrating Innovative Research & Training Methods for Improved Sustainable Livelihoods of Smallholder Dairy Farms". The integrated activities include field-based training, teaching of evidence-based best practices, and engaging partners in participatory research methods.

For the project, UPEI partners with a PEI-based NGO called Farmers Helping Farmers (FHF) and three Kenyan institutions – Kenyatta University and University of Nairobi (both in Nairobi), and Naari Dairy Cooperative Society, a group of dairy farmers north of Meru, Kenya. Over the 4 years, 8 Canadian veterinary student interns and 6 Canadian nutrition student interns will spend their summers developing and delivering training programs in dairy cattle health management and family nutrition for farms, schools and women's groups in the Naari area. Training methods will include face-to-face seminars, demonstrations and train-the-trainer. Since nearly all households in Kenya now have a cell phone, these traditional forms of communication will be augmented by cell-phone transmission of biweekly information summaries and advice.

Also part of the project, 6 Kenyans with undergraduate degrees will receive scholarships through the project to take graduate courses at UPEI, conduct research in Kenya, return to UPEI to write and defend their graduate degree theses, and then return to Kenya to conduct further research in Kenya and train Kenyans

within their universities. One MEd scholar (Grace Wanjohi) will investigate pedagogical challenges and benefits of the cell-phone-based enhancements to the traditional training methodologies. Two Kenyan scholars in nutrition (MSc – Sarah Muthee) and veterinary medicine (PhD –Dennis Makau) will conduct research on drought-tolerant crops for human food and cattle feed appropriate for the climatic extremes expected. Two Kenyan scholars will evaluate advanced methods of improving dairy cattle reproduction (PhD – Joan Muraya) and cow welfare (MSc – Emily Kathambi) in the Naari context. One Kenyan MSc scholar (Anne Shileche) will conduct a formal evaluation of the impacts/challenges of the integrated trans-disciplinary scholar/intern projects.

The UPEI student interns will support the Kenyan grad students with their research, and the Kenyan grad students will provide support for the UPEI student efforts toward training farmers, women's groups and school children.

In Kenya, productive dairy farms reduce poverty and can improve nutrition. Farm families in Naari want training on evidence-based best management practices for cattle health management, family nutrition, and crop risk mitigation in the face of climate change. However, access to information appropriate to the context in these areas is limited. This project addresses the problems and the demonstrated need.

Project emphasis will be on practical training and research for both the Kenyan and Canadian students. Working directly with the Naari farmers will help UPEI students understand small-scale dairying and cropping, and addressing nutritional challenges. Conversely, working with Canadian farmers and community members will help Kenyan graduate students: 1) to understand Canadian agriculture, nutrition, and society; and 2) to develop methods for

applying what they have learned from their academic and life experiences to opportunities

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) is managed through a unique partnership of Universities Canada, the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF), Community Foundations of Canada

for training and research in the future. For more information, email jvanleeuwen@upei.ca.

English Academic Preparation (EAP)



Graduate EAP Student Visit to Stonepark Intermediate

On the Student Development Day (November 10th), the Graduate EAP group visited Stonepark Intermediate to observe how a Canadian middle school works. The day consisted of an assembly, four classes, and a brief meeting with the principal, Norman Beck.

The morning began with the school's annual Remembrance Day assembly. In addition to the wreath-laying by the cadets and the traditional two-minute silence, the students and teachers were given a presentation by a guest speaker representing the Canadian Armed Forces, enjoyed some music played by the Grade 9 Band, and saw a slide show featuring emotive messages about the meaning of peace. Afterwards, when classes started, the GEAP

students got to see four different lessons: Grade 9 Language Arts (English), Grade 9 Science, Grade 8 Band, and Grade 7 Late French Immersion.

Both the Language Arts and Science classes were more traditional in their approach. While there was positive interaction between the students and the teacher, this was more formal and disciplined. In contrast, the Band and French Immersion classes were more creative and provided more freedom for the teachers and students alike. The Band class involved a lot of collaboration and a team effort, but at the same time the teacher was fully aware of each student's needs and offered individual support, helping the team work together.

The French Immersion class was perhaps the most fascinating experience of the day. The teacher was clearly energetic and passionate with diverse and dynamic teaching methods and the students were fully engaged in this lesson. To illustrate, the teacher used a game to get the students to practise vocabulary and sentences, and instant feedback was provided through a Google spreadsheet adding up the students' scores. The classroom management techniques used by the teacher enabled him to control the group but he was also quick to offer praise. Overall, this teacher demonstrated how students can benefit from a hands-on approach in education and 'learn by doing'.

The GEAP group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to thank **Stonepark Intermediate**, all the teachers whose classes they observed, as well as Rick Schneider and Jo Schneider, the GEAP instructors who helped to organize the day.

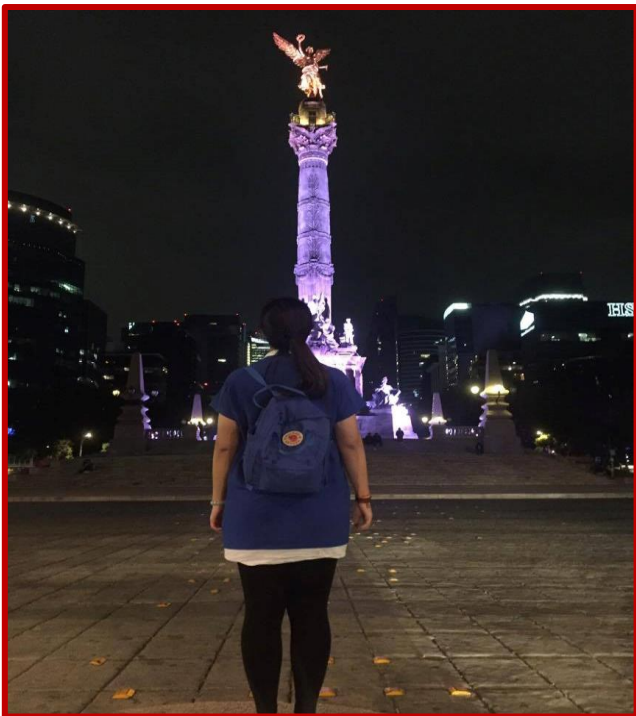
Written and edited by:

Chen Caiwei, Chen Peng, Zhuyangchen Huang, Peng Siwei, Zhang Lu and Jo Schneider

Our Recruitment Team Rocks!



Japan



Mexico City

Our UPEI International Recruiters
have been all over the world!

Here are just a few pictures of their
Journeys



Maple Leaf school in China

Caribbean and Americas



Brazil

Mexico

Nassau, Bahamas

Turks and Caicos

Jamaica

United States



Upcoming Events

Friday Film Club – Cultural Context for Critical Pedagogy!

For many international students, understanding the cultural context of their studies is the most difficult part of the degree. Critical Pedagogy is teaching that seeks to empower marginalized students – a complicated and nuanced topic, made more complex in a new culture!

Every Friday afternoon in the 2017 Winter Semester, the Faculty of Education will be screening films that showcase the structures, tensions, culture, and conventions of North American educational systems. Join us for a slew of blockbuster movies like *Dangerous Minds* (1995), *Dead Poets Society* (1989), *Stand and Deliver* (1998), *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* (1993), *School of Rock* (2003), *Waiting for Superman* (2010), and many other Hollywood staples that look at teaching, learning, school relationships, and more. The movies will be followed by a discussion circle in which plot, themes, and other questions can be examined!

Join us in **MH 417 at 1:00pm every Friday** from Jan 13th – April 7th, 2017 for movies, munchies, and musings!



Will you be in PEI for the holiday break?

You are cordially invited to celebrate the holiday season with a casual, traditional Christmas dinner hosted by Inge Dorsey & Rob Kelley, UPEI alumni and organized and coordinated through the generosity of other UPEI staff and faculty members. Please join us for a traditional turkey dinner and some holiday activities. Santa said he would drop by!

What: Traditional Turkey Dinner & Holiday Party for UPEI International Students

Where: UPEI Chaplaincy Centre

When: Thursday, December 22, 2016 1:30-4:00 pm, dinner served at 3:00pm
1:30pm - Christmas tree decorating; cookie decorating; holiday sing along, games
2:30pm - Table setting and decorating
3:00pm - Dinner is served
3:30pm - Santa arrives with presents

RSVP: Richelle Greathouse by Tuesday, December 20 at 12noon. I will also have a sign-up sheet at the front desk of the IRO.