



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

Contents:

- Welcome
- New 2017 Guide
- UPEI Abroad
- New Opportunities
- We Love to Sing
- Hellos and Goodbyes
- Multidisciplinary project in Kenya
- Graduates
- New Markets
- Events and Celebrations

Office of Recruitment and International Relations

June 2017 Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the June 2017 edition of our newsletter. Big news-we have a new name and mandate; we are now known as the Office of Recruitment and International Relations. It is an exciting time in the office and we have many new faces to introduce you to.

New Guide Available

Are you looking for information on UPEI admissions, immigration, housing options and social activities? Our new 2017 Student Guide is now available.

UPEI Abroad

Learning Irish in Ireland

UPEI Students Erin Rowan and Lindsay MacGregor will head to Ireland in July for four weeks to study the Irish language and culture at the National University of Ireland in Galway. The university is located in An Cheathru Rua, which is in the Connemara region of Ireland. This exciting project has been made possible with financial support from the Ireland Canada University Fund (ICUF) and the Benevolent Irish Society (BIS).

Prospecting Fund

The UPEI RIRO is committed to helping faculty and staff strengthen existing partnerships and creating new partnerships around the world. The Prospecting Fund is available on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Visit our webpage for more information on requirements and eligibility. <http://www.upei.ca/iro/prospecting-fund>



Sherilyn Acorn

is the staff member responsible for all incoming and outgoing exchange students.

International Exchange and Co-operative Education Partner UP!

This new partnership will increase opportunities for students to learn and work internationally. As part of the pilot project, three Business Co-op students and one Physics Co-op student are spending the spring semester at UPEI's partner school, Furtwangen University for a semester. We hope to then secure them an internship with a German company as part of their Co-op Education program. Opportunities like this can help students build confidence, independence, and enhance critical thinking and communication skills. We believe this pairing will allow students time to adjust and enjoy the new culture prior to entering the workplace.

Are you interested in going on an international exchange?

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

Nicaragua Bound:

Former UPEI Student, Rhyanne Beatty is heading to Nicaragua to work as a communications advisor to CUSO International. Rhyanne's passion for international experiences started when she spent a semester at UPEI's partner school, Universidad de Colima in Colima Mexico. She excelled in Mexico and upon returning to Canada, she signed up for a project in Chile, which took her to Chiloe, Chile where she worked with the Wekimum School Project; a collaboration between UPEI and the Williche Council of Chiefs of Chiloe to help improve the quality of life of Williche indigenous youth of the Los Lagos region of Chile. These experiences



are what takes Rhyanne back to Latin America. When in Nicaragua with CUSO International, she will be working with an organization that supports women entrepreneurs to create a website and other social media outlets with the goal of increasing the visibility of the organization, and in turn funding and support for CUSO.

Rhyanne Beatty

(Above) speaks to CBC radio about her upcoming trip to

Nicaragua

We're So Proud of You Foyin! (Again)

UPEI International student encourages others to be willing to make mistakes

Well maybe we are a bit biased, but our former student assistant Foyin, gave an absolutely inspiring valedictory address at the 2017 morning convocation.

Foyin's heartfelt, honest and humble speech brought tears to the eyes of more than one audience member. This young woman who arrived at the University of Prince Edward Island when she was only sixteen years-old, has impacted the lives of many students over the course of her time at UPEI.

Her advice to students:

Be active and involved in your community. Be impactful, and be willing to serve.

Oluwafoyinsayemi Senbanjo



Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria

Leadership Roles: President of the African Society, International Student Representative of the Business Society, volunteer for the CRA income tax clinic, and student assistant for the UPEI international admissions team.



New Opportunity- Florence Simmons Global Experience Scholarship

The ORIR 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 Office of Recruitment and International Relations, and who have demonstrated an academic average of 75% or greater in all courses to date.

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 deadline for the September semester will be August 14th, 2017.

We Love to Sing!

The UPEI Multicultural song circle consists of a group of students who share their culture, language and country folk music with other students. Currently we have around 12 to 15 members; our group consists of community members plus international and domestic students. We practice and have fun in the basement of the Robertson Library, which is also the Airs' lab, every Wednesday from 4.30 to 5.30. This is one hour - full of guaranteed fun!

Music is something really marvelous and being part of that moment makes everyone in our group really happy. Learning a different language through a song is really endearing to every member of our song circle and we can all now proudly sing Spanish, Filipino, Mauritian, French, Nigerian and Cantonese songs. We all feel really enriched from knowing the cultural differences between us, but at the same time we respect and feel one as the music binds us into one. The choir is very de-stressing, it is fun and it enables you to learn many things about people from other countries. It will surely leave you

amazed about the diverse cultures, countries and people that we have in this small world.

If you are a first year student it is a great place to make friends. We are very welcoming and ensure that we make everyone feel at ease. If you are a singer it the perfect place to practice and improve your singing skills. The song circle is open to non – singers also. You don't have to be an amazing singer to participate and we have people to help if you have any difficulty. Plus, we also listen to songs on YouTube and try to learn them, which make it less difficult. One of the best parts of the song circle occurs at the end of each session; that is when we have a 'musical chair' which everyone plays while Tony plays music on his guitar. Sometimes we also have refreshments, yummy pizza, delicious brownies and refreshing drinks!

However, most importantly, the Multicultural Choir is a project itself - the Airs' Project is under the supervision of Anabel Cohen; Professor of Psychology at UPEI. Dr. Cohen is the director of the project. This research project aims to discover ways to

UPEI' Multicultural Choir is a great place for first year students to make new friends

establish a flourishing choir on other campuses. We have lots of activities planned for the choir and one of our most successful events to date was the "Mauritian Night". During this event, the Mauritian culture, food, music, dance and clothing was explored. In the new year we hope to organize more events like that; we want people to get to know each other and also to raise awareness of our song circle.

Our Goal

Our mission is to have as many members as possible and become a one big group as beauty lies in diversity. We are sure that you won't regret joining our fun choir. As an amazing group we can perform in many places, and be an emblem for other university campuses.

If you are interested in our song circle please email me at Kgopaul@upeil.ca

Khousmita Gopaul



Goodbye Nouhad- We Will Miss You!

Long-time student assistant Nouhad Mourad has moved on to new adventures. Before she left she posted a departing message on Facebook. I have included an excerpt of her post.

Hi Friends,

I wanted to share a bit of personal news with you- tomorrow will be my last day in the International Relations Office as I will begin a new position with Stanley Immigration Consulting next week. I have been working at the IRO for the past three years and have been very grateful for the opportunity to meet, work and share with so many of you. My favorite part of this position has always been my interactions with fellow students- whether meeting you at the office, on campus or working with you in one capacity or another. Some of my favorites have been working on collaborative student-led committees like the Global Village or Mental Health Conference committees- where I was able to work with so many of you. Working with you all has been an invaluable experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to work and learn from you. I hope you all have a great summer and school year!

Wishing you all love, light, and happiness in your future endeavor.



Welcome to the Office of Recruitment and International Relations Daniel

Daniel MacDonald joins the office as our new digital recruiter

Daniel is responsible for digital recruitment and retention which involves managing online advertising, various student-facing digital systems, and data collection analysis.

Daniel is a proud UPEI graduate who was involved as possible during his time at UPEI. He served as VP Finance of the Student Union, participated in the Co-op program, and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in first class academic standing after winning the Wanda Wyatt full tuition scholarship.

“Keeping many balls in the air” – managing a multi-disciplinary veterinary and nutrition program in Kenya – an overview for May 2017

Blog by John VanLeeuwen and Jennifer Taylor

Our recent trip to Kenya in May was our busiest QES trip to Kenya ever, with many moving parts (many people going in different directions) and eight projects on the go. One morning, we had 6 vehicles leaving from the Naari house with people involved in different parts of the overall Queen Elizabeth Scholar (QES) program. Most of our students are funded through the QES program, which provides support for six Kenyan students to attend UPEI to complete their Master's (4 students) or PhD degrees (2 students). After completing required course work in Canada over the past two years, the Kenyan graduate students, along with two veterinary and two nutrition undergraduate UPEI students, travelled to Kenya in May 2017 to provide training and resources and to collect information necessary to complete their theses. Here is an update on the QES people and projects.

- 1) Dennis Makau and Joan Muraya, Kenyan PhD students, continue monthly visits to train and conduct research on cow nutrition and cow reproduction on 100 dairy farms, respectively. With the drought that occurred last year and continued until March (good rains for the last 2 months), even farmers following recommended practices have run out of good quality stored feeds for their cows. However, the high-protein shrub seedlings that were distributed to farmers in early 2016 are doing well on most farms receiving them, helping to keep cattle protein intakes at a reasonable level. Milk collections at the Naari Dairy have remained at the 4000 L per day, despite the drought, and should go up substantially with the recent rains. Unfortunately, reproduction is the first thing to get hit with droughts, and it has

suffered during the last year, with fewer cows showing heat, being bred, and conceiving, despite efforts to enhance uterine health and ovarian cycling. Again, breeding success should improve with the recent rains as body condition scores improve with better feeding. Monthly data collection and advice on improving nutrition and reproduction should quantify on-going costs and benefits of the training and resources provided.

Photo: Joan Muraya and a high protein calliandra shrub



- 2) Emily Kathambi, a Kenyan MSc student, initiated her training and research project on cow comfort on 100 dairy farms. Emily will be going to each farm 4 times. On the first visit, Emily gets baseline information on cow comfort, including stall design features and management, and attaching accelerometers to the cows' legs for 3-5 days to get lying down times. On the second visit, she removes the accelerometers and gives specific

oral and written advice on how to improve cow comfort with low cost changes in design and management. A month later, on the third visit, she will reassess stall design features and management and re-attach accelerometers. A few days later, on the final visit, she will remove the accelerometers and address stall changes left undone. One farmer started hammering some boards while we were washing our boots which was very gratifying and demonstrates the desire these farmers have to improve their farms.

Photo: Emily Kathambi with Joan Muraya, Ren Chamberlain and Julia Kenny



- 3) Also a Kenyan MSc student, Sarah Muthee's training and research project will be assessing the impact of a combined nutrition education and agriculture intervention on food security and diet diversity. The nutrition intervention involves teaching the women key nutrition messages regarding using whole grain maize for more nutrients, more beans to increase protein, and incorporating dark green and orange vegetables into their githeri, a staple food (vegetable stew), among other messages. The agricultural interventions include water tanks and drip irrigation for home gardens, as well as

horticulture support. Sarah is interviewing 29 women in the Upendo Women's Group and will compare findings with those collected from the same women in 2016, which was within one month of the first teaching sessions. She will also assess differences between the Upendo Women's group who received the combined intervention and a comparison group (n=20) which received no intervention. In both 2016 and 2017, the "Champs" programming (training the trainers) has been implemented too much fanfare and music –

THE WOMEN CONTINUE TO AMAZE US WITH THEIR WELCOMING NATURE AND INTEREST IN IMPROVING NUTRITION FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

- 4) Grace Wanjohi (a Kenyan MEd student) has initiated a research project which builds on Sarah's project: she will assess whether sending 'booster' nutrition messages via cell phone to the women will increase their nutrition knowledge and make it more likely that they adopt recommended practices. The Upendo Women's Group will receive the usual face-to-face intervention led by the women "champs" while the Joy Women's Group (n=24) will be sent two 'reminder' messages a week for 5 weeks. Grace will have completed her pre-intervention assessments by the end of May and will start sending booster text messages in June. Her post-intervention assessments will take place in July. If this intervention is successful, cell phone messaging could spread the training to large populations rather than just the small populations reached through in-person training.

Photo: Grace Wanjohi and Ren Chamberlain on their birthday (next page)



- 5) Anne Shileche (a Kenyan MSc student) has a program evaluation project which aims to investigate the impact of this multi-disciplinary project on empowerment and civic engagement among 3 groups of women within Naari: 1) from 20 dairy farms getting cow nutrition and reproduction training and resources (Dennis and Joan's project); 2) from 20 farms belonging to members of the Upendo Women's Group who are receiving both a human nutrition and agricultural intervention (Sarah and Grace's project); and 3) from 20 farms not involved in any part of the project, as a control group. Anne has begun collecting information on the farms and will complete her data collection by the end of August.

This research is important since it will document the non-veterinary/non-nutritional impacts of the project activities for women and whether they feel more empowered and confident to improve their homes, farms and communities.

Anne is also interested in whether women extend this confidence and become more involved in civic engagement in their neighbourhoods and communities.

Photo: Anne Shileche conducting a survey



- 6) Julia Kenny and Ren Chamberlain, the 2017 veterinary interns, are helping with the veterinary projects above and they are also involved in a training and research project around silage. They are collecting information on farmers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices around making and feeding silage. FHF has been promoting and facilitating silage-making so farmers have good quality feed even during the dry season, and in this part of Kenya, it is primarily corn silage. Very few farmers were actually feeding silage currently because of the light rains during the last year prior to March 2017 (having exhausted their silage stores), and because of the good rains now (so they have lots of fresh feed to give now). However, many farms now have some silage or are making silage for the up-coming dry season. Therefore, as the summer unfolds, the interns will be able to assess silage quality and on-going feeding practices. These interns will also be providing advice to these farmers on silage making and feeding, along with other health management recommendations appropriate for the farm.

7) Mireyne MacMillan and Michaela Rowan, the 2017 nutrition interns, are working closely with Sarah and Grace on the nutrition projects above, as well as a number of other initiatives. They will tabulate information collected from all schools and will document the learnings from the "Champs" in terms of their experience, and how we can make things even more effective. They will also tabulate what the women do in terms of excess vegetables that are produced in the kitchen gardens (do they give it away or sell it to neighbours/a local market?). They will also assess whether women are growing the orange fleshy sweet potatoes which are being promoted by FHF for their good nutritional value (rich in vitamin A). The "M&Ms", as we call them, will also be involved in assessing the quality of school meals for 9 Kenyan schools that are twinned with PEI schools. They will provide detailed feedback reports to schools in an effort to improve the nutritional quality of the morning porridge (uji) and the lunch time vegetable stew (githeri) for students, such as incorporating more vegetables from the new school gardens into these student meals so that they will have more vitamins and minerals to improve growth, reduce sickness and increase academic performance.

For the first time this year, students will work with graduate students to deliver educational seminars to parents and teachers - often 100-200 at a time!

These activities will keep them busy for their summer internships. The extended drought until March 2017 had an effect on the farm gardens and school gardens as well, but again, with the recent rains, there is optimism again that these

gardens are improving. Regardless, Naari women are eager to learn and will apply this knowledge when the nutritious crops are available.

Eight projects and many hands equal one busy summer of activities in Kenya. Hopefully the project successes of the first 3 weeks continue throughout the summer.

Photo: the Team



UPEI Graduation 2017



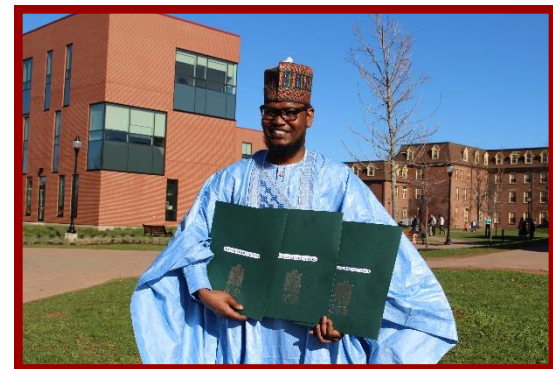
(Above) Office of Recruitment and International Relations Director Barbara Campbell, with the 2017 Valedictorian Foyin Senbanjo, and International Development Officer Cathy Gillan

We love to see our UPEI international students shine. One of our notable graduates was Ahmed Danna Adamu (Kasho Junior Ahmed). As I looked through last semester's photographs I could see pictures of Ahmed everywhere! It was fantastic to see him take part in so many activities and model this behaviour for our first year students.

The Office of Recruitment and International Relations wishes you the best of luck Ahmed, and we are looking forward to your return to campus.



Erica and Ahmed at the Graduation Party.



"My name is Ahmed Danna Adamu (Kasho Junior Ahmed), I am an International student from Nigeria, I recently graduated from University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) with a **Bachelors of Arts in Economics and Certificates in Business and Public Administration**. My plans right now is to engage myself in activities that will prepare me for a career, these activities will provide hands-on and practical working skills, along with teamwork experience. I will be going back to UPEI to pursue a Master's degree in Business in a year or as I need some work experience to get Into the Master's program. As far as long-term plans, I hope to get a position at an institution where I can indulge my primary impulse, which is to be involved in developing a business and also try my hand at entrepreneurship & leadership."

"People Excellence Impact"...UPEI

Freya is visited many families in Mauritius



On her way to Mauritius, Freya stopped in Dubai to promote UPEI.



(Above) Mary Jane signs up potential new students from Bermuda. It was a busy winter in the Office of Recruitment and International Relations. Historically, American students have shown a lot of interest in the AVC. So, this past year UPEI has capitalized on this interest and is now doing targeted outreach to pre-vet students at four American colleges. The Caribbean Islands of Bahamas, and Bermuda continue to be a strong market for UPEI.

New Markets: Panama, Guatemala and Belize

Our recruitment team signed an MOU with University of Panama at 'City of Knowledge'; visited our new partners University of Da Vinci in Guatemala City and Galen University in Belize. Dr. Jerry Wang had an exciting trip to several EduCanada recruitment fairs in Ghana and Nigeria. Nigeria continues to be the second largest country of origin for international students at UPEI. In February and March of 2017 Dr. Campbell travelled to Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong to attend several EduCanada fairs and international schools.

Of Couse China, although increasingly competitive, is still the number one country of origin for UPEI international students. This winter recruiters visited over nine different cities and regions in China.

Are You Interested in Making a Difference at UPEI?

If so, the Office of Recruitment and International Relations wants to hear from you. Throughout the year we host many events, facilitate groups, and provide students with a host of volunteer opportunities. We also love to hear new ideas, and we encourage you to come and meet our staff members. We even have a suggestion box located at our reception desk. Sound like something that you would like to be involved with?

Contact Richelle Greathouse

rgreathouse@upei.ca



Photo UPEI WUSC Committee team members and fans

Fun Events on and off Campus

Cooking Class courtesy of
The Foods and Nutrition Students



Karaoke Party in the Faculty Lounge



Downtown Coffee and Conversation



Mauritius Night



Global Village!



We hope to see you at the fall 2017 event- watch for volunteer updates