Top export: A UPEI education
HOW UPEI IS BRINGING STELLAR EDUCATION TO THE GLOBE

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UPEI INSTALLS NEW CHANCELLOR
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On behalf of the 26,000+ alumni of Prince of Wales College, Saint Dunstan’s University, and the University of Prince Edward Island, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to welcome members of the Class of 2018 to our supportive global network.

STAY CONNECTED!
Subscribe to UPEI’s alumni e-newsletter, Panther Connections, at upei.ca/alumni

Nexus yearbooks are available from the UPEI Student Union. Contact 902-566-0530 to arrange for pick-up or delivery.
It has been another tremendous year for UPEI. Our community and its individuals continue to grow and thrive. The hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and faculty are evident in the work we have undertaken both inside and outside of the classroom. The skills and talent that we have harnessed and honed are reflected in the projects and the accomplishments we have achieved together as a community.

We embrace the possibilities presented by a global context, experiential learning, and a supportive community, allowing us to make impressive contributions to the world we live in. Our focus in these areas has led to programs, research, and people that spur innovation, reflect our vision, and push us to our full potential.

This is a historic moment for our University. As we set out to grant degrees by a global context, experiential learning, and a supportive community, allowing us to make impressive contributions to the world we live in. Our focus in these areas has led to programs, research, and people that spur innovation, reflect our vision, and push us to our full potential.

This is a historic moment for our University. As we set out to grant degrees, we are of course cognizant of its two founding institutions: Prince of Wales College and Saint Dunstan’s University. We know the important role they served in building the Island community. We continue to serve that role in Prince Edward Island, in Canada, and around the world.

I am excited by the endless possibilities that lie ahead for us, and I am very proud to work with the amazing students, staff, and faculty who are dedicated to UPEI’s success.

Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz
President and Vice-Chancellor

UPEI welcomes and thanks members of the Board of Governors

On behalf of UPEI, President and Vice-Chancellor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz thanks outgoing members Chancellor Dr. Don McDougall, Mr. Hammad Ahmed, Mr. Andrew Bartlett, Dr. Gary Conboy, Ms. Tracey Cutcliffe, Mr. Michael Ferguson, Mr. Ron Keefe, Dr. Brian McMillan, Mr. Shawn Murphy, Ms. Taya Nabuurs, Ms. Chelsea Perry, and Mr. Duncan Shaw for their volunteer contributions to the board.

2018–19 UPEI BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mr. Patrick Sinnott, Chair
Hon. Catherine Callbeck, Chancellor
Dr. Alaa S. Abd-El-Ariz, President and Vice-Chancellor
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Pride and excitement rippled through the crowd as more than 950 graduates gathered with family and friends for Convocation 2018 on May 12.

Convocation celebrated graduates from six faculties and included the largest ever cohort of PhDs to cross the stage, with 18 receiving this degree. This year also included the first-ever graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine program.

Nathan Hood of Charlottetown gave the valedictory speech during the morning ceremony, and Alana Jewell of York held the honour during the afternoon ceremony.

The Governor General’s academic medals were presented by the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island. The Governor General’s Gold Medal (graduate) was awarded to Doctor of Philosophy recipient Gabriela Arias de Sanches, and the Governor General’s Silver Medal (undergraduate) was awarded to Bachelor of Science recipient Skylar Tang.

UPEI CONGRATULATES ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2018!
How exchange education is shaping the lives of UPEI students

“...a life-changing educational experience that I believe has truly helped me to grow academically as well as personally. I have not been the first student from UPEI to study in Malta and hopefully will not be the last! The University of Prince Edward Island is constantly opening doors for students to participate in new and exciting opportunities, some of which include travel and experiential learning. There are many scholarships available for students who are interested in experiential learning, and I would encourage every student to take a chance and apply.”

Clare Kenny

My name is Clare Kenny and I am a fourth-year Business student at UPEI who is currently studying abroad at the University of Malta. This has been an experience of a lifetime for me that would not have been possible without the generosity of the scholarships offered through the Saint Dunstan’s University Board of Governors and through the dedication of the incredible team at UPEI’s international office.

This opportunity has enabled me to experience another culture, meet fantastic people, and apply the knowledge I acquired at UPEI in an international setting.

Clare Kenny

In May, 59 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) graduates celebrated their entry into the profession of veterinary medicine at two ceremonies—AVC’s annual White Coat Ceremony and Awards Presentation on May 11 and UPEI’s Convocation the following day. During the White Coat Ceremony, the members of AVC’s Class of 2018 were presented with white lab coats, symbolizing their transition from veterinary students to veterinary professionals. The event also included the presentation of student and faculty awards. On May 12, they received their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees at UPEI’s morning Convocation ceremony.

Dr. Vanessa Tse beams with happiness and pride as her parents, Philip and Ellen Tse, present her with her white coat during AVC’s 2018 White Coat Ceremony and Awards Presentation.
Better than travel:
Cameron’s work term in Germany

Cameron Hastie has always been intrigued by Germany’s history and language. It was a place he thought he’d like to visit one day. With the help of UPEI’s Study Abroad and International Collaboration office and Physics’ co-operative education program, he did even better. He lived there. He studied there. He worked there. And he loved it.

“I think there’s a misconception that travelling as a tourist is somehow better or more satisfying than working or studying abroad, because you don’t have to worry about attending class, or paying bills, or commuting to the office,” said Cameron. “But when you’re a tourist, you’re on the outside of the actual experience—the culture, the people. When you study or work there, you’re a part of it. You’re a part of people’s lives, and you experience their culture with them.”

Cameron is a co-op student in UPEI’s Physics program. He’s been alternating academic semesters on campus with work terms. He can put his newfound knowledge to the test and come back with practical experience.

He went searching for an international opportunity, and discovered a chance to study abroad in Germany.

“The placement didn’t have a work term attached to it, but I thought maybe I could find one while I’m there,” said Cameron.

Cameron spent the winter semester of 2017 studying at Hochschule Furtwangen University (HFU) on the edge of Germany’s Black Forest. He quickly made friends and began to pick up a bit of the language.

“I started with nothing, so I’m still far from fluent,” joked Cameron. “I can certainly order food and ask for directions. My ‘Introduction to German’ course was even transferable for credit at UPEI!”

He attended a business workshop at HFU and spotted his chance to find a work term. With help from UPEI’s Co-op office and the Physics department, he was able to land a job at the lab of technology giant Bosch Sensortec.

Cameron quickly made an impression, working on the company’s latest inertial measurement unit (IMU).

“We worked on sensors that measure rotation and speed,” explained Cameron. “When you rotate your smartphone, it’s the IMU that adjusts the screen. The technology is used by Samsung and Apple, and in virtual reality headsets and drones.”

As a result of Cameron’s work term, Bosch Sensortec has expanded its co-op relationship with UPEI, and has initiated new research co-operation, providing even more exciting opportunities for students. Work terms are now available for students in Physics and Mathematical and Computational Sciences.

It’s an opportunity Cameron is glad he jumped at. He’d recommend studying and working abroad to anyone. “You immerse yourself in it. You’re on the inside. It was an amazing experience.”

“Better than travel: Cameron’s work term in Germany”

CAMERON HASTIE

“You immerse yourself in it. You’re on the inside. It was an amazing experience.”

CAMERON HASTIE
Recent UPEI graduate Mike Hannah, with a desire to learn and an acute understanding of his profession, is excited about the next steps in his journey.

The Kensington, PEI native applied his two years of study in Holland College’s Primary Care Paramedicine (PCP) and Advanced Care Paramedicine (ACP) programs to enrol in UPEI’s new Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine program. In May 2018, Hannah and Damia Scott became the first graduates of the program.

Mike worked with Island EMS in Charlottetown and Summerside before taking a year off and moving to New Zealand with a friend. He hadn’t planned to work while travelling, but his knowledge and skills were quickly recognized by the town’s ambulance station. He worked as an advanced care paramedic for almost nine months until his work visa expired, and returned to work as a paramedic in PEI.

“I really enjoy my job as a paramedic, but like anything you do for a while, you look to build on your knowledge base and improve your skills and practice,” he said. “As I was thinking about it and looking for degree programs, there was only something in Ontario for that pathway, so I was considering applying there.”

An emergency call during his evening shift brought Mike to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where he mentioned his plans to the emergency room physician, Dr. Trevor Jain, who is also the director of UPEI’s Paramedicine program.

“He said at that time there was a plan in the early stages to offer a degree program at UPEI,” Mike said. “I decided to keep working and wait. And, a lot of people have amazing stories about their experience at UPEI.”

With his two years of college education and a few part-time semesters picking up elective courses, Mike started as a full-time UPEI student in 2016, taking biology, paramedicine, and research courses as well as electives.

“Dr. Jain taught a course in disaster medicine and crisis response, which was one of my favourite courses in the program,” he said. “We talked a lot about how to put together a medical action plan for a large event, and what to do if there was a disaster or major medical event of any kind.”

Mike reflects on his two college diplomas and his science degree as stepping stones to the future of paramedicine practice.

“I think the degree program is a way to build the profession, and if you are really interested in this job and this career, it’s a natural step forward,” he said.

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“I think the degree program is a way to build the profession, and if you are really interested in this job and this career, it’s a natural step forward,” he said.
The Honourable Catherine Callbeck, CM, OPEI, LL.D., was installed as the ninth Chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island on September 29, 2018, during Homecoming Weekend. Members of the University community and friends and former colleagues from across the province and region attended the ceremony, which was conducted by the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island and Visitor to the University. The event took place in a packed UPEI Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre and included music performed by UPEI music students, with remarks and greetings from University representatives.

In the Chancellor’s inaugural address, she noted, “I am excited about the years ahead and very much look forward to working, sharing, and being involved in the life of UPEI. I am eager to meet all those involved in the work of the University, connecting with students and members of the vast alumni network.”

Dr. Callbeck is a retired business leader and senator, and former premier of the province of Prince Edward Island. The native of Central Bedeque, PEI, was unanimously elected to the volunteer position earlier this year by UPEI’s board of governors.

Dr. Callbeck has had a long and active involvement in business, politics, and charitable and public service groups at all levels, and has received many honours for her contributions.

UPEI President and Vice-Chancellor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, along with UPEI Board of Governors Chair Pat Sinnott, co-chaired the Chancellor Electoral Committee.

“UPEI will benefit greatly from Dr. Callbeck’s vision, passion, and extensive leadership experience. I congratulate her on this new role as Chancellor and thank her sincerely for her dedication to post-secondary education and commitment to UPEI,” said President Abd-El-Aziz.

Dr. Callbeck received her early education in Central Bedeque and Summerside, later receiving degrees from Mount Allison University and Dalhousie University. After a period of teaching, she returned to PEI where she became involved with the family business—Callbeck’s Limited and Callbeck’s Furniture. She was the second woman ever elected to the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. In 1988, she was the first woman elected as the Member of Parliament for Malpeque, making her the second woman ever to be elected to the House of Commons from PEI.

Dr. Callbeck returned to provincial politics in 1993 when she was elected Leader of the Liberal Party of PEI, and soon after, became the first woman in Canada to be elected as Premier. In 1997, she was called to the Senate of Canada and retired in July 2014.

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Thank you,
Chancellor McDougall!

Also, on Homecoming Weekend, the University took the opportunity to thank Dr. Don McDougall for his over four years of service as UPEI’s eighth Chancellor. Chancellor McDougall participated in several key developments at UPEI during his tenure, including the development of the University’s first comprehensive strategic plan and the opening of the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering building.

UPEI President and Vice-Chancellor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz said, “On behalf of the entire University community, I thank Chancellor and Mrs. McDougall for their dedication and longstanding support of UPEI. Don is a wonderful champion for big and bold ideas, and we are very thankful for his insight and leadership as an alumnus and donor, and during his years as Chancellor.”

Dr. McDougall, who spent his formative years in Bloomfield, PEI, is an alumnus of both Saint Dunstan’s High School and University, and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from UPEI in 1978. Well known for his business acumen, he became President of Labatt Brewing Company in the 1970s, elevating the company to the status of the number-one brewer in Canada. He is also credited with providing the leadership that landed the Grand Prix du Canada in Montreal and a major league baseball franchise—the Blue Jays—in Toronto.

While many of his business interests have been in Upper Canada, Dr. McDougall has been drawn back to the Island several times for professional reasons. He was recruited to lead strategic planning for the Blue Jays baseball franchise—the Blue Jays—in Toronto.

Wildlife health, conservation central themes in 2018 Founders and Green Hat Award Honorees

The University of Prince Edward Island held its nineteenth annual Recognition of Founders ceremony on Friday, September 28, in Don and Marion McDougall Hall to acknowledge those who have contributed to the University in a significant way.

Recognized as 2018 Founders during the ceremony were Daryl Guignon and Dr. Ian MacQuarrie, both retired faculty members from the UPEI Department of Biology. Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust, Professor Emeritus, was awarded the Atlantic Veterinary College’s 2018 Honourable Eugene F. Whelan Green Hat Award, which pays tribute to individuals who have made an exceptional impact on the College.

As the official party entered Schurman Market Square, students Taylor Donald, Melissa Lewis, Tara Llewellyn, and Alexandra Sorensen sang O Canada, Sister Sue Kidd, University Chaplain, delivered the invocation, and Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, UPEI President and Vice-Chancellor, delivered welcoming remarks. Will McGuigan, President of the UPEI Student Union, brought greetings from the student body. Biology student Kali Ross read the citations for Mr. Guignon and Dr. MacQuarrie, and retired wildlife pathologist Dr. Scott McBurney the one for Dr. Daoust.
An infusion of funds from donors has reinvigorated the headquarters of UPEI’s student newspaper, The Cadre.

The initiative came shortly after Lorelei Kenny landed the position of editor-in-chief at the University’s student-run news outlet, which has been serving UPEI students for more than 50 years.

Although she wouldn’t officially begin her role until the fall semester, Lorelei was excited to breathe new life into the news organization. She felt that the office space in which she and the editorial team worked required TLC.

Lorelei said the previous editor-in-chief started the process of assessing the space and the items it had collected over the years.

“Elizabeth Iwunwa was editor-in-chief ... and she sorted through a lot of the worn and tired furniture that student reporters had accumulated over the years,” said Lorelei, as she looked around at what was once a disorganized and clutter-filled office space.

With no defined workspaces, the office space lacked a sense of inspiration. So, building on her predecessor’s work, Lorelei set out to refresh it and bring some vibrancy back.

While looking for a way to re-energize the space, Lorelei and her team discovered the UPEI Annual Fund.

This fund, administered by the Department of Development and Alumni Engagement, receives unrestricted donations from generous alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who are keen to invest in UPEI and its students. Redeveloping the office of The Cadre was a good fit.

“It’s incredible to think that alumni, some of whom may have been Cadre reporters and editors, are now paying it forward,” Lorelei said. “Their contributions to the Annual Fund allow for projects like this, keeping them connected to UPEI in a positive way.”

The renovations were completed in 2018.

At the open house celebration following the completion of the office refresh, UPEI President and Vice-Chancellor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz commended the hard work and success of all those involved in the project.

“The Cadre is an important place for UPEI students to develop skills outside of the classroom. Our community is more connected, thanks to the work undertaken by students in this office. The refresh of this space is spectacular; students can be proud to write, conduct interviews, and produce content here.”

About 100 people gathered at UPEI Alumni Canada Games Place on a sunny day in May for the historic raising of the Mi’kmaq National Flag.

With blue skies and a brisk wind perfect for the occasion, Elder Junior Peter Paul began the ceremony with a smudge, and members of the Indigenous community joined him in performing the Mi’kmaq Honour Song.

Chief Brian Francis of the Abegweit First Nation (now a member of the Senate of Canada), UPEI student Dawne Knockwood, and Elder Peter Paul joined President and Vice-Chancellor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz in raising the flag.

“It’s certainly an honour,” said Chief Francis. “As we all know, flags are all proud symbols of who we are, in this case, the Mi’kmaq National Flag. And we’re extremely proud to be flying it at the University of Prince Edward Island.”

Just as Chief Francis began to speak, the Elder pointed out that there was a visitor, gesturing skyward to an eagle that appeared on cue, flying directly over the flags.

The crowd erupted into applause as the eagle, which is revered in Mi’kmaq culture and represents everything positive, flew overhead.

“This is a truly a historic moment for UPEI,” added President Abd-El-Aziz.

The Mi’kmaq National Flag will also appear at UPEI events and alongside the Canadian, Prince Edward Island, UPEI flags at Convocation ceremonies.
The University of Prince Edward Island is expanding its global reach, and, as of 2018, it will deliver degree programs in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

UPEI has signed agreements with the University of Canada in Egypt, Canadian University Dubai (CUD), and Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC) in Spain to deliver degrees at these three institutions.

“It is fantastic that Canadian education is being delivered around the world, and that we are playing our part,” said Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, UPEI’s President and Vice-Chancellor. “UPEI has been an outstanding University for the Island, and we are excited to offer education beyond our shores.”

The agreement with the University of Canada came about after a Canadian parliamentary delegation visited Egypt to explore establishing a university complex in New Cairo. UPEI and several other Canadian universities began discussions with Egypt-based University of Canada about offering their degree programs.

The initiative is entirely funded by the University of Canada and will permit UPEI to offer several degree programs: a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Design Engineering; three Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematical and Computational Sciences; a Bachelor of Environmental Studies; a Bachelor of Climate Change and Adaptation; and a Bachelor of Business Administration.

“Our programs offer a highly experiential, project-based approach which are attractive to both Canadian and international students,” said Dr. Robert Gilmour, UPEI’s Vice-President Academic and Research. “UPEI will have exclusive jurisdiction over program delivery to ensure UPEI admission and degree requirements are met at U of Canada.”

UPEI is also joining Canadian University Dubai (CUD), which has been offering Canadian higher education to students for more than 10 years. UPEI will offer its Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Climate Change and Adaptation programs at CUD.

Lastly, a five-year agreement with Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC) in Spain will see a multidisciplinary Master in Global Affairs offered as a joint degree on the URJC campuses in Madrid and Strasbourg and here at UPEI.

“This is an exciting time for UPEI. I look forward to our students—those in PEI, Dubai, Cairo, Madrid, across Canada, and around the world—developing to their full potential in our classrooms and our communities.”

PRESIDENT ABD-EL-AZIZ
Exciting opportunities for new Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies

“We're open to any kind of submission, and it'll be really interesting to see what people come up with.”

For Dr. Kate Scarth, UPEI’s Chair in L.M. Montgomery Studies and Applied Communication, Leadership, and Culture, it’s a busy and exciting time.

In addition to teaching in the Applied Communication, Leadership, and Culture program and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the L.M. Montgomery Institute, she’s also been named managing editor of the newly-launched Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies.

“I think there’s been a lot happening in the last little while,” she said. “There’s a strong team to push all these projects forward for public engagement around Montgomery studies, and to support Montgomery enthusiasts here and internationally.”

The Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies is a refereed, open access digital publication, and will collect scholarship on all aspects of L.M. Montgomery’s life, influences, creative work, and legacy.

“The journal is interdisciplinary, and we’re looking for any submission on any aspect of Montgomery’s life and work,” Scarth explained. “I think what’s really exciting about this journal is that it’s not only going to feature academic essays, but because it’s an online journal, we want to make use of the online space, and highlight Montgomery’s world to academics and enthusiasts.”

While the journal will feature traditional, peer-reviewed academic essays for scholars to use for tenure and promotion reasons, it’s also open to students, Montgomery admirers, and other non-traditional, non-academic audiences to submit other kinds of creative media for review.

“We’re really open to any kind of submission, and it’ll be really interesting to see what people come up with,” Scarth said. “Materials including articles, videos, creative writing, and visual art like photography fit really well because Montgomery was a photographer herself.”

Visit the L.M. Montgomery Institute website at lmmontgomery.ca for more information about the new journal and Montgomery research.

Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN) has named UPEI’s Dr. Brian Wagner, Professor of Chemistry, as one of the top 25 Chemists you should follow on Twitter.

Published by the American Chemical Society since 1923, C&EN is available both as a weekly print magazine and online at cen.acs.org, and is a comprehensive news source about chemistry and related fields.

C&EN compiled the international list of molecularly minded scientists by consulting a panel of chemistry experts. In order to be named to the list, the scientists had to be trained chemists currently practicing chemistry and contributing meaningfully to the discussion of the central science online.

Dr. Wagner (@DrummerBoy2112) joined Twitter in 2011 and has over 15,000 followers. He has posted over 25,000 tweets, many including colourful photos of his work with fluorescent compounds.

Congratulations, Dr. Wagner!
Happy to be here

Why did you choose to go to university?
I was seeking a challenge and a goal to work hard toward achieving. Also, my family encouraged me to continue on with post-secondary education when I was considering taking either a year or a half-year off. I’m glad I didn’t follow through on my original plan [of taking time off].

Why did you choose UPEI as part of your academic path?
Because UPEI is different from all the other universities I checked out. I just thought UPEI is smaller and you can connect with your profs a lot better when you can have one-on-one time and smaller classes.

What has been your biggest learning moment or lesson so far?
My biggest learning moment is realizing that I’d have to treat university as a job to keep on top of everything in my studies.

What program are you in?
I’m in both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music programs.

What advice would you give to others considering post-secondary education?
Keep up with your studies, and do not procrastinate because it will not get you anywhere.

I use my arts education in my work here, and that’s one of the big things I stress to people in public policy: how important writing skills are.”

UPEI Arts graduate gives back in a big way

Bobby Thomas Cameron may have received his Arts degree from UPEI in 2009, but his commitment to helping current students through mentorship and skills development is stronger than ever.

An adjunct faculty member of UPEI’s Applied Communication, Leadership, and Culture (ACLC) program, Bobby is currently completing his PhD in public policy and administration, and is a dedicated advocate for arts education and the wide breadth of skills required to succeed in any career.

“I provide presentations to different groups of students including ACLC, political science, and history students,” he said. “They outline the ‘hard’ skills you learn through arts like reading, writing, and synthesis of literature, and how those are just as important as the ‘soft’ skills. I link that back to how I use my arts education in my work here, and that’s one of the big things I stress to people in public policy: how important writing skills are.”

As the Manager of Policy, Planning, and Federal/Provincial/Territorial Relations with the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Bobby created a 14-week policy capacity development and mentorship program for interns and new employees.

“It’s for anyone who’s new to the section, so it’s both an orientation to the department, and it takes you through eight core units. All the units require skills gained through arts. The challenge is making them useful in an applied sense.”

Arts and Music student Melaia Bigeagle explains what drew her to UPEI, as part of an ongoing series of interviews with current UPEI students about their experiences.
In total, five out of the seven varsity clubs clinched a playoff berth—women’s rugby, men’s soccer, men’s/women’s hockey, and women’s basketball—with women’s soccer and men’s basketball just missing the mark. The women’s basketball team came the closest to a championship, falling short to the Acadia Axewomen in the finals.

Nine student-athletes earned All-Star nods for their inspired play, including rugby’s Alysha Corrigan, Amy Hickey, and Niki Triantafillou; men’s soccer’s Sam Smiley; cross country’s Lee Wesselius; men’s hockey’s Ryan MacKinnon; women’s hockey’s Emma Martin; and women’s basketball’s Jenna Mae Ellsworth and Kiera Rigby. Rigby also earned the U SPORTS Sylvia Sweeney Award for her excellence in sport, academics, and community service, making her the first Panther to capture the major honour.

Hannah Gormley and Sarah Sear were named all-stars for field hockey, while Morgan MacIntyre and Jonney Rose did the same for men’s rugby to round out the club sports.

Hockey newcomer Kameron Kielly led all rookies in scoring this past season with 42 points and made the All-Rookie Team as a result. Moshe Wadley (men’s basketball) and Reese Baxendale (women’s basketball) were also named to an All-Rookie Team for their respective seasons.

The 2017–18 season also produced several outstanding individual performances. Sprinting star, Bailey Smith, captured her second consecutive AUS gold in the 60-metre event and placed seventh in the U SPORTS Track & Field Championship. On the basketball front, Baxendale was named the AUS Rookie of the Year, while teammate Carolina Del Santo’s defensive prowess earned her the Defensive Player of the Year award.

From rookies making a name for themselves to veterans carrying UPEI to uncharted territories, the Panthers, as a whole, made 2017–18 a year to remember, and in doing so, built a solid foundation moving forward.
Kevin Ryan started like many young Islanders in 1999: he headed to Alberta and oil field jobs. He did seismic data gathering as a single man, but when he met his wife, he parlayed that into a labour-relations role.

With economic downturns, he found himself having to take on other jobs, including shifts driving a bus, to make his living. Eventually he was recruiting, on the road across North America rounding up oil workers.

But, with the birth of their son, Seamus, “that’s when things became different,” Ryan said. “It was increasingly hard on my wife and I. That’s when we started looking for a different way.”

Despite being settled in Alberta, Ryan had always maintained a farm at home, where he grew summer savory each year. That made transitioning back to the Island an easy choice, and he and his family returned to PEI.

Still, he was often on the road for his main job, recruiting oil field workers.

“I needed to be home,” he said.

That was when Ryan discovered UPEI’s two-year accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Ryan hadn’t grown up dreaming of being a nurse; nor did he see himself taking four years to complete a new degree while supporting a family.

But Ryan was intrigued to learn that, because he had a previous undergraduate degree, he was eligible for the two-year Nursing degree. By 2013, he was on the UPEI campus, learning new skills.

Nursing gave him the variety of work opportunities he wanted, the income he needed, and the privilege of getting a broad perspective on life.

“It’s never boring,” he said.

Now over two years out of the program, Ryan said he made the right decision for his family. He works as a registered nurse at the Kings County Memorial Hospital emergency department, taking shifts elsewhere in home care and mental health care.

He’s no longer on the road and no longer away from family for days at a time.

Ryan encourages people who want to make a change to consider what works for them and be willing to pursue it, whether that means going to university or college, or taking courses to upgrade skills.

On March 16, 2018, the PEI literary community lost a beloved figure. Poet, educator, scholar, and naturalist, John Smith taught in the English department at UPEI for twenty-five years. During that time and into his retirement, he published seven collections of poetry and mentored countless students. In 2003, he became the Island’s first Poet Laureate. He was ninety years old when he passed away.

John’s poetry was no less accomplished. His chosen form was the sonnet, which he refashioned in his own style—two quatrains followed by two tercets and an occasional extra line or two. Like those of his heroes, Wallace Stevens and John Ashbery, John’s poems chronicled the world’s exuberance in exquisite arrangements of image, thought, and sound. Delightful and mind-bending images and juxtapositions abound: from linoleum to melting snow, apple blossoms to macroproteins, digital circuits to rustic wooden gates.

John lived in an old house on Fitzroy Street and liked to go for long walks. I picture him in my mind’s eye as Wordsworth’s solitary walker: a happy, unhurried figure of physical, mental, and spiritual exercise, a mover and a seeker, a knower and a seer. In John’s world, the mind itself is a wanderer, “a species seeking a destiny.”

It was my good fortune to know John Smith for thirty years. His kindness and influence awakened me to many possibilities and opportunities. I cannot fathom who I would be today without his influence in my life. I will miss him, but more than that I will be forever grateful that I knew him.

Dr. Scott Pound is Associate Professor in the Department of English at Lakehead University and an alumnus of the University of Prince Edward Island. He is co-editor of AMODERN.

Photo courtesy of John Sylvester
For the second year in a row, UPEI President and Vice-Chancellor Alaa Abd-El-Aziz was named a TOP 50 CEO by Atlantic Business Magazine. Since 1999, Atlantic Business Magazine has dedicated one of its six issues per year to profiling Atlantic Canada’s 50 most accomplished business leaders.

“It is a great honour to receive this award alongside so many talented leaders in Atlantic Canada,” said President Abd-El-Aziz. “I share this recognition with the great faculty and staff at UPEI who have been so passionate and innovative in advancing the mission of the University of Prince Edward Island.”

Nominees for the awards are judged according to their corporate, community, and industry involvement; their organization’s growth in recent years; and their responses to various managerial challenges.

UPEI: 50 Years of People, Excellence, and Impact

UPEI kicked off its year-long 50th anniversary celebrations at its annual New Year’s Levee on January 1, 2019. The University of Prince Edward Island, steeped in the traditions of its founding institutions, Prince of Wales College and Saint Dunstan’s University, welcomed its first students in 1969. Now 50 years later, in 2019, UPEI faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends will reflect on past successes and look to the exciting possibilities ahead.

Celebrate with us as we mark this major milestone with events, activities, and legacy projects that showcase the excellence of our UPEI community and highlight how our teaching, learning, and scholarship are contributing to a knowledgeable, innovative future that is developing the next generation of leaders. Help us tell the “UPEI story” — where we have come from and where we are going.

Visit UPEI.ca/50 often for updates, and to find out how to take part!
The UPEI Chaplaincy Centre has a long-standing tradition of providing a free, nutritious lunch to students on the first two days of exams. For about 15 years, the man in the kitchen was Rocky Paquet, a member of UPEI’s Facilities Management team who went above and beyond to help students achieve success.

When Rocky died in July 2017, the UPEI community came together to ensure his dedication to students would last for years to come. During a celebration to celebrate Rocky’s contribution to UPEI on national Giving Tuesday, the Chaplaincy Centre kitchen was named in Rocky’s honour, and funds were raised for a student award in Rocky’s name.

The Wekimün School Project is a school of arts and technical skills oriented to the development of Indigenous people, families, and communities of the Williche people in the province of Chiloé, Chile. The school was created over five years as a collaboration of the University of Prince Edward Island and the General Council of Caciques Williche de Chiloé, funded by Global Affairs Canada from 2012 to 2018, and co-led by professors Kate Tilliczek and Manuel Muñoz Millalonco. Debbie MacDonald was the program’s project manager.

Nestled in a forest in Chiloé, the Wekimün school continues to break ground in integrating traditional and modern knowledge in new and exciting ways. The Wekimün school teaches an intercultural curriculum around human rights, sustainable development, and language/history with and for Indigenous youth and their communities.

The Wekimün School is currently self-sustaining and works with funds from the National Training and Employment Service, under the Ministry of Labor of the State of Chiloé. It is the only school in the country that directs its educational work for young people and adults from an intercultural perspective, where the Williche language and world view are core in its curriculum.

With the launch of the new UPEI Alumni Handbook, UPEI graduates are now receiving a guide to help them take advantage of the benefits and services available from the UPEI Department of Development and Alumni Engagement.

The handbook is designed to give new alumni all the need-to-know facts about keeping a strong connection to UPEI after graduation. Chiefly a digital publication, the handbook is designed to be read on your mobile device. However, it is available in a printed, pocket-sized format at the Alumni office.

“The handbook touches on all aspects of alumni life, from staying connected to the University to taking advantage of alumni benefits,” said Anthony Gill, Manager of Alumni Engagement at UPEI.

You can see the whole publication at digital.upei.ca/alumnihandbook.

Annual gifts from alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of UPEI provide a vital source of revenue for campus projects. Here are some recent examples:

» Support for several students to attend international conferences
» Installation of work stations in the W.A. Murphy Student Centre
» Renovations of Dawson Lounge, The Cadre office, and soon the Modern Languages Lounge
» Graduate Student Association (GSA) project—funds were used to hire a student to write the GSA’s history
» Purchase and installation of an outdoor Bike Fix It Station
» Purchase of a new scrum machine for women’s rugby
» Support for the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering’s Baja Team

» Purchase of saxophones for the Department of Music
» Installation of wheelchair-accessible picnic tables
» Support for Dr. Olive Bryanton’s PhD research, which featured the stories of 10 Island women, Pioneers in Aging: Voices of women 85 years and older, aging in place in rural communities, and which helped shape the Government of PEI’s new Seniors Independence Initiative

» Girls Get Wise and ProGRES (Promoting Girls in Research in Engineering and Sustainability)—support for both of these Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering-led programs that encourage girls in high school to consider engineering as a future area of study.
Gifts that INSPIRE!

Cavendish Farms — Engineering

Cavendish Farms contributed the largest single donation to date to the Inspire! Campaign in giving $2,000,000 to support sustainable farming solutions in the agricultural industry. “With our roots on Prince Edward Island, Cavendish Farms is proud to support the UPEI Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering as they develop innovations for the agriculture industry here on the Island and across the globe,” said Robert K. Irving, president of Cavendish Farms. “Cavendish Farms has a strong commitment to the environment and sustainable farming practices. This donation will help continue to further sustainable farming for years to come.”

ALLAN CURRAN — INSPIRE! ENGINEERING

In recognition of his wonderful years at Saint Dunstan’s University, Allan Curran has established an award to support a student entering the first year of the UPEI Sustainable Design Engineering program.

CIBC

CIBC is proud to partner with the UPEI Mawi’omi Centre in supporting Indigenous students. Their generous contribution will fund the Elder-in-Residence program, a scholarship fund for Indigenous students at UPEI, and the Kitpu project, a sustainable academic service to the First Nations youth of Prince Edward Island that will effect changes in their current academic path leading to greater post-secondary opportunities.

Marylou Hughes

In the past year, Marylou Hughes provided a major gift to UPEI in support of the important work of the L.M. Montgomery Institute (LMMI). The gift was used to implement the Marco Polo Virtual Reality Experience and establish an endowment fund to assist in the preservation of the Montgomery collection housed in the Special Collections area of UPEI’s Robertson Library.

THE GRAY GROUP

Thanks to the generosity of the Gray Group, new scholarships have been created to support students in financial need who are entering the Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine and intend to practice in Prince Edward Island.

By the numbers:

As of early September, more than 90 per cent of our $50-million Inspire! Campaign goal has been reached!

Employee giving numbers increased by nine per cent in the 2017 calendar year from the year before.

In 2017, UPEI had a total of 1,471 donors.

2016–2017 Scholarships and Awards

Recipients 2,095
Number of awards 3,342
Total $5.9 million

Reunion Weekend 2018

The Reunion Weekend 2018 at the end of July was a great success. There were several milestone class celebrations including the 60th class reunion of SDU’58 (pictured) and the 50th anniversary for SDU’68 (pictured). UPEI’s Class of 1978 celebrated 40 years; the PWC annual luncheon was the largest ever held at UPEI; and we enjoyed an all-years SDU reception. We look forward to celebrating all milestone years this summer during UPEI’s 50th anniversary year. Please contact Kathy Weatherbie (krweatherbie@upei.ca) to start planning your reunion.

UPEI received a Bell Let’s Talk Community Fund grant in support of UPEI’s Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) program. This funding allowed two UPEI Student Affairs employees to be professionally trained as instructors in the ASIST program. Now trained, these instructors offer the two-day ASIST program free of charge to students, faculty, and staff at UPEI. This training will assist high-priority groups such as residence life coordinators, Student Affairs staff, and other employees who may be the first point of contact for students in a crisis.

Estate of H. Ruth MacDonald

Recently, UPEI received a $1,000,000 gift from the Estate of H. Ruth MacDonald. She remembered UPEI through a planned gift in her will in memory of her husband, Roderick. Because of her generous donation, the Roderick Stirling MacDonald Scholarships will grant 15 graduate student scholarships and 20 undergraduate student scholarships.

Estate of Jean McGaughey

A leadership gift was received from the Estate of Jean McGaughey, to create the Jean T. McGaughey Diver Award, which will be granted to an entrance or returning student enrolled full time in a UPEI nursing program and who is in financial need. Ms. Diver trained at the Charlottetown Hospital School of Nursing and subsequently at Dalhousie University. She worked as a public health nurse in Prince Edward Island for 35 years.

Donations may be made at upei.ca/donate
An exciting benefit for you as a University of Prince Edward Island alumni.

Get preferred rates and coverage that fits your needs.

You save with preferred insurance rates.

Take advantage of your alumni benefits.

You have access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program. This means you can get preferred insurance rates on a wide range of home, condo, renter’s and car coverage that can be customized for your needs.

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