

Message from the Co-Editors:



Brittany Jakubiec is a PhD Student in Educational Studies



Mary MacPhee is in the 5th year of a PhD in Educational Studies



Anne Shileche is a Master of Science student in their first year.

Hello to our readership! Did you know that your Graduate Students' Association (GSA) publishes a newsletter monthly to communicate with all graduate students? We also publish contributions written by graduate students and welcome your articles or recommendations for content. The GSA is looking for students interested in the social, communication, and advocacy aspects of the association and is seeking students to play an executive role. We are proud of the September Graduate Student Orientation, new Graduate Student Lounge (Duffy 403), socials, CFS Corn Boil, and Day of Action this fall. Contact us at gsa@upei.ca if you want to get involved, submit to the newsletter, or if you have any ideas or concerns.



Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free! The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other medical

conditions. It is therefore the **University's policy for everyone to avoid the use of scented personal care products.** Help those with whom we share our indoor work and study environment.

For more information on UPEI's Scent-Free Initiative, visit <http://www.upei.ca/policy/files/policy/Scent-Free%20Initiative.pdf>.

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Kudos to all grad students working hard to complete their thesis and coursework.

KUDOS to Alaina Roach O'Keefe for passing her proposal examination.

KUDOS to Hannah Gehrels for submitting a full draft of your Master's thesis.

KUDOS to Mary MacPhee (and others) for pulling off a successful Day of Action.

UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Mary MacPhee (VP), Frederic Chatigny (VP), Teresa Zhang & Elliott Roellchen-Pfohl (Education Representatives), Leon Libang (International Student Representative), Logan MacIntyre & Dylan Michaud (AVC Representatives), Bsmah Thabet (Science Representative), Lynda Walker (Business Representative), Vicki MacInnis (Nursing Representative), Sarah Gallant (AHS Representative), Ravinder Sappal (Post-Doctoral Representative), Mark Carr-Rollitt (MAIS Representative)

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Contact: gsa@upei.ca

You are invited to attend the GSA UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER SOCIAL

December 10, 2016 at 6 pm—9 pm in the AVC Learning Commons

We hope you will join us for an evening of fun! There will be a silent auction, food and drink, and we will announce the recipients of the Faculty and Staff GSA Awards.



NOVEMBER 2 DAY OF ACTION: A HUGE SUCCESS

by: Brittany Jakubiec

On November 2, 2016 post-secondary students on 59 campuses all across Canada rallied together against increasing tuition fees and advocated for free tuition to make post secondary education accessible for all. At UPEI, the Day of Action event was spearheaded by Mary MacPhee, a PhD candidate and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) PEI representative and our GSA. The event brought out more than 150 students, faculty, staff, and community members and organizations. Free pizza was handed out to all attendees. The event garnered local attention in various media outlets, including CBC, Radio Canada, The Guardian, and The Cadre.

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GSA

GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

GSA

In January, 2016, the GSA held a town hall to discuss graduate student concerns. One issue brought forward by many students from different faculties was not having an orientation to the campus. To respond to student needs, the GSA worked with Kate Rundle, the Student Union Graduate Student Rep and created an orientation guide. The GSA also held an orientation session. The library, Student Union, Student Affairs, and other campus groups attended to share information with students. There were free pizza and t-shirts. This was a well attended event and a success as a newly reinstituted event getting new students oriented. We welcome grad students who would like to help in future orientation events in winter and fall.

**GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE: DUFFY 403**

The graduate students at UPEI now have a lounge to call their own. Duffy 403 has been allocated for use by graduate students as a lounge and meeting area. We held an open house on September 26, which was well attended. The GSA has since been holding meetings in the lounge regularly. We also have coffee and tea available, a sink, a fridge to come, and plenty of table space. Come make use of the space and meet other graduate students!

Did you know that the GSA is on Twitter?

Follow us @UPEIGSA to get updates on GSA and campus events and other helpful information.

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CFS DAY OF ACTION: CORN BOIL

GSA



Brittany, Sean Casey, Kate, and Mary

Graduate student held a corn boil on September 30 to advertise the upcoming November 2 Day of Action. We handed out nearly 150 corn cobs, while discussing the problem of student tuition and student debt with UPEI students. As there was a concurrent event in the quad, we luckily got to chat-up MP Sean Casey, and Premier Wade MacLauchlan. Sean Casey later invited the GSA to present at the public budget consultation.

**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

- The next GSA meeting is December 5th at noon time in Duffy 403.
- The second annual UPEI Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference took place August 11-13, 2016 and was another huge success. Keep an eye out for the Call for Abstracts for the 2017 conference. If you want to help out, please email gsa@upei.ca. This year's conference will require a chairperson or co-chairs, and volunteers to assist with promotion and preparation of the conference.
- The next GSA social event is approaching quickly! Come out to our Ugly Holiday Sweater Social on December 10, 6 pm, in the AVC Learning Commons. We will announce the recipients of the GSA Faculty and Staff awards. There will be lots of food, a cash bar, and a silent auction! Finally, there will be prizes for the ugliest holiday sweater.
- Check out UPEI's Health and Fitness Week. The full schedule is available here: <http://www.upei.ca/ar/health-and-fitness-week>

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