

**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



**Kim Edwards** is a MEd Student in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching & Learning Cohort

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is a union (Local 70 with the Canadian Federation of Students) which functions to advocate for the best educational opportunities possible for graduate students on our campus. We encourage all graduate students to get involved to promote or help the social, communication, educational, and advocacy aspects of our association. We have been active on campus, with provincial government representatives, with national government, and with other student unions across the country to share resources and make post-secondary education accessible and an excellent experience. We look forward to receiving student or faculty articles to publish in the newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at the 3MT at the end of March. Plan to attend the GSA AGM April 27, 4:30-6pm, AVC 286A N.



### **Funding for Conference Travel**



Did you know you could apply for **\$250** from the Student Union for conference travel or for event or activities expenses?

Check out: <http://upeisu.ca/services/> and choose "FUNDING" for more information on the "Student Academic Enrichment Funding Application"

You can also apply for **\$500** from the research services office for conference travel! Check out:

[http://files.upei.ca/research/student\\_travel\\_funding\\_program\\_guidelines.pdf](http://files.upei.ca/research/student_travel_funding_program_guidelines.pdf) for more information.

Both of these funds can be applied for at any time.

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## **UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

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## Looking to get involved?

We are looking for grad students to sit on various committees to give graduate students' perspective. Committees with empty seats are currently:

### **Academic Planning & Curriculum Committee (ACPP)**

The Senate Academic Planning & Curriculum Committee reviews existing programs and policies, considers curriculum issues of general academic interest, and deals with anything related to courses, such as reviewing offerings or considering new courses. The members of the committee include the VP Academic, the assistant VP Grad Studies, 6 Academic Deans as well as undergraduate and graduate student representatives.

### **Committee on the Enhancement of Teaching**

This committee is mandated to support the work of the Faculty Development Office to enhance the practice and scholarship of teaching and learning at UPEI. There are three students on the Committee; two nominated by the SU and one nominated by the GSA.

### **Research Grants Committee and the AVC Dean's Library Committee.**

It is important to have graduate student representatives on committees to share the perspective of students and make suggestions to enhance the student experience. Students who have been part of committees have said how it was a fantastic chance to learn how the university works, have an opportunity to affect policies, and make suggestions which allow to have student voices heard. It also looks good on your CV!

### **Reminder: Graduate Student Lounge**

All graduate students are welcome and encouraged to use the Graduate Student Lounge, Duffy 403!

### **T2202A Form**

Reminder to all graduate students that they can download their T2202A form for 2016 starting on XXdateXX from my campus login / myupei.

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## Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre

**Winter Hours: Monday through Thursday: 6:00 am - 11:00 pm Friday: 6:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Saturday: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Sunday: 10:00 am - 10:00 pm Holiday hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

All full-time UPEI students get a membership to the Fitness Centre as part of their tuition. The Fitness Centre has a variety of equipment including:

- Two-lane walking/running track
- 51 cardio pieces (MP3 Keiser Bicycles, Life Fitness Treadmills, Bicycles, Ellipticals Cross-Trainers and Stair climbers, rowers and Cybex Cross Trainers)
- Life Fitness Signature Series, single stations strength equipment
- Hammer Strength and Cybex free weight section
- Various equipment including agility ladders, hurdles, medicine balls, stability balls, bosu trainers, plyometric boxes, tubing, etc.

UPEI is the only facility on the island to offer wheelchair accessible fitness equipment. Come check out our accessible lat pull, overhead press, chest press, cable column, and rowing equipment. Our trained staff would be happy to assist you.

The Fitness Centre also offers Personal Training at an additional cost to UPEI students.

### Weekly Fitness Classes at Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre

**SCULPT N' STRENGTHEN with Bernadette**  
(Fridays 12:05-12:50 p.m.)

**SCULPT N' TONE with Brittany**  
(Wednesdays 12:05-12:50 p.m.)

**CARDIO DANCE FUISON with Lyndsey**  
(Monday 5:30-6:15 p.m.)

**HIIT with Maria**  
(Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30-6:15 p.m.)

**CARDIO DANCE FUSION LITE with Lyndsey**  
(Tuesdays 9:00-9:45 a.m.)

**STRETCH N' TONE with Lyndsey**  
(Wednesdays 5:30-6:15 p.m.)

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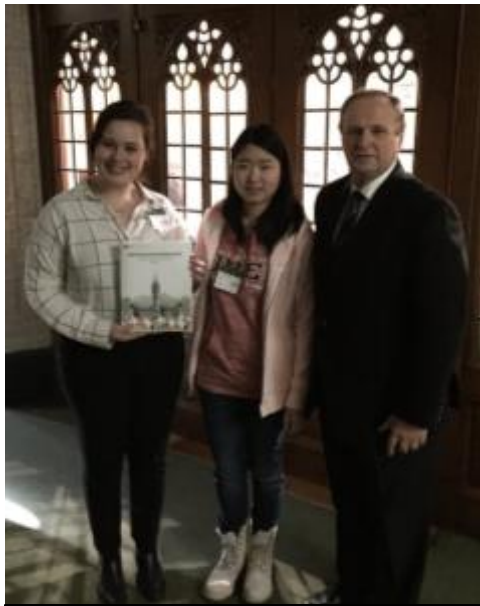
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## Lobby week in Ottawa, February 6 to February 8, 2017

By Zhengyu Liu



Zhengyu Liu with MP Robert Morrissey

I would say my participation during National Lobby week was an excellent experience. My flight was on Sunday, February. It was a lucky day, with no snow and the flight was on time. After I had arrived at the hotel, I came across another two student representatives from Nova Scotia, and we ate lunch together. The training session was at 6 o'clock until 10 o'clock. I met CFS folks and student representatives from all regions of Canada. The topic this year is "free education". We reviewed free education in Canada's history, and are trying to revive it again. CFS researchers had done all the research. Each student received an official document, which lists the statistics across Canada, the issues students face, and government recommendations. We shared our personal experiences to support the recommendations.

Anna Dubinski and I had the first meeting with Senator Diane Griffin at 8:45 am Monday, Feb. 6. Diane was so friendly and welcoming. She recognized me immediately because of my UPEI sweater. The meeting was 50 minutes. She was very patient. We discussed high student debt, low research funding, high tuition after the biggest single cut to federal transfers for post-secondary education in 1996, etc. Diane gave us a positive response, and I believe she will take actions. Another meeting was with MP Lawrence MacAulay at 11:30 am. This meeting was short, but Lawrence was super friendly and smart. He caught our main point, and promised that he would write a letter to the financial department. The second day, Anna and I had a meeting with MP Wayne Easter at 11:30 am. He was not interested in the recommendation related to the indigenous learners. He said that we already distribute huge funding to them, but they misuse that money. The third day, Anna and I had a meeting with Sean Casey around 12:30 pm. I, as an international and graduate student, shared my personal experience with him.



Zhengyu Liu with MP Lawrence MacAulay

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**(Lobby week in Ottawa, continued)**

As an international student, nearly half of my tuition is international fees. I hold the opinion that high international student fees do not benefit domestic students. Schools need to survive, and each school can only accept a certain amount of students depending on their facilities, staff, and area. If they do not have enough funding from the government, school leaders may prefer to accept more international students rather than domestic students. When the offer letter is based on funding rather than students' learning ability, it will lower the universities' academic achievement over all. As a graduate student, I focused on the poor research funding and limited job prospects for our young researchers.

The last meeting was in the parliament, with MP Robert Morrissey. He is a smart and lovely leader. I told him that Canada is such a democratic country. He looked into the House (The House of Commons), and smiled, "this is where your freedom comes from."



Zhengyu Liu with MP Wayne Easter



Zhengyu Liu with Senator Griffin

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On February 6, 2017 UPEI launched myUPEI, a replacement for My Campus Login. MyUPEI will be used to prepare for the upcoming May 2017 (first summer session) semester while Campus Login will remain in place for the current January 2017 semester. Over time, more and more functions will transition from Campus Login to myUPEI, bringing improvements to online services.

To access, go to:

<http://portal.upei.ca>

Or you can navigate there from the links at the bottom of the [www.upei.ca](http://www.upei.ca) homepage.

**Important dates** to be aware of for specific services include:

- **February 6** - Access to myUPEI will be granted to all students, staff, and faculty.
- **February 6** - Student financial accounts will transition to myUPEI.
- **February 28** - Student planning and scheduling for the upcoming semester will transition to myUPEI.

Your status (student, staff, faculty) at UPEI will determine the service to which you have access.

Over time, more and more functions will transition from Campus Login to myUPEI, bringing improvements to online services such as:

- Scheduling your personal course timetable
- Registering for your courses
- Accessing your student financial account
- Reading your degree audit and tracking your progress
- Requesting your transcript
- Reviewing your for scholarships and awards
- Submitting grades for students
- Accessing payslip display
- Reserving rooms and space on campus
- Accessing Moodle for online learning

**Note: Due to the implementation to myUPEI, course codes have changed from three to four digits.**

This change will expand the number of course codes UPEI has at its disposal. The change will result in a zero being added to the end of current course codes. For example, "UPEI 101" will change to "UPEI 1010".

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## **SIGN UP FOR THE 3MT (3 Minute Thesis) COMPETITION AT UPEI**

The School of Graduate Studies, along with the UPEI Graduate Students Association, and UPEI Student Union, will be hosting a 3MT (3 Minute Thesis) competition on March 28th. This is an open call to any graduate student who would like to participate. First place will receive up to \$500 travel sponsorship to the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB to compete in the Eastern Regional 3MT competition plus \$200.00 cash. Second place will be \$100.00 and third place will receive \$50.00.

The UPEI 3MT will be Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Wave.

The Deadline for registration is Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 NOON.

To register, please contact Colleen Gallant at [cgallant@upei.ca](mailto:cgallant@upei.ca).

### **What Is 3 Minute Thesis?**

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a skills development activity, which challenges thesis-based graduate students to explain their research project to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes.

### **Eligibility**

- Students must be in a Masters or PhD program at UPEI and undertaking a thesis, project, or major research paper, which would make them eligible for Tri-Council (SSHRC, NSERC, or CIHR) funding.
- Students must not yet have graduated.
- Students who have already defended but have not yet graduated are eligible to compete.

Presentations should be based on research conducted for theses, major research papers, or projects which would be eligible for Tri-Council funding. Other research (for specific classes, professors, employers, etc.) is not eligible.

### **Why Should You Participate?**

To develop presentation and communication skills - Learning to explain complex ideas to non-specialists is a valuable skill. This competition gives students the opportunity to practice making presentations in front of a large audience, without any gimmicks.

To share your research - The competition will present a unique and rare opportunity for the university community (faculty, staff, fellow students) to learn what UPEI's graduate students are working on and for students to actually be able to share the results of their hard work with more than their defense committees.

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