



Message from the Editor: Brittany Jakubiec

Hello readers! There are many exciting items in April's issue of the GSA newsletter, including a recap of the 3MT, the introduction to a new GSA exec, and an announcement about an upcoming graduate student conference. I would also like to announce the new GSA executive: Valerie Campbell, returning as GSA President; Hannah Gehrels, our new VP Finance, and Brittany Jakubiec as the returning VP Internal & Admin.

Brittany Jakubiec has recently, and successfully, defended her MEd thesis. She is set to start the PhD in Educational Studies program in the fall.

I am really excited about the upcoming year. As a GSA, I want to see more events and opportunities for students to connect, share, and simply enjoy our time at UPEI.



A UPEI Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Conference coming soon!

By: Brittany Jakubiec

Recently, the GSA has been given a green light to plan a graduate research conference!

Currently, a planning committee has been struck, we are considering keynote speakers, and preparing to launch our website and registration information soon. Please stay tuned! If you would like more information or want to get involved, do not hesitate to email us at gsa@upei.ca.









Are you looking to keep on top of university news, career advice, and job listings? Grad students should take a look at University Affairs, which provides a number of ways to stay informed about and connected with Canada's university community. The magazine is published 10 times per year and is free to those who work or study at UPEI and other Canadian universities.

In addition to news, opinion, and career advice being posted each month, www.universityaffairs.ca offers access to the largest higher education job listing service in Canada. University Affairs also has weekly e-newsletters to keep subscribers informed about the latest feature stories and online content. Take a moment to have a look!

Issue 4, April 21, 2015

In this issue:

	Message from the Editor: Brittany Jakubiec	1
	Graduate Research Conference	1
	Meet the GSA VP Finance: Hannah Gehrels	2
	Upcoming events & important dates	2
	Recap of UPEI 3 Minute Thesis	3
	Upcoming MAIS thesis defenses	3

UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Valerie Campbell (President), Brittany Jakubiec (VP Internal), Hannah Gehrels (VP Finance)

Editor: Brittany Jakubiec
Contact: gsa@upei.ca



Meet the GSA VP Finance: Hannah Gehrels

I have just started my Masters in Environmental Sciences in January. I'm originally from Thunder Bay, Ontario, but have spent the last 5 years living on the West Coast. So far, I'm really enjoying Charlottetown and UPEI, and now I am excited to join the GSA executive!

I have a few ideas for GSA events I'd like to help organize, and I'm looking forward to making them happen. But I'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions. I'm in the Duffy Grad Room most days, all day, or you can contact me at hgehrels@upei.ca.

I am studying coastal ecology, focusing on invasive European Green crabs (*Carcinus maenas*). However, I am still figuring out exactly what my research will be focused on. One potential project is to model the effects of different removal strategies on the green crab population. For those who don't know, green crabs are

invasive in PEI, and have been associated with declines of commercially important clam species, eelgrass beds and have the potential to compete with other crustaceans such as American lobsters (*Homarus americanus*). As such, there is high interest in creating a green crab fishery as a way to control the green crab population. Predicting the impacts of a removal strategy is difficult, however, and populations can sometimes respond in unpredictable ways. So, using life history data based on green crab populations (such as adult survival), we hope to create theoretical matrix models in order to predict how different removal strategies will affect the population as a whole. From a project like this, we may be able to provide an educated guess about which removal strategy will result in the largest population decrease. I've got a lot to learn to make this happen though!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- GSA Pub Night! April 29 at 6:30 pm (Gahan House). Please rsvp to gsa@upei.ca if you are interested in attending!
- Convocation at UPEI. Saturday, May 9, 2015. Check out <http://www.upei.ca/programsandcourses/convocation> for more information.
- Are you graduating May 9? Please email your grad picture to nexus@upeisu.ca to be included in the 2014-2015 yearbooks!

UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Valerie Campbell (President), Brittany Jakubiec (VP Internal), Hannah Gehrels (VP Finance)

Editor: Brittany Jakubiec
Contact: gsa@upei.ca

RECAP OF UPEI 3 MINUTE THESIS

MARCH 26 @ THE WAVE By: Hannah Gehrels



Explaining years of in-depth research in just a few minutes is a difficult task, but the ten UPEI graduate students who participated in this year's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) made it look easy.

The Three Minute Thesis is a skills development activity created by the University of Queensland, Australia, which challenges thesis-based graduate students to explain their research project to a general audience in just three minutes. This year, a great crowd gathered at The Wave on March 26th to watch the event that was emceed by Dr. David McIver. Among the judges was the 2014 UPEI 3MT winner, Josh Slysz.

The presentations were catchy, clear, and peppered with clever analogies. At the end of each presentation the audience had a good idea of what the research was about and why it was important. I especially enjoyed the wide range of topics and hearing about some of the research that is taking place at UPEI. A pro-tip for any students thinking about participating next year: the rules are VERY strict about the time limit: one second over three minutes and you are disqualified.

Congratulations to all who participated, but especially to Brittany Jakubiec who won first place with her presentation entitled, "*Academic Motherhood*". Brittany's presentation was engaging, timed perfectly, and included stories that made her research relevant and interesting to everyone in the audience. Brittany will go on to Concordia for the Eastern Canadian finals on May 7. Let's wish her good luck! The second place winner was Bob Déziel, and the third place winner was Qammar Almas. Great job everyone!

DO YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Email your ideas, suggestions, and articles to gsa@upei.ca

UPCOMING THESES DEFENSES!

- "The relationship between humans and urban foxes on PEI" by Kristin Martin. April 22, 10 am to 12. AVC 286 B&C North.
- "Renewable energy in the food, energy, water nexus on the Bahamas" by Ross Beatty. Apr 23, 10 am-12. AVC 286 B&C North.
- "From Maine to Chiloe: The effects of social enterprises on marginalized experiences" by Abigail Vasquez. April 24, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Dalton 409.

UPEI GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Valerie Campbell (President), Brittany Jakubiec (VP Internal), Hannah Gehrels (VP Finance)

Editor: Brittany Jakubiec
Contact: gsa@upei.ca