

UPEI Graduate Student Association

GSA Newsletter

February 2022 Volume 3, Issue 1



Welcome to Volume 3 of the GSA Newsletter!

Volume 3 of the GSA newsletter is a place for graduate students to share stories of their personal and academic journeys at UPEI. Graduate students and affiliated faculty or staff members are welcome to submit a story that is no longer than 1000 words on topics such as: a current research project, a profile of personal academic journeys, an editorial piece on a topic of interest, or current events happening on campus. Stories must follow academic integrity guidelines and be ethically conscious.

Co-Editors Diane Montgomery and Christina Perry are PhD students at the Faculty of Education. In October 2021, Diane and Christina were introduced to the idea of starting a newsletter that showcased the ideas and research of graduate students across the UPEI campus. Both being advocates of the power that sharing lived experiences can have on building understanding and empathy, reactivating the GSA newsletter was a natural fit with Diane and Christina's personal philosophies.



UPEI Graduate Student Association

Contact Information

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Meeting GSA Interim President Zacharie Maw

Diane and Christina recently sat down with GSA President Zacharie Maw to learn more about him and the Graduate Students Association. The conversation started with Diane asking Zach what he is studying and why he chose UPEI.

Q. Why did you choose UPEI and what has been your experience at UPEI?

Zach grew up in Moncton and Halifax and received his undergraduate degree from Mount Allison University. He was seeking a master's degree somewhere in the Maritimes, and after exploring labs and programs at a few universities, he was drawn to the natural products group program at UPEI. Zach told us that the campus at UPEI is bigger than where he completed his undergraduate program which offered him access to larger research groups at the AVC.

Starting at UPEI in 2017 as a master's student in the Department of Biomedical Science at AVC, Zach transitioned to the Ph.D. program in 2018, and is now in his fifth year at UPEI. The focus of Zach's studies is marine natural products which could lead him to many paths after graduation, such as academia, pharmaceuticals, biochemistry, and microbiology, but at this point, Zach wants to keep all options open.

The faculty within which Zach studies exposes him to a variety of vet programs and vet research. Zach said, "I hear all sorts of different perspectives that I've never really even considered before in terms of animal research that is a little bit more medicine based than my undergraduate program."

Q. Why did you join the GSA?

Zach told us because the UPEI campus is larger than what he was familiar with at Mount Allison University, his connection with the GSA provided him with the opportunity to learn about and get involved with different university committees. Zach said, "you learn how the university governs itself and how the processes roll down eventually into what the student actually faces on the day to day."

Outside of the GSA, Zach wasn't involved in any communities at UPEI and only heard about the GSA through peers in his lab or other friends who were involved. The GSA provided him with opportunities to meet other graduate students in both an academic and social capacity. He said each faculty is unique and since the objectives of graduate students are different from undergraduate students, the opportunities for connections with other graduate students can sometimes be limited.

Submit your article for the next issue

The next issue will be
released in May 2022.

Submission Deadline
April 15th

Email:
gsanewsletter@upei.ca

About the GSA Committee

After sharing about his personal experience at UPEI, Christina asked Zach questions about the GSA to learn more about the organization.

Q: What is the Graduate Student Association?

The GSA is a student-based organization that offers a variety of ways for graduate students to be part of a student-oriented community through developing professional skills, committee service, networking, and attending social events.

Zach spoke of the association's primary objective being an advocacy group for graduate students on campus. It is also a place for students to build social connections, community building, and liaise between faculties and students.

Zach told us, "The GSA brings together various groups of grad students and organizes some events every month, just to try and get groups of students involved."

Zach commented that faculties on campus do not always have opportunities for students to meet socially. The GSA provides a place for students to meet and discuss ideas. The GSA usually hosts approximately two social events a month with one or two bigger events, generally at the end of the fall or winter semesters.

Q: How is the association organized?

The Graduate Student Association includes an executive committee and student representative positions. The executive consists of President, Vice President, and Vice President Finance positions. While the student representative positions are seats open to students from graduate programs across campus. There are also customized student representative positions for international, indigenous, and post-doctoral students. Furthermore, the GSA invites the graduate student representatives from the Student Union, Senate, and Board of Governors to sit on the GSA board.

President

The primary role of the President is to chair GSA meetings, take a leadership role to plan events, and liaise with the Faculty of Graduate studies. The president also solicits feedback from student-based departments on campus, assists with student inquiries, recruits student volunteers to participate in the association, and the student representative on the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC).

Vice President Positions

The Vice President Finance does the bookkeeping for the association and assists with event planning where needed. The Vice President records the minutes during GSA meetings, maintains the social media platforms to advertise upcoming events, and steps in for the President should the President be absent during meetings or events.

Student Representative Positions

Student Representatives attend a GSA meeting once a month and are invited to contribute to the discussion on topics of interest. Additionally, they have the option to help plan events. In some cases, GSA student representatives may also take on a graduate student representative position at their faculty of study if there is one. When students take on the dual role with the GSA and with their faculty, it enables opportunities for information to be shared between the GSA and faculties on campus.



Q: What are the benefits of getting involved?

There are many benefits to getting involved with the GSA. It is a place for graduate students to build personal relationships and professional networks that support one another on their academic journey. It also provides opportunities for students to build academic skills (communicative and organizational) and converse with different people across departments on campus.

"[Through the GSA] you always kind of know what's going on, on campus. Meeting new people being involved on campus, hearing about the different opportunities to get involved." – Zach Maw

Read more about the GSA on their website at <https://www.upei.ca/graduate-studies/gsa>



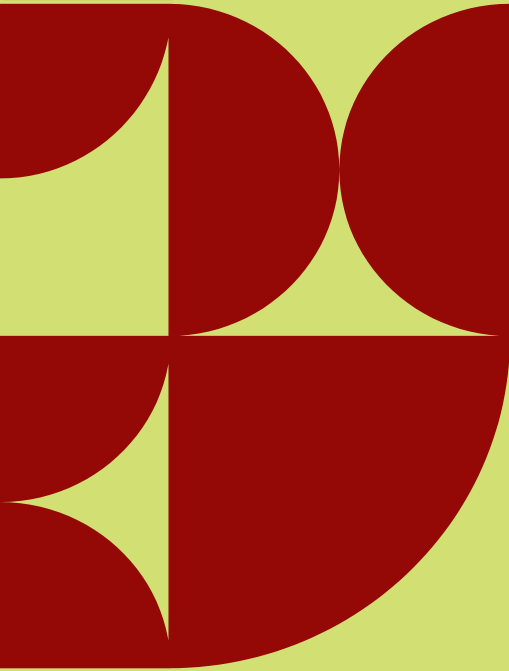
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Graduate Student Representative Positions

The table below has information about graduate student representative positions in graduate programs across campus.

<u>Veterinary Medicine</u> PhD in Veterinary Medicine MSc in Veterinary Science Master of Veterinary Science	<u>Education</u> PhD in Educational Studies MEd in Leadership in Learning
AVC Graduate Studies & Research Committee - Meets approx. monthly (1.5- 2 hours) - Discusses grad student and research issues including student polices and practices AVC Health and Safety Working Group - Discusses health & safety issues in AVC labs, clinics, animal areas, and teaching programs Contact: Dr. Larry Hammell - lhammell@upei.ca Rosemary Mclver - mciver@upei.ca	Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) - One year position starting in September that meets once a month in person with the possibility of additional meetings - The GSC guides the coordination of graduate courses in the Faculty of Education - Ideally seeking PhD student in 1st or 2nd year of the program. Contact: Dr. Jane P. Preston - jpreston@upei.ca
<u>Science</u> PhD in Molecular and Macromolecular Science PhD in Environmental Studies Master of Applied Health Services Research MSc, Mathematical and Computational Sciences Master of Science	<u>Nursing</u> Master of Nursing
Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) - This committee mostly works by email - Committee approves admissions and establishes policies. It oversees supervisory committees, candidacy exams and thesis exams Contact: Barry Linkletter – blinkletter@upei.ca	Faculty of Nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee - Two meetings held per year - To inform and advise the Faculty of Nursing about issues, concerns and trends in care that have the potential to impact the nursing education programs Contact: Rebecca Gallant - rebgallant@upei.ca





<p align="center">Graduate Studies Master in Global Affairs</p>	<p align="center">Arts Doctor of Psychology MA in Island Studies</p>
<p align="center">Contact: Dr. Doreley Coll – dcoll@upei.ca</p>	<p>Department of Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One meeting per month during the academic year - Open to all Doctor of Psychology students with a nomination process each fall <p align="right">Contact: Melanie Peters – psychadmin@upei.ca</p> <p>Clinical Program Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One meeting per month during the academic year - Open to all Doctor of Psychology Students with nomination process each fall <p align="right">Contact: Megan Ratchford – gradpsychadmin@upei.ca</p>



Are YOU interested in getting involved in the GSA?

“We're looking for people who want to get involved a little bit more in the community and want to meet some people. [People who] want to learn a little bit more about how the campus works and give a little bit of their time outside of their regular program to help the whole community... Anyone can volunteer.”
– Zach Maw

An election will be coming up soon to fill roles on the executive board and student representative positions.

Contact Interim President Zacharie Maw for more information at gsa@upei.ca

