

THE GEM

Blessed are the editors who expect nothing... for they will not be disappointed.

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Anyone can contribute to The GEM. Submissions can be dropped off at the Barn, sent through VAX MAIL to GEM, or stuck on our door down in the basement of the utility building. Our phone number is 566-0629 or 566-0530.

We cherish typed and double spaced submissions and submissions on computer disk or through VAX mail. For legal reasons, all submissions must include the author's name and phone number. However, names will be withheld from publication on request.

The GEM is published by the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the GEM staff, the UPEI Student Union, or of anyone in particular.

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to space or taste limitations.

We reserve the right not to print submissions that are submitted after Monday at 3:00pm.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Wendy Drake

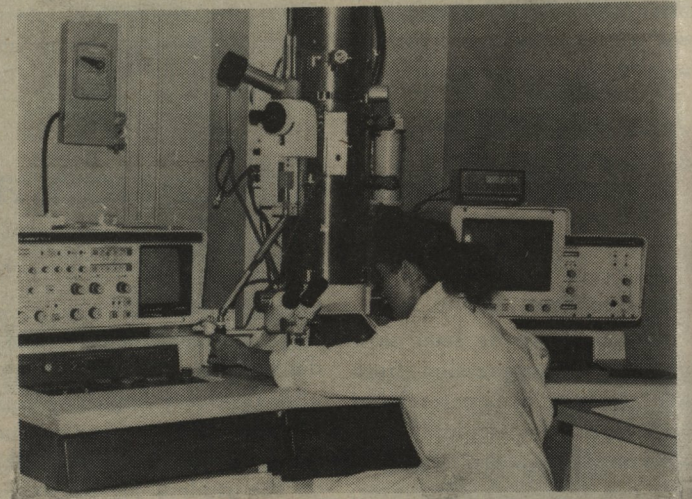
Master's program at UPEI? Yes, there certainly is! On April 15, 1986 the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission approved the proposal for an M.Sc. program at U.P.E.I. The first student enrolled in January 1987. As of September 1988, there were fifteen full-time and four part-time students in the program. Our first successful Master's examination occurred six weeks ago.

Here are some facts and comments from the people involved.... Richard Gallant, a graduate student from P.E.I. states "U.P.E.I. is a very logical place to have an M.Sc. program because students have easy access to field-type data on agricultural and aquacultural farms from which laboratory projects can be devised." As well, Janice Gillis, a graduate student, notes "the Atlantic Veterinary College has provided all the modern research facilities and excellent equipment with which the highest standards in Master's work can be achieved."

Dr. Jim Bellamy, Coordinator of Graduate Studies and Research, points out "this is the first graduate program at U.P.E.I. so all procedures, regulations, courses, etc., are being developed for the first time; but, as each year passes more resources and especially people are available to support the grad program, thereby improving it each year." Dr. Jamie Amend, Chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology, commented on the advantage/disadvantage of doing grad studies at U.P.E.I.; "the greatest advantages are the newness and enthusiasm of the faculty, and the extraordinary facilities and equipment. The disadvantages also relate to newness. Courses are not yet optimal in presentation or number and traditions are not yet established in program and policy."

The M.Sc. degree at U.P.E.I. requires the demonstration of a reasonable mastery of a concentrated field of study. The latter is attested by achieving satisfactory standings in a minimum of four graduate courses, completion of

a research project and writing a thesis based upon the research. Grad students can register in one of the four academic departments of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology and Microbiology, Health Management, and Companion Animals. Research projects ranging from the preservation of fish sperm to the neurotoxicity of domoic acid are being carried out at this time. Some other areas of study, to name a few, include microanatomy, parasitology of wildlife, herd management, and clinical pathology. Depending on the individual's thesis topic, projects could involve one or more of several species of animals. At the Vet College there is also considerable interaction and cooperation among the departments to provide courses and research facilities to meet the needs of individual students and their research projects. "The structure and smallness of the College allows for tremendous interdisciplinary discussion and consultation, something that can be missing from larger places" suggests



Bryan Grimmelt, grad student, Toxicology.

The Master's Student

How does a Master's student compare to undergrads or professional students? "The fundamental difference as I see it", offers Dr. J. Amend, "is the commitment to specialty. A graduate student must narrowly identify his/her area of expertise and indeed begin to become an expert." Rosemary Hood, a grad student in Physiology, commented on the differences as follows: "undergrads and professional students, once in the program, have one goal - to learn the presented material and graduate into their career (goal). Graduate students must define their own goals, decide on the route to meet this goal, work out the logistics, relate to academics in a sharing environment, and do original work, often on their own." Dr. Arnost Cepica, Assistant Professor in Virology, put it this way, "graduate students are expected to possess curious and investigative minds that are not satisfied with the current knowledge, and are stimulated rather than discouraged by problems. The graduate student is an avid reader of scientific literature that is not confined to his/her area of specialization.

The student has a desire to analyze facts and synthesize them into the original views. A student collects and tests methods, willing to work with persistence and is able to progress in the face of unpredictable obstacles. Dr. J. Bellamy added "grad students, in general, have an intense interest in their chosen discipline and their eagerness to learn acts as a constant stimulus to both undergraduates and faculty. They receive disciplined knowledge and research experience and in turn contribute knowledge to their discipline through their research." Dr. David Sims, Associate Professor of Microanatomy, noted "grad students are frequently more abstract thinkers, less interested in salary, more likely to want to explore knowledge and learning for their intrinsic values." Dr. J. Amend summarized these thoughts by saying "graduate study is a time in life where self-interest is okay. During this time students should be internally dedicated to the theory of their field and the technology of their research. These activities should not be displaced by anything."

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