

Pilot Project Opens Doors to High Schools

By Stephanie Douglas

Three dozen exceptional high school students have come from across Prince Edward Island to get their first taste of UPEI.

The university is in its first week of a pilot project that has 36 twelfth grade students, representing almost every school from across PEI, taking English 192, Introduction to Literature, as a combined on-line and in class course. This innovative pilot project will not only benefit these students, but at the same time will be a concerted effort by the university to expand its on-line course offerings.

Dean Philip Smith said conception of the program began in early September, and involved many people. "President MacLauchlan had a desire to explore ways for UPEI to move forward with offering more on-line courses," said Smith, "as well as making linkages with high school students."

By adding the dimension of an on-line course, Smith said the university was able to accomplish the two goals at once. The idea and development for the pilot also had the very active support of Dr. Elizabeth Epperly, Professor, and former UPEI President.

There are currently 64 students enrolled in both sections of the course, more than half of those spaces were allocated to exceptional grade 12 students holding an 85 per cent average or more, who were also recommended by their school principal.

One of the challenges of initiating the project was to make it truly accessible. "President MacLauchlan waived this semester's tuition fees so that all students wanting to enroll and who met the criteria could do so," said Smith.

Another challenge in getting the program off the ground said Smith, were UPEI's entrance requirements. To that end, UPEI Senate was appealed to, and the regulations were changed in order to allow these students to participate.

The whole process has been a learning experience for Professor Gerald Wandio who teaches the introductory english course.

"In getting the course ready for the pilot, my biggest challenge was learning how to use the technology," he said. However, in doing so, there is a sense of excitement said Wandio, in learning how to use the various forms of technology knowing that ultimately it benefits his students while at the same time it expands his capabilities as a teacher and increases the overall capabilities of the university.

These are some exceptionally bright students, said Wandio, the twelfth graders involved in project, most of who had already logged in by the end of the first three days of the project and he left some form of comment.

"These young people outstandingly intelligent and eager to get started, even though the course means extra work on top of their current course load," Wandio. On the other hand, he admitted he was slightly disappointed not to have seen the enthusiasm from the older college university students, which had logged on by the end of the week.

The excitement that comes from this type of project, said Wandio, is the fact that before the students meet face-to-face in one of the in-house classes, they will already have been talking to each other on-line for some

So, unless a student chooses to reveal his or her age, when they get to class, some of older or even mature students might be very surprised to find out that the person they have been communicating with is still in high school.

This program is a wonderful opportunity to give young people the opportunity to get a taste of university, to go beyond some the restraints of a high school program and to experience first hand something that many of them may already be aspiring to, he added.

As well, Wandio believes that it will give other high school students the chance to be exposed to the idea of university by talking with people involved in the project.

1. The Aesthetics of Ascetics
2. The Wonder, The Curse, and the Loud Black Noise
3. How Many People It Actually

Takes To Run A Student Union

4. The Liver In My Pie (3)
5. Death By Handshake
6. A Small Towel of Equivocation
7. Mickey Acorn's Five Tips to Fire Safety
8. The 20 Foot Man Is Probably Just Three Men Standing On Each Other's Shoulders
9. Music 4 Airports
10. Apologia (4)

While I am sure you are disappointed that this issue was so small, I can explain. See we had enough content for about 17.5 pages. However the printing process works in fours (16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36 you get it) so we have chopped like an Iron Chef on thyroxine, and present you with these tight, and smart 16 pages.

Now for the future.

'The future?'—you are saying.

Yes—the future.

In these pages you can look

as well as a valid credit which they can then use to apply to UPEI or to another university," said Wandio. It's going to be interesting, he said, to get feedback toward the end of February after all the students have had a chance to work with the on-line content and have also had a chance to meet in class.



The Uncommon Grocer
Natural & Gourmet Foods

ball team, the East Oakland Roller Derby Team, (5) and got seriously into weight lifting. Watch for details.

"Expurgator?" (6)
Yes.

"Do you have any cryptic aphorism type sayings that would be nice to close this disjointed rambling with?"

Why yes.

You can't force a yawn like you can a smile. (7)

"Wait wasn't that the title of an Editorial last year. Have things gotten so bad that you are now stealing from yourself Ol' Sport?" (8)

So it goes. (9)

Kent J. Bruyneel
Editor-In-Chief

- (1) Usurped from J.D. Salinger
- (2) Nicked from the *Oxford Minireference Thesaurus*.
- (3) Boosted from Jeff Coll.
- (4) Appropriated from monstro.com.
- (5) Raped from Hunter S. Thompson.
- (6) Plundered from the *Oxford Minireference Thesaurus*.
- (7) Burgled from me.
- (8) Confiscated from F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- (9) Annexed from Kurt Vonnegut.