

UPEI business students score major national victory

By Kent J. Bruyneel
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UPEI's School of Business, long the subject of pride in this community, has received a national title that places it comfortably among the best undergraduate faculties in the country.

Three fourth year students from the school-Tara Burley, Shara Clow and Shanna Craswell- have won the University Award of Excellence- a case study competition held annually in Montreal.

Each of the competing teams was given a case relating to the field of human resources and industrial relations. The competitors were asked to respond and provide recommendations within an hour of reading the situation. They were required to submit a report and prepare an oral presentation to a council of jurors who posed ten minutes of questions. The cases were drawn from real-life Canadian corporate dilemmas.

"The time restrictions made us panic at first," said Burley, "but we got over that and settled down."

There were teams from 17 other Canadian Universities at the conference-including McGill, Carleton and Bishops. The event had never before been won by a team outside of the province of Quebec.

UPEI was asked to enter a team last year, but, according to Don MacCormac-the team's coach and an assistant professor at UPEI-he did not feel ready until this year to enter the event. The victory is made even more remarkable, MacCormac explained, because most of the competing schools have actual majors in Human Resources.

"They have seven or eight courses in most of their [human resource] programs," MacCormac explained, "and we have only two."

MacCormac was not overly surprised at the victory, but was

thrilled with the result the team achieved on what was such a difficult task.

Other faculty members were seen beaming in the halls of Kelley building at the victory, but few were terribly surprised that UPEI could compete on a national level.

"It is not surprising," said Accounting professor Albert Ferris, "if you look at how well our students do in all their studies."

Ferris went on to explain that UPEI ranks 20-25% higher each year on pass rates for the Uniform Final Exam-the chartered accountancy designation exam-than the national average.

Burley, and MacCormac had modest hopes upon entry and completion of the competition and were floored to hear they had won unanimously.

"The judges told us after that when we walked out of the room, they were convinced we were the winners," said Burley.

"We had no idea. There is an element of fake confidence when you are standing in front of the panel pretending to be consultants," Burley said, "but we just decided to be as confident as possible. I was just hoping to place third"

MacCormac said he would have been elated with an "honorable mention" and is very proud of the students who competed.

This most recent accomplishment can only be good for the School, and MacCormac who is also the Director of the School's Internship programs, hopes: "this achievement will be a strong incentive to other students in the program."

The help of the local business community in critiquing practice cases was invaluable, Burley added. The School of Business has long been associated heavily with the Charlottetown business community, as could be witnessed at their enormously successful Business Society Luncheon this past Friday.

CHEAP PIZZA.



2 x 1 24 Slice
PARTY PIZZA

(Any 3 Ingredients)

PRESENT YOUR STUDENT ID FOR PICK-UP ORDERS!

\$10.99
only

+ taxes or \$14.11 delivered taxes included!

NO COUPON NECESSARY!



310.30.30
307 University Ave

This Special Available For Delivery To:
UPEI, BROWN COURT, HOLLAND COLLEGE & COMPU COLLEGE ONLY!!!

Not valid with other specials • This special available for delivery to UPEI, Brown Court, Holland College and Compu College only • Student ID required for pick up orders only • Trademark of Grinner's Food Systems Limited, used under license.