

Excellence at UPEI

highlights of the past semester

By CINDY VENEMA
and JULIE CLOW

UPEI has shone numerous times over this past semester in undergraduate symposiums and conferences. The many triumphs of UPEI students show that our university effectively shapes leaders and winners.

Biology

On March 7th, twenty six students and four professors from UPEI attended the Atlantic University Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC). This conference hosts 150 students from every school in the maritimes. This year four people from UPEI presented in two categories. Kathryn Dauschmidt presented orally and Chris Grey, Aurelie de Fayard and Jason Gallant presented with posters. UPEI received first and second place in the poster competition.

One of the presenters from UPEI, Chris Grey, was impressed by the conference and UPEI's success: "It was great to see that UPEI is in there among the top in undergraduate research. In fact, we're number one".

English

During the first weekend of February, the annual English Conference was held at Dalhousie University. Five UPEI students attended the conference: Emily Ledwell, Alice Gallant, Laura Hanson, Tim Curley and Janna Green. Each student presented their own English papers. Dr. Shannon Murray attended the conference and her impression of the UPEI presenters was: "With no exaggeration and--I think-- little bias, I can say that our students far outstripped any of the other presenters I heard." Murray attributes this success not only to the academic talents of the presenters, but also to Dr. Irene Gammel. Gammel gives a presentation workshop every year to assist the participants with their presentations.

Murray felt this was just yet another example of UPEI's excellence: "Yet again we see that the best of our students can easily stand up to the best of students at any university, and in this case, they outshone the others. Take that Macleans."

Business

The UPEI Business faculty has enjoyed a longstanding reputation as having one of the best programs that the maritimes has to offer.

An example of this, is when J.D. Irving held interviews this past semester for positions available to Business graduates from maritime universities. Fifteen UPEI students got interviews, which is a high percentage above other universities. Four of these students got call backs which is more than any other single university, and two of the four students got job offers from the Irvings. The recruiters from the company said that they would definitely be back next year.

The opening ceremonies for the new Business program, the Internship program, at UPEI were held this semester. The Internship program is looking to place all of its students by April 4th of this year. Irving has expressed interest in placing two of the Internship students from UPEI, one in St. John and one in Sussex.

Student Development

Open House:

This semester, UPEI held its first open house. Three hundred and fifty students came from across the island, despite harsh weather conditions, to enjoy the open house. The open house was organized by UPEI students. Many faculties spent hours setting up their displays.

Blaine Jenson, the Director of Student Development, commented "Some students may have tagged along with a friend who never considered UPEI, and it was those students we were trying to snag...those who think that

going to university close to home is not that good, but when they saw the campus they thought that UPEI was not such a bad university after all."

Leadership Symposium:

The Open House was a result of the planning done by the members of the UPEI Leadership Symposium. The Leadership Symposium consisted of student leaders who have met seven times this year. Student Development decided to honour the outstanding student leaders last weekend at the first ever Leadership Recognition Reception. At this reception awards were given to the top leaders. Jennifer Feethem, President of the Engineering Society, and Chris Grey, SU President, split the Inspirational Leadership Award. Jonathan Oliver, RA at Marion Hall, received the Leadership Excellence Award.

Respect Day

For the last three years, Mary Johnston-Hunter has co-ordinated an event called Respect Day. On Respect Day, we are supposed to remember all those nice little things our parents taught us like, be nice to one another, be nice to yourself and how much the little things that you do can matter.

It was decided that this was a good time of year to hold the event because towards the end of second semester students are feeling the stress of almost a whole year's work.

On Respect Day, there was a booth set up in the breezeway at Robertson Library. Yellow ribbons were handed out as a symbol of respect and little pieces of paper wrapped with cheerful notes of anecdotes and were given to the students. Students were thrilled with their gifts.

The Panther Prints would like to congratulate all the students at UPEI who have participated in making our university shine.

Blanchard Hall 'on Heat'

real hot, but what's not

By BRUCE HENRY

For more than twenty years Blanchard Hall residents have experienced heating problems.

The heaters of Blanchard are controlled by an external thermostat which is usually manually adjusted twice a year, unless it requires adjusting from the thermostat outside. For the other 363 days of the year the thermostat relays the outside temperature to Trigen's computer, where the heat is adjusted accordingly.

The problem with this system is that it takes two days for the heat temperature to be altered. By the time the residents' rooms are heated the temperature outside usually has warmed up, making the rooms unbearably hot.

Blanchard could have its own control over the heat; however, maintaining control would require all the students to keep their windows shut. This may solve the heating problem, but who is going to keep their windows closed in his/her apartment when it is so hot that the paint starts running off the walls.

Fortunately, Mark Braithwaite, Residence Coordinator, will be proposing a plan to renovate Blanchard's heating system at the upcoming budget meeting on May 1st. According to Braithwaite's blue prints, it would cost between one third to a half a million dollars for the replacement heating system.

If the committee agrees with this project, the old 'wild' system will be disposed. According to one maintenance person, the current heating system "should not have been installed in the first place". The new system will include thermostats for each apartment.

Blanchard Hall officially opened on September 20, 1974, so resident students have had this heating problem for more than 20 years.

A Blanchard resident commented, "I would like to thank Mr. Braithwaite for his initiative in changing this problem. After all, we do not need to lower our standards. Heck no, comfortable room temperature would make our stay at Blanchard much more enjoyable, so why ask for anything less".



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