



The
Candle
in the
Window

Depictions
of
Home
and Away
in Irish
LITERATURE

March 23 & 24
—2001—

Integrated Learning at UPEI

By Erin Fagan

Twenty-five incoming freshmen will become part of UPEI's First Year Advantage Program, a newly developed integrated learning community, in September 2001. The professors of five first-year courses, University 100, English 101, English 192, Psychology 101, and Philosophy 111, will be linking their course content and assignments as a foundation to further university study.

This is an expanded sequel to a successful linking of English 101 and English 195 last semester by Dr. Shannon Murray and Dr. Catherine Innes-Parker. That initiative began last year from a Senate Committee for the Enhancement of Teaching (SCENT) presentation by Dr. Philip Smith, Dean of Arts.

"That project was a great deal of fun," describes Innes-Parker, "and the students seemed to enjoy it and benefit from the linking in all kinds of ways (academically, socially and others)."

Innes-Parker added that, "some [courses] will be fairly closely linked while in other cases the links will be primarily the [students and instructors] rather than assignments."

Dr. Smith, speaking of his interest in the concept of learning communities, related his desire to develop a cohesion between courses.

"Too often," he said, "students graduate more with a sense of having taken 40 separate courses than with a sense of introduction to, and exploration of, the ways of knowing."

Smith sees the program as a way to assist students to make connections between the courses, such as in the areas of critical thinking, writing, and reading skills. Another important benefit, he added, will be the interconnections made between students and their professors within the community.

"This is especially important in a commuter campus in which students' lives are pulled in many different directions. Students who see themselves as part of the university community are more likely to identify themselves as students, more likely to invest more energy in thinking about and working on their courses, and more likely to persist in university through graduation."

When asked about further programs which might come out of this one, if successful, Innes-Parker asserted, "The possibilities are endless!" Other courses, whether loosely related or highly integrated, could be linked, and other disciplines could have core courses united in a similar fashion, she projected.

When asked about learning communities within the Science faculties, Dean Roger Gordon explained that, "It's possible. It's not something we've given any thought to for the moment."

"We could certainly take a look at it in some of our programs," he said, citing biology and chemistry where courses, as in the Arts faculty, "are all over the place."

"We would follow with interest," he concluded.

A third year History major, after reading the promotional posters in the English Department, commented that, "this is a good initiative. I'm excited to see how it will develop in the future." She pointed out, however, the noteworthy exclusion of history within the package.

INS-PEI SHUTTLE SERVICE

Quality Passenger Service Between
Halifax and PEI Daily Return

Depart Halifax Dartmouth 8:00 am
Depart Charlottetown 12:30 am

Regular Fares

	One Way	Return
Adult	\$45.00	\$85.00
Student/Senior	\$40.00	\$75.00

Contact Us At:

1-866-463-9660
npeishuttle@accesswave.ca

SOCIAL SERVICE CAREERS USA

RESIDENTIAL YOUTH COUNSELORS WORK IN CENTRAL
MASSACHUSETTS - CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS — SEVERE EMOTIONAL
DISTURBANCES, INTERVIEW HALIFAX MARCH 25, 26 27 RELATED
BACHELORS DEGREE/ DIPLOMA, CAR REQUIRED
CONTACT KATHI 800-863-0076 FAX: 781-340-5257
EMAIL:EFAY@HAMSHER.COM, APPLY ONLINE: WWW.HAMSHER.COM
HAMILTON & SHERWOOD 1500 MAIN STREET, WEYMOUTH MA USA
02190