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University of Prince Edward Island

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Business Studies at UPEI Include New Internship Program

UPEI's Business department has integrated a new internship program into its curriculum. Through research, the business department discovered that on-the-job training is extremely popular across the nation, and so UPEI's School of Business Administration has become an active participant in this program.

The Co-op program began in 1957 in the University of Waterloo's Engineering department. Since then, the program has escalated in popularity, having 129 institutes involved across Canada, equalling about 56,000 Co-op students (see graph page 2).

Co-operative education is offered in the third year to

UPEI Business students. The program is optional, not required. But there is only limited space, approximately 25 students are accepted, which means they must apply for the program and then be invited for an interview.

The first selection of Internship students has already been completed, with 34 stu-

dents who applied and 27 students who got accepted.

The interviews were conducted at the Business department. When asked what they thought of the interviews many of the applicants said that the interviews were not intimidating and therefore they felt at ease in their interview.

Once accepted the stu-

dent is then left with the task of landing a job. Ernie Doiron, Internship Coordinator, stated that the program assists in finding a job for the Co-op students; however, the students are required to officially secure the job on their own, such as going to job interviews. Doiron explained, "looking for a job is truly a learning experience on its own".

He also explained, "we provide the students with the workshop skills". These workshops include: Resume Preparation, Interview Skills, The Job Market: Trends and Opportunities, Employer Expectations, Networking Techniques and Employer Research.

The students are encouraged to work abroad or at home. Any jobs they obtain must be approved by the program coordinator. Students who have been accepted into the program are required to work three work terms, ranging from 13 to 16 weeks.

Also, in addition to these work terms, the students are expected to complete 40 semester hours. This means

Pre - registration Big Headache

"They should tie the registrar to a tree outside Kelley Building for the same length of time we all had to stand out there."

This attitude was shared by hundreds of UPEI students as they waited in temperatures just below zero on Tuesday morning for pre-registration of second semester.

Staff of the registrars office, many of whom have been there since UPEI opened in 1969 have "never seen a pre-registration lineup such as we saw on Tuesday." The question is why?

Toting blankets and stereos students began camping out in Kelley building Monday night. As the stu-

dents made camp for the night Alanis Morrissette could be heard in the hall way as if her belting out of "Ironic" could help alleviate the irony of pre-registration, and perhaps help students forget that they were spending the night in order to spend two minutes the next morning registering.

One fourth year student who avoided the lineup, but sympathized with those who had to wait in line said that "The whole point of pre-registration is to avoid lineups on registration day."

When asked why the lineup this year was greater than any other, John DeGrace, Registrar, said that there were two possible reasons. "First,

especially during the last two years, there has been a proportional shift to the sciences in enrolments; and students might have been concerned about getting their preferred class and/or lab section...Second, we advertised that, on registration day, we would open the Office at 7:00am in order to accommodate students already lined up to pre-register....was intended to shorten people's waits, [opening early] may have worsened the situation by sending an unspoken message that 'if they are opening an hour-and-a-half early it must be important so I had better get in line.'"

Two possibilities being looked into to avoid lineups in the future including a telephone registration, (using the touch tone pad to enter information), and an on-line registration through remote computer terminals. Other universities across Canada are already on-line or offer registration via automated phone service. Although these systems have flaws, they seem to work well over all.

UPEI is a small university, with full-time enrollment at around 2500, and the expense of switching to registration by phone may out way the

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