

# CAMPUS

## 19..... NOT YET!

Martha MacIntyre  
Reporter

To say that you go to UPEI and are under the age of 19 is not uncommon. In fact, of the current 915 first-year students, about 700 of them are under 19. Starting University is supposed to be a joy in a person's life. It is a big step towards the adult world, "the real world," that most of us have always wondered about.

For many first year students, starting university is also the first time that they leave their parents' home. First-year student Katrina Abou-Risk says university is a time to be social.

"University is where you meet some new people and make some new friends."

However, she says it is very hard not being able to go out "and get a drink" with a new "friendly face."

For first year students, it seems that we can't avoid the power of a "bar". Whether we walk by The Wave and see the Deal or No Deal signs, or we get one of those messages in our UPEI email accounts saying come to Piazza Joe's and you can have half price drinks until one in the morning.

This leaves half of us thinking "will I ever turn 19?"

AWWWWW University life! It hap-

pens everyday - Guy meets Girl, Guy likes Girl, Guy asks girl out on a date (however guy is twenty but girl is only 18 so guy can not take girl out to a bar). Do Guy and Girl stay together? Maybe, Maybe not!

Let's look at the good, and "smart side" of starting University and being underage.

First-year student Natalie Toombs says a lot of students spend too much time worrying about turning 19.

"University is a new adventure, and if you are not nineteen then you are not nineteen. Instead of taking the year to count the days until you turn nineteen, why not focus on your studies!"

First-year student Maggie Johnston has been doing just that.

"University has been so busy that I have not really had time to think about the bars," she said.

(Well hey, she is one of the lucky ones who turns 19 in February..... UN-LIKE SOME PEOPLE)

According to all students who were interviewed, it is great that UPEI knows that there is about 700 students who attend UPEI who are underage. So the University has Wet/Dry activities.

Good job Shawn Younis!

So if you are like me and started University "underage," don't worry about it!

I will see you all at the Wave in November!

## Awards, scholarships and other ways to finance your education

Financing a university education can be an expensive proposition. Students typically will use one or more of several strategies to make ends meet, and although nobody would intentionally look for ways to go deeper into debt, the reality for most students is just this. Last Fall, the Student Union ran a Debt Counter on their web site and with responses from over 350 students hit a total debt of more than \$5.25 million - this works out on average to \$15,000 of debt per student and most likely is a conservative estimate.

Financing strategies typically will include summer employment, a part time job during the school year, contributions from parents, reducing expenses by taking a reduced course load, awards and scholarships and of course the Student Loan. Loans are great, but they eventually need to be repaid (and we've recently been informed that debt repayment regulations are being tightened and will become increasing difficult to avoid).

A generous array of awards and schol-

arships are administered by the University [www.upei.ca/registrarsoffice](http://www.upei.ca/registrarsoffice) and numerous other externally administered opportunities exist [www.upei.ca/awards](http://www.upei.ca/awards). One often overlooked and very valuable resource for access to hundreds of external awards is the Studentwards.com website [www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com). A simple registration procedure lets you create your own "profile" and the site automatically identifies awards for which you qualify. And this search for awards is on-going - as new ones come up, an email is sent to alert you to new possibilities! It doesn't get much easier.

The saddest part of student debt is that significant dollars may not be awarded because nobody applies. While there are no guarantees you will receive an award if you apply, I can absolutely guarantee you won't receive one if you don't apply. So do yourself a favour, check the offerings at UPEI, and take a minute to register for Studentawards.com.

Good luck

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Possible Futures

**Possible future B 2014**  
result: gets job at Pete's Pit.

**Possible future A 2014**  
result: wins entrepreneur of the year.

**Student ID Card**  
Client # 73428826-1  
Expires: 2010.05.26  
The Culinary Institute of Canada  
**Kerry Constable**  
Kerry Constable  
Student Signature  
The Community College of Prince Edward Island

**Profile**  
Kerry Constable  
1st Year Culinary Student

**Goals**  
Travel, World Cuisine Tours, Open own restaurant, quit smoking before 30th birthday.

**Smoking Status**  
Half a pack - more when I'm stressin'!

**Herry Constable wins Young Entrepreneur of the year for 2014**  
"It's been a long, strange journey, but I can't imagine my life any other way."  
When Constable was a student at the Culinary Center she had some success with various competitions. But she credits her choice to travel the world and taste what it had to offer as the key to her success. "I think it's important to see life as something you make happen and not as something that happens to you - if that makes any sense."

**News Event 2007 Culinary Competition**

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