

Internationalization @ UPEI

An Adventure Among the Pyramids

Six UPEI students have returned to the Island after an educational journey to Misr International University in Cairo, Egypt. The students received scholarships to participate in the Middle East Studies Program at MIU. The program includes a variety of courses on cultural topics ranging from language to history to politics. Bethany Devoe, a fourth year student, decided this was the perfect way to satisfy her love of travel and earn credits toward her degree. As a seasoned traveler, Bethany was still surprised at how different this new culture was from her own. Luckily, she had the camaraderie of fellow students from diverse places around the globe. After spending their days in classes, the students would travel into the city to absorb the sights, sounds and smells of Cairo. Concerning academics, Noah MacDougall said, "I



applied myself academically as much as I could, but I also realized the benefit of learning from personal experience, in addition to studying course material." When asked what they learned in Egypt that they could not have learned in Canada, the students commented most on the culture. Noah said, "This

was my first trip to a country that was not predominately Christian, so I really got a good look into Islam and what the religion is about." For Bethany, the international aspect of this experience has given her a new way to see the world: "I think it is important for an individual to experience and see how other people live their everyday lives in other parts of the world, we need to pop the bubble that we most often live in and open our eyes and minds to the rest of the world."

Photo credit timkelly

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September 2010 EAP student numbers are slightly above what they were last year. Approximately 200 students are enthusiastically navigating the transition to university culture, where just about everything is new. Thanks to a lively Society of International Students, the Buddy Program, Students for Literacy and many supportive people on campus, the atmosphere is upbeat.

New this year is the addition of a 10 hour/week pilot requested by the Saudi Cultural Bureau. Based on testing and research conducted last winter, we determined that the focus of this extra transitional support should be mathematics and the specialized language of science and business. We appreciate the spirit of generosity and adaptability of colleagues who have enabled the use of non-traditional classroom space to

meet the requirement. Thanks to 3rd floor Kelley for sharing your lunch room!



EAP students enjoying themselves while deep sea fishing.

English Academic Preparation Update

UPEI Hosts International Visitors

written by Suna Houghton

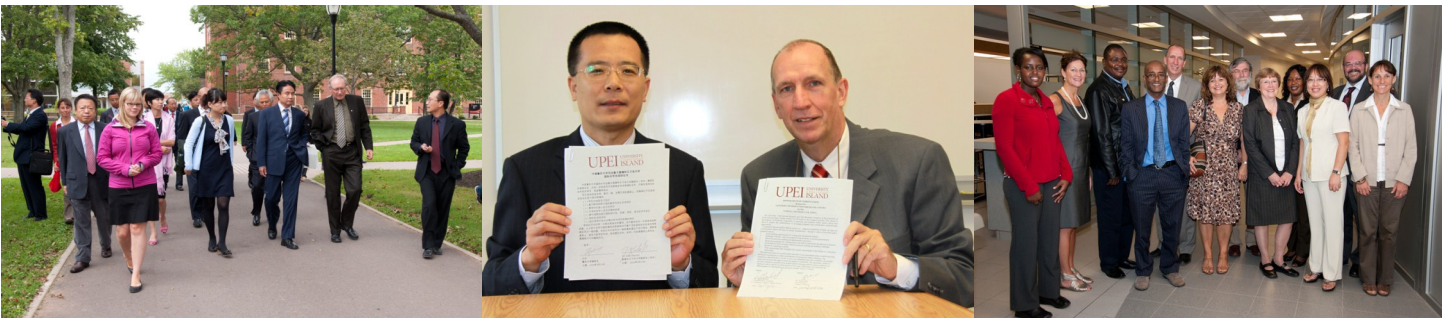
Since July, the International Office has entertained a number of international dignitaries and guests. On July 25, we hosted Dr. Yoichiro Miyamoto, a professor in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Tsukuba in Japan. Dr. Ronald Collins, retired professor from the School of Business, initiated this visit. Its purpose was to discuss and revise the preliminary agreement for a program of academic linkage as well as faculty, staff, and student exchange. Dr. Miyamoto met with Dr. Jim Randall, VP Academic, Dr. Tim Goddard, Dean of Education and Lead Dean International, Dr. Richard Kurial, Dean of Arts and Mark Leggott, Librarian. Exactly 24 hours in length, Dr. Miyamoto's visit was certainly whirlwind but also successful in forging a stronger partnership between the two institutions.

On September 7th, a delegation of 16 dignitaries from Hainan Province who were on PEI for official business, requested a tour of the University. The party included the Governor of Hainan Province, Luo Baoming as well as His Excellency, Lan Lijun, Ambassador to China in Canada and his wife, Madame Gu Langlin. Other members included the Deputy Secretary General of Hainan, the Minister of Business and Commerce and several representatives from the Hainan Foreign Affairs Office. A short reception was held in the Kelley Lounge, and then President Wade MacLauchlan gave the entire party a tour of the Campus, assisted by Jerry Wang, International Enrollment Officer, and Sherry Huang, President of the PEI Chinese Association.

A week later on September 13th, four delegates from Ludong University in Shandong Province in the PR of China, visited UPEI to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two schools. The areas of inter-

est include setting up student exchange programs and providing faculty exchange opportunities; creating joint undergraduate/graduate programs with Faculties of Education, Science and Arts; hosting UPEI Faculty of Education students for their practicum placements, and exploring the possibility of collaborating with UPEI to establish a Confucius Institute. The Ludong party met with the President, the VP Academic, the Lead Dean International, Kathy Kielly, the Registrar and Dr. Linyan Guo, Education professor and the key initiator of this agreement. Dr. Wang Qing, Vice-President of Ludong University and Dr. Jim Randall, VP Academic signed the MOU and an afternoon of meetings with the Deans of Science and Arts, Cathy Gillan from EAP, Dr. Doreley Coll from Modern Languages and Drs. Qiang Ye and Rachel Jiang from Computer Science and Information Technology marked the beginning of what promises to be a truly reciprocal partnership.

Finally, on September 29th, His Excellency, Simon Nabukwesi, the Ambassador to Kenya in Canada and his wife, Evelyn, met with the VP Academic, Lead Dean International, the Dean of Nursing, and Dr. Jennifer Taylor as well as members of the Faculty of Education and the International Office. Faith Nyanchama Ongoro, a 4th-year student in the School of Nursing was also present. It was a wonderfully informal gathering as each person talked about his or her connection to Kenya and the on-going partnerships and relationships that UPEI has with this beautiful country. The Ambassador and his wife expressed a desire to return to our province and saw tremendous potential for new projects and future collaboration. And a big thank you to Makena Ambassa for providing the delicious samosas!



Above from left to right: the delegates from Hainan University are toured around Campus by President MacLauchlan, James Randall, VP Academic and Dr. Wang Qing from Ludong University sign an agreement, and the Kenyan Ambassador and his wife visit UPEI.

International Student Orientation

This fall's ISO brought many new students from a wide range of countries : Bahamas, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Nigeria, and Uruguay to name a few. Although we had such a culturally diverse group, everyone brought something in common, namely enthusiasm and openness to learn. During the three days, students had the opportunity to meet each other, find their way around Campus and learn about the services offered at UPEI. The sessions covered need-to-know information, like how to check your UPEI e-mail or even how to find a job.

The social activities were great fun, including a Ceilidh with Cynthia MacLeod in Brackley, a screening of the film "Outsourced" at City Cinema, and a tour of Charlottetown and the Cows Creamery. We would like to thank everyone who helped make the orientation such a good experience for our new students, and we look forward to a promising academic year ahead.

Erica Stanley, ISA



International students gather in historical Victoria Park for a group photo.

The International Office - A New Beginning

The International Office has recently undergone some changes: new staff, new location, and even a new name.

Now located in the “annex” of McDougall Hall, Digafie Debalke, Suna Houghton, and Sherilyn Acorn-LeClair work under the leadership and guidance of Dr. J. Tim Goddard, Dean of Education, and Lead Dean International. Fourth-year Family and Nutritional Sciences student, Krista-Lee Christensen, continues to provide invaluable support to the Office.

The International (Development) Office was officially established in September, 2008. The main founding objective of the Office was to provide a supporting role to senior management and faculty on projects with an international scope and dimension. However, the changing landscape of international education and its competitive nature require a new perspective that is compatible with the current global reality.

Capitalizing on the existing strong foundation that has been established over the past two years, the International Office will continue to provide support to the

University community.

In order to enhance and strengthen UPEI’s involvement and contribution to international projects, the Office has identified the following areas of focus:

- Strategic partnerships with universities and colleges in different parts of the world;
- Strengthening collaboration with local partners and stakeholders; organizing conferences, workshops and seminars on issues of global scope;
- Strengthening its participation in national and international conferences through presentation of papers and research findings.

Please feel free to visit us in our new location.

Written by Suna Houghton and Digafie Debalke



Above: The historical Ford Building at Berry College and Jyväskylä is known as the City of Lakes.

The International Office is pleased to announce two new academic partnerships. During this past summer, we were able to secure academic exchange agreements with Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia, and with the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. These two schools were highlighted at the most recent Student Exchange Information Session and we are expecting student interest to be high.

Berry College

Founded in 1902 by Martha Berry as a high school for boys from the countryside, Berry College began as an educational experiment.

Features a 26 000 acre campus full of history, trails, cottages, wildlife, and its own sheep and cattle.

Student to Faculty ratio of 11.3:1

Courses ranging from Art History, Journalism, International Studies, Animal Science, Family Studies, etc.

University of Jyväskylä

The campus is host to 15 000 students in a city of 130 000 people.

Described as a “little big city.”

Offers many English-taught courses including Finnish Studies, Intercultural Studies, Computer Science, Biology and Environmental Sciences, Psychology, Sports Science, Health Education, etc.

EAP Update (cont'd):

There are 27 sections of intensive English for students who are taking between one and four credit courses; the number of credit courses allowed increases incrementally with mastery of strategies and skills, especially in writing, reading and critical thinking. Extensive analysis conducted again last spring by Yuqin Gong shows that EAP students continue to graduate with a differential of between 3-4% when compared to non-EAP students. This leads us to believe that the bridging model is providing appropriate initial support.

A glance back shows that registration in two eight-week summer sessions doubled this year over last year. Custom-designed summer sessions for 2+2 and 1+3 partners is potential area of growth that will be

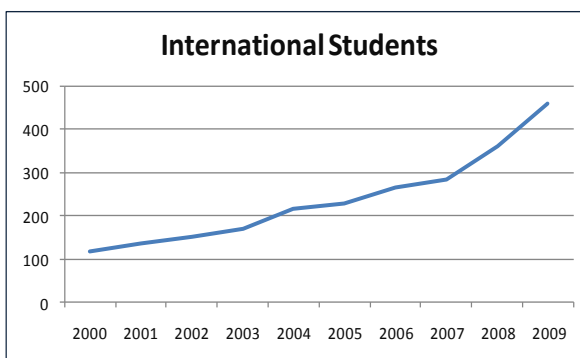
explored more fully this year. Likewise, a six-week intensive math preparation course enabled some students to move into math 001 in 2nd summer session. Identifying and responding to specific needs is a strong marketing advantage. Although summer programs are intensive, it isn't all work, as the photo of Myra Thorkelson's class deep-sea fishing expedition shows.

I am very pleased to note that Business 285A: Canadian Business Culture, which was piloted last year, is being offered again. I look forward to working with other departments to develop unique support systems for our international students after they leave EAP.

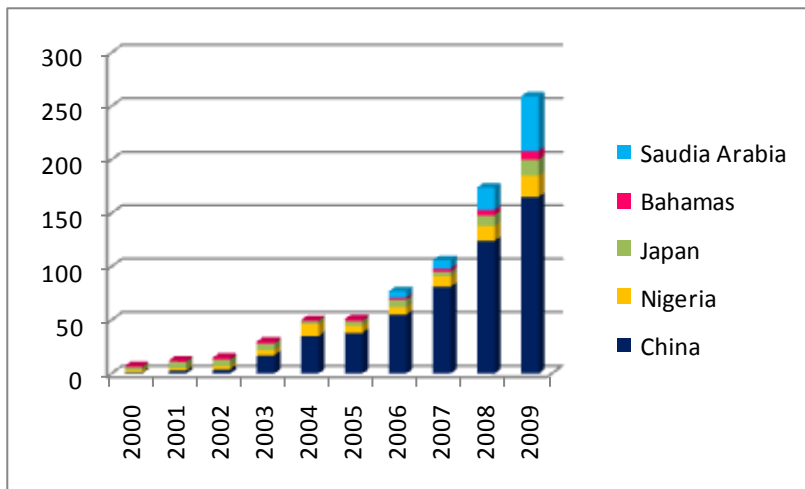
Catherine Gillan, Director of EAP

Facts & Figures

UPEI is continuing to increase the presence of International Students within the student body. In the last 10 years (2000 – 2009), the percentage of international students on campus has risen from **3.5%** - **10.6%**. Between 2005 and 2009 alone, we have seen a doubling of the number of international students on campus. Within this rise, there have been some significant upward trends in the number of students coming from particular countries; below is a chart representing these upward trending nations.



Preliminary numbers show that 2010 has turned out to be a trend-proving year as **553** international students are on now on campus. International students in The School of Business and the Faculty of Science make up the bulk of this number with 180 and 129 students, respectively.



Country % increase from last year

Saudi Arabia	64
Nigeria	61
Egypt	60

In The Next Issue:

We will be publishing a feature story on the 6 students who have returned from their internships in Kenya. Four Nursing students and 2 Nutrition students worked with Farmers Helping Farmers in the village of Kiirua in Kenya with funding from Students For Development. The impact of this experience both on the lives of the students and on the communities they served will not be easily forgotten.



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