

# Internationalization @ UPEI

## Enhancing North-South Collaboration: UPEI Signs MOU with Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia

Early this spring, the University of Prince Edward Island hosted two members of Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia to participate in a Strategic Planning Partnership: Strengthening Higher Education Stakeholder Relations in Africa workshop. The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and coordinated by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

(AUCC). During their two week stay, members of the visiting Addis Ababa University delegation met with the Senior Management Group, faculty, staff and the larger university community and exchanged ideas and discussed the possibility of future collaboration. The central component of the Strategic Planning Partnership is to enhance and strengthen research and development capacity, identify the challenges facing Addis Ababa University and advance the national development agenda, develop international knowledge and skills exchange framework and design collaborative frameworks between AAU and the industry sector. The Strategic Planning Partnership which took place early in the spring here at UPEI is the first part; the the second installment will take place at Addis Ababa University in November



Dean Goddard offers our visitors a tour around the campus

2011. For the second part of the workshop two members of the Senior Management Group from UPEI will travel to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to follow-up on the first workshop and hold discussion with Addis Ababa University senior management on how to consolidate the partnership.

During the Strategic Planning Workshop, UPEI and AAU signed a general MOU. The signing

of a general Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Prince Edward Island and Addis Ababa University testifies to UPEI's commitment to enhance and strengthen collaboration with higher learning institutions in the global south. In doing so, UPEI will contribute positively to the social and economic developments of countries involved. Furthermore, the academic, social and cultural benefit of such collaboration to both institutions is valuable and UPEI is committed to building partnership with institutions that fit our strategic goal.



Left to right: Dr. Jeilu Oumer Hussien, Dr. James Randall, Dr. TirussewTeferra, and Dr. Tim Goddard

### Inside this issue:

Ethiopian Visitors	1
Students for Development	1
Focus on Exchange	2
Reasons to Study Abroad	2
Kenyan Practicum	3
Student Experiences	3
Ludong Delegation	4

## Students for Development

The University of Prince Edward Island, in partnership with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and Farmers Helping Farmers (FHF), is participating in a developmental program called Students for Development. This program is competitively adjudicated and UPEI was pleased to have one of the selected proposals. This summer UPEI is sending six interns to Kenya to take part in the project. Four of the students are from the Faculty of Nursing and two from Family and Nutritional Sciences. The internship is built on the existing partnership between UPEI, FHF and AUCC. This is the 3rd time that UPEI interns are participating in this CIDA funded project. The interns' work will focus on the areas of securing the future of children and youth, increasing food security and sustainable economic growth

The duration of the internship is 90 days and, upon return, the interns will be conducting public engagement activities to share their experiences with fellow students and with communities on the island. As part of our overall international engagement plan, UPEI is committed to strengthening and enhancing such partnerships with organizations that work in the global south. These partnerships not only provide a life changing experience to the interns, they also strengthen human collaboration and knowledge exchange. Furthermore, the University, the interns, partner organizations and communities in Kenya and here in Prince Edward Island benefit from this collaborative partnership.

## Focus On International Exchange

The UPEI International Office is always striving to promote student exchange, and works hard at growing our list of exchange agreements and MOU's with schools across the globe, in order to offer students a variety of programs, schools, and countries from which to choose. In addition to building international partnerships, we also do our best to provide students with funding to help offset the costs of travel and living abroad. The International Office is proud to announce two new funding opportunities, as well as several new exchange partners and agreements with universities in Kenya and Ethiopia. Student exchange will be heavily promoted in the upcoming academic year, because it is important that students take advantage of these opportunities while they are available. The new funding programs are:

### Study Abroad Fund

The Study Abroad Fund was established by UPEI, as part of our student mobility program, to provide financial assistance to UPEI stu-

dents who wish to undertake international placements as part of their educational experience. The maximum award is \$250 per course, per applicant and will be awarded to at least 5 students each semester. Eligibility and an application form can be found on our website.

### Program for North American Mobility

Available to all business students, the Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education is an exchange initiative within HRSDC, and has partnered six schools in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. This program will provide 12 students, over the course of three years, stipends upwards of \$2000 each.

In the following academic year, promoting exchange and creating awareness about the new programs will be of great importance. By involving students who have completed exchanges, launching a newly designed International Office website, and maintaining an online presence through the use of social media sites, our focus will be heavily placed on student engagement and promoting the new exchange opportunities.

## New Exchange Partners

Photos: Bottom row, left to right: Texas A&M campus, California State Campus, University of Colima campus. Side Column: Royal Roads campus, University of Guanajuato campus

UPEI, in partnership with Royal Roads University, is pleased to announce four new exchange partners. As part of the Program for North American Mobility, UPEI has teamed up with schools in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The following schools are as listed:

### Texas A & M – Commerce, Texas

One of 10 Texas A&M campuses that, combined, make this school 7th largest in the USA

### California State University – San Bernardino, California

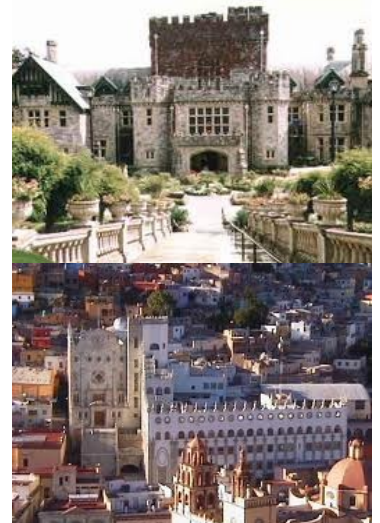
One of the fastest growing Universities in the US and home to the Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum

### Universidad de Guanajuato – Guanajuato, Guanajuato

Offers 153 academic programs, including 13 doctorates, 39 masters programs, and 65 bachelor's degrees

### Universidad de Colima – Colima, Mexico

Established in 1940, this university is bordering the Pacific Ocean and is home to almost 10,000 undergraduate students.



## Reasons to Study Abroad

Written by Zach MacDonald

As a third year business student, I recently had the amazing privilege of travelling to Sweden for one semester abroad. Before travelling to Sweden, I had known that there were options available for student travel at U.P.E.I, but I had little idea that the opportunities were so extensive. When it all came down to it, I had no real reason why I chose Sweden but I quickly found out that Scandinavia was a great choice. Sweden is an amazing place to study and explore. You will also have the opportunity to meet and study with classmates from all corners of the world, something which isn't always possible at U.P.E.I.

The main reason I chose Europe was to gain some independence, being alone in a foreign country for three months will certainly help achieve that. I quickly met many new students, several of whom were exchange students like me. Many of us had much in common. I quickly set out to find people who wanted to travel and soon enough I had plans for most of the semester. I was fortunately able to travel to Latvia, England, Ireland, Italy, France and Spain while living abroad, and it really fueled my passion to travel further upon graduation. ...Cont'd on pg 4

# More UPEI Pre-service Teachers Complete Kenyan Practicum

Submitted by Carolyn Francis

Since 2004, forty one UPEI pre-service teachers have completed practicum placements in rural schools in Kenya in areas where Farmers Helping Farmers are involved in agricultural and rural development projects with rural farmers, mostly women.

This year's six students are part of the International Specialization within the Bachelor of Education program. Students may apply for acceptance to this specialization as part of the second year program. In the 2010-2011 year, twenty-four students participated in the International Specialization, with placements in China, New Zealand, Sweden, St Vincent & the Grenadines, France and Kenya.

Students are involved in this international teaching experience for six weeks in the final semester of the Bachelor of Education program — typically in March and April.

Each of the Kenyan schools hosting a UPEI Pre-service teacher is also partnered with a school in PEI through the Farmers Helping Farmers School Twinning Program. Our UPEI Pre-service teachers' sharing their Kenyan teaching experience with students and teachers in the PEI partner schools provides an amazing learning opportunity for children in PEI. The teachers returning from Kenya often describe the experience as life- altering and value the opportunity to share their experience with PEI students.



Top: Children hang out after class, still wearing their school uniform  
Bottom: Community uses Farmers Helping Farmers funds to build a greenhouse

## Education Students Share their Experiences in Kenya

The SIE Program was a major reason why I chose U.P.E.I. for my Bachelor of Education degree. I felt that the program presented a tremendous opportunity to learn and experience something completely different that was out of my comfort zone. I was interested in learning the nuances of an education system in a different country and hoped to discover new perspectives and skills that I would be able to integrate into my future teaching. This all became a reality during my second year as part of S.I.E. by completing my final practicum in Meru Town, Kenya.

I met some of the most incredible people in Kenya and some really special individuals at Kinyenjere Primary School. I have never taught such an enthusiastic group of students. They were so excited to have a new teacher in the classroom and around the school. Outside of the classroom is where most of the interactions occurred; they felt more relaxed to ask questions about my country or myself. They took a great

interest in me, and I cherished this time with my students.

Kenya is a beautiful country and we were lucky to be able to travel and see a great deal of it, including a three-day safari in Samburu.

My visit to Kenya was an unforgettable experience. Traveling abroad provides a different type of learning that you will never gain from the classroom. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that has not only given me new tools to add to my teaching repertoire, but has also given me a new and open perspective of who I am as a person. The knowledge and experience I have gained will be reflected in my future classroom teaching. I believe that exposing young minds to the world at large will promote powerful citizenship.

My belief in the success of my future students, the local and global community has been strengthened by my experience in the S.I.E program at UPEI.

-Nicole Doiron, recent BEd graduate



Nicole Doiron, a recent UPEI grad, poses for a photo with her students from Kenya



Lydia MacKay in the classroom during her teaching practicum at Kinyenjere Primary School

When I was looking into my options for a B.Ed. program, I noticed that UPEI was one of the only universities to offer the Specialization in International Education program. For someone who didn't have much experience in international travel, I thought, "What an opportunity!" When I realized I could do my last placement internationally, I quickly had my heart set on Kenya.

The Specialization in International Education group, better known as SIE, fundraised together to support our international placements. This year we had 24 B.Ed. students who completed placements in six different countries around the world. We came together as a group to fundraise. We did everything from bake sales, bingo, dances and even pulled together a hugely successful evening in honor of past president H. Wade MacLauchlan. As a group, we held meetings every week where we discussed fundraising events and pre-departure preparations for our international travel.

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## Delegation from Ludong University, China Welcomed

Submitted by Dr. Linyuan Guo

A delegation from Ludong University of the People's Republic of China, led by Vice- President Liu Xinhua, visited UPEI as part of institutional partnership strengthening mission to learn more about Canadian higher education and programs at UPEI.

The delegation, which was joined by Zhang Xudong, Dean of Fine Arts, Yu Dashui, Dean of School of Law, Su Yong, Associate Dean, School of Foreign Languages, was keen on exploring future collaborative opportunities between two institutions. In addition to welcoming UPEI's pre-service teachers to continue their teaching practicum at Ludong University, the delegation expressed strong interest in teaching/research collaboration, faculty



From left to right; Su Yong, Associate Dean, Kathleen Kiely, Registrar, Yu Dashui, Dean, James Randell, VP Academic UPEI, Liu Xinhua, Vice President, Carolyn Francis, Practicum Coordinator UPEI, Zhang Xudong, Dean, Linyuan Guo, Assistant Professor UPEI

exchanges, and sending students to study at UPEI. After being briefed by Dr. James Randall, Vice-President Academic, on UPEI's strategic approach to institutional development and internationalization on campus, the delegation had fruitful discussions with some UPEI's faculty and staff, including Dr. Linyuan Guo and Carolyn Francis from Faculty of Education, Kathleen Kiely and Dr. Jerry Wang from Office of the Registrar. Ideas and suggestions on future collaborative activities were discussed and shared.

After the meeting, the delegation had a tour of UPEI campus and Cavendish beach. The delegates were pleasantly impressed by the beautiful sceneries of the island as well as the delicious New Glasgow lobster dinner.

## Reasons Cont'd

The resources available to U.P.E.I students are abundant, and to anyone thinking about travelling while studying, I would highly recommend attending an International Meeting to find out what it's all about.

I'll finish by including my top five reasons to study abroad:

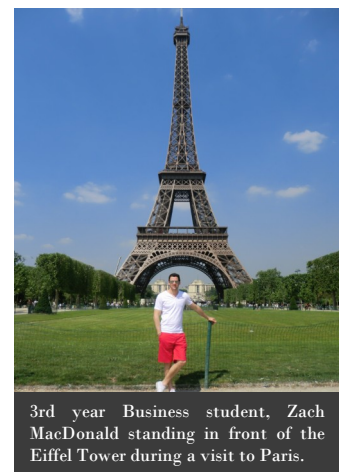
1. Travelling to places you might never get an opportunity to see
2. Meeting new people from all over the world
3. Viewing education from a different perspective
4. Experiencing different cultures
5. Life is short and these opportunities should be taken when available to you.

## Education Students Cont'd

Home for my six-week placement was in the Meru district of rural Kenya. I remember landing in Nairobi and having a hard time believing that I had stepped this far outside of my comfort zone. Thanks to the program in place at UPEI, and their partnership with Farmers Helping Farmers, my dream of teaching in Kenya became a reality.

The welcoming culture in Kenya is unbelievable; the people are amazing and we immediately felt a part of a community. Having this opportunity to teach in Kenya has really given me a different perspective on life which will have a direct influence on my teaching. I have been forever changed by my Kenyan experiences. I would highly recommend to other students, to take advantage of the many international opportunities available; the network of support from the UPEI community is amazing and I can say I am very happy to have participated in such an unforgettable experience.

-Lydia MacKay, recent BEd graduate



3rd year Business student, Zach MacDonald standing in front of the Eiffel Tower during a visit to Paris.

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