

the FABric

UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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State of the Union President's Report

As I write, summer has come to a close, albeit an unusually warm close. It was a quiet summer though not the eerie kind of quiet that characterized much of the summer of 2016. Although we continued to deal with a number of issues and complaints, the respite from collective bargaining was a welcome one.

In the time since I last wrote, we have lost a number of members of our academic community, both past and present. Elsewhere in this edition of *the FABric*, our colleagues mark the passing of Boyde Beck (History) and Mujeeb M. Rahman (Psychology). In our winter issue, we will also mark the passing of Dr. Don Creigher, Dr. Joanne Veer and Dr. Father Francis Bolger, all from History, and Dr. David Morrison from Religious Studies.

While we honoured the lives of those who have passed, we also took the opportunity this past spring to celebrate the recent and ongoing contributions of our colleagues. At May's Faculty Recognition Night, we honoured Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching recipients Patrice Drake (School of Nursing), Brenton Dickieson (Religious Studies & Enquiry Studies), and Justin Gulati (Mathematical & Computational Sciences). Additionally,

we celebrated Merit Award for Scholarly Achievement recipients Edward Chung (Religious Studies), Frederick Kibenge (Pathology & Microbiology), and Yingwei Wang (Mathematical & Computational Sciences). We also marked the retirement of Kim Critchley (Nursing), Wendy Duckett (Health Management), Janos Fedak (Fine Arts), Dawn Hooper (Robertson Library), Barbara Horney (Pathology & Microbiology), Don MacEwan (School of Sustainable Engineering), Scott McBurney (Pathology & Microbiology), Thomy Nilsson (Psychology), Darcy Shaw (Companion Animals), David Sims (Biomedical Sciences), and Elizabeth Spangler (Health Management). On behalf of the Faculty Association, I extend congratulations to each award recipient and thank each retiree for their contributions to the UPEI and UPEIFA community.



Nola Etkin,
President, UPEIFA

As autumn took hold, the work of the Association accelerated significantly. This work has ranged from participation in the Committee on the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the Pre-Tenure Review Committee, which were created as part of the recent Collective Agreement settlement, to the organization of Coffee Time(s) and Faculty Time(s), to the preliminary consideration of a social media policy for the FA, to readying for the adjudication for the FA's new medals for graduate studies, to grievance work, to the organization of Fair Employment Week where we will draw attention to precarious academic staff at UPEI. In each of these endeavours, I have been assisted by the work of the Association's standing committees, and I wish to express my gratitude to all members of those committees.

Efforts to assure the Employer's compliance with the Collective Agreement has kept our Chief Grievance Officer, Mike Arfken, especially busy this fall. At the FA General Meeting on 3 November, Mike will describe in fuller detail the advocacy and grievance work that the Association has

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pursued in the last few months. The subjects have included administrative irregularities in the tenure application and review process, irregularities in the Fair Treatment process, investigations of Members outside of the Collective Agreement or Fair Treatment processes, and others. While these issues are at various stages of development and resolution, one case has been moved to arbitration. This involves a case the FA and CAUT view as an infringement of Academic Freedom, where the Employer sought to discipline a Member for offering a scholarly and professional opinion that differed from that of a colleague. This case is being watched by CAUT. The Chair of CAUT's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, Peter McInnis, will speak to the issue of Academic Freedom and attempts by university administrations to invoke respectful workplace policies that may impinge on our freedoms at our General Meeting on 3 November. I invite all of you to attend and to consider the issues Dr. McInnis raises. I hope to see you there and wish all of you a successful fall term.

Nola Etkin, President, UPEIFA

(with Sharon Myers, Vice-President)

CAUT Council Report

By Sharon Myers

CAUT Council is comprised of representatives of faculty associations from across Canada, the elected Executive Committee of CAUT, and a number of staff members. It meets in the spring and autumn of each year to consider issues, policies, and motions that concern higher education in Canada and which thereby shape the lobbying and advocacy positions of CAUT. Additionally, the Council provides a place to honour those who have made especially significant contributions to academic work life in Canada. This past May, Council met for four days in Ottawa.

Among the many issues Council considered, two recurring themes emerged. One addressed the context of scholarly activity in Canada. Yves Gingras (UQAM) traced the history of bibliometrics, more commonly known as "impact factor," and their effects on the evaluation of academic research. Gingras demonstrated the decline of what were originally well-intentioned evaluation tools into the fraught and sometimes comical devices they have become. David Naylor, Chair of Canada's Fundamental Science Review, offered a critique of the current Tri-Council granting system and called for structural and administrative changes to the system(s), increased funding, and a meaningful commitment by the Government to funding investigator-initiated research. CAUT has launched a "Get Science Right"

campaign, largely supporting the recommendations of the Naylor Report. If you are interested in learning more or participating in the campaign, go to <http://science.caut.ca>.

The second theme concerned academic freedom. The presentations on this theme included Homa Hoodfar's recollection of her experiences in an Iranian prison and her reflections on the precarious nature of academic freedom while researching in an international context. A panel named "Civility and its Discontents" addressed the increasing use of respectful workplace policies and their implications for academic freedom, the stifling of debate and free speech on campuses (particularly in the US), and the general efforts of university administrations to manage "brands" at the expense of academic freedom. As Council turned to discuss CAUT's current investigations of universities and the support it is providing to individual cases, academic freedom issues again came to the fore as a place of contest in the 21st-century Canadian university.

The issue of academic freedom and respectful workplace policies will be the subject of a special presentation at the UPEIFA General Meeting on 3 November 2017. Peter McInnis (StFX), Chair of CAUT's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, will describe the issues that exist across Canada and offer some perspective on conditions at UPEI.

NOTICE OF FALL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UPEI FACULTY ASSOCIATION

The Fall General Meeting of the UPEI Faculty Association will be held on the following date & time:

Date: Friday, 3 November 2017

Time: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: McDougall, Room 242

The Bylaws stipulate that a quorum of 50 members is required to hold a meeting.

Peter McInnis (StFX), Chair of CAUT's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, will discuss issues of academic freedom and respectful workplace policies in Canada and offer some perspective on conditions at UPEI.

FA Time will be held immediately following the meeting in SDU Main Building, Faculty Lounge @ 4pm.

Celebrating Our Great Small Faculty Faculty Recognition Night

On Wednesday 10 May, the FA held its annual Faculty Recognition Night at the Fox Meadow Golf and Country Club. The highlights of the evening included the three Hessian Awards for Excellence in Teaching and the awarding of Merit Awards for Scholarly Achievement.



UPEIFA President, Nola Etkin, welcomes FA Members to the annual Recognition Night celebrations

2017 Hessian Merit Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Sessional Instructor

Brenton Dickieson (Religious Studies)

Presented by Dr. Amy MacFarlane

Engaging. Challenging. Fair. Questioning. Insightful. Passionate. Approachable. Caring. Impactful. These words capture the essence of Brenton Dickieson's teaching. It is no wonder, then, that a former student describes Brenton as "the type of professor every student dreams of having."

Brenton Dickieson has been a "trusted and cherished sessional instructor" in UPEI's Religious Studies Department for over a decade. His versatility is evident from the breadth of courses he has taught over this period. Most recently, Brenton has been an integral contributor to the newly designed UPEI 102 Inquiry Studies.

It is clear that Brenton creates a classroom atmosphere that leaves students yearning for more. As one student reflects, "He is the only professor I have had in my seven years of study that I would like his classes to run longer."

In his teaching philosophy, Brenton states that he sees "education as creating an environment for transformational experiences." Feedback suggests he is doing just that. As one alumna wrote, "The lectures he gave are still impacting my world today. Brenton's teaching had an immeasurable impact on my university experience."

Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Full-Time Instructor

Patrice Drake (Nursing)

Presented by Dr. Peter Foley

Nursing is intellectually as well as emotionally demanding work. The nurse cares not just for his or her patient's physical needs, but also for their emotional needs. As part of their nursing education, students need to be prepared mentally and emotionally. Patrice Drake understands this, and speaks to the hearts as well as the minds of her students through storytelling and disclosure of her own experience. In her teaching philosophy, Patrice observes, students "need to know that I was confident, scared, brave, and grief-stricken, often all at the same time, and I still cared for my patient and their family and knew what to do and that there was a time when I was not sure what to do."

Her students respond to this approach. The words "passion, enthusiasm, and caring" appear again and again in their evaluations. The students see her as a role model in knowledge, passion, compassion, and caring. The affection and respect they have for her leaps out of the pages of their evaluations. One senior student writes: "She cares. I mean all people do, but Patrice feels for us and goes that extra mile and beyond for us since we were 1st years."

Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Sessional Instructor

Justin Gulati (Mathematical and Computational Sciences)

Presented by Dr. Susan Brown

"An outstanding instructor in math requires versatility to relate to all the skill levels, knowledge to convey difficult material competently, and the energy to make a subject that appears dry both approachable and enjoyable." Justin Gulati is this instructor. For the past 15 years Justin has been the "Swiss-army-knife of the School of Mathematical and Computational Sciences," as his Associate Dean Gordon

MacDonald describes him. He goes on to point out: “We often look for flashy new pedagogical fads and overlook the strong performer who goes about day-to-day commitment to provide excellent teaching.”

As Justin notes in his teaching philosophy, “Math is not a spectator sport and to learn math you must do math.” Justin emphasizes that math is just another language. By tailoring curriculum and assignments to meet the needs of students in diverse disciplines, his creation of over 30 YouTube math tutorials, and everyday personal engagement with students, Justin successfully creates an atmosphere where students can learn together.

As one student wrote, “Justin Gulati makes me enjoy waking up to come to an 8:30 class to learn. He really explains everything to a tee and makes it enjoyable to learn. I really do believe he deserves the Award.”



Louise Hessian (right), representing the Hessian Family which, reflecting the life-long commitment to education of the four siblings—all SDU graduates—and their parents, made a generous contribution in support of the annual Hessian Teaching Awards. The donation is a reward for awards recipients, and provides assistance with the Faculty Development Office. Louise Hessian is seen here with Hessian Awards for Teaching winners, Patrice Drake, Brenton Dickieson and Justin Gulati.

Merit Awards for Scholarly Achievement

Presented by Tim Goddard

Dr. Fred Kibenge (Pathology and Microbiology)

Dr. Fred Kibenge has built a very strong reputation as a world-class expert in fish viruses. In the last five years, he has 16 peer-reviewed journal articles, co-edited a textbook called *Aquaculture Virology*, co-authored 14 book chapters in edited books, given 6 invited presentations at conferences, and co-authored 14 conference abstracts. Since the Elsevier

publication of the *Aquaculture Virology* textbook in July 2016, he has signed four other textbook contracts with Elsevier, covering a wide range of veterinary medicine topics in aquaculture.

Fred is also an Associate Editor for the *BMC Molecular Biology* journal, he serves on the editorial board for five other international journals, and he is a reviewer of at least a half dozen journal article submissions each year.

If that is not impressive enough, he has been continuously funded by NSERC for the last 27 years, and currently holds a five-year NSERC Discovery Grant worth \$155,000, in addition to other research contracts.

There are other notable scholarly activities, but from this short description, it is clear that Fred Kibenge is worthy of the UPEIFA Merit Award for Scholarly Achievement.



Congratulations, Fred Kibenge!

Dr. Yingwei Wang (Mathematical and Computational Sciences)

Building on long-term research efforts in the area of cloud computing architecture, Prof. Wang recently proposed a new computing structure called Cloud-dew architecture. Following the milestone publication of his work in the *International Journal of Cloud Computing*, the importance of this achievement was immediately apparent. On September 15, 2015, Inderscience Publishers presented his work to the computer science community as a press release and the news was carried by 30 different media outlets. His work has led to the creation of a new area of research, called Dew Computing, and Prof. Wang has played a leading role in its development. Since 2015 he has published 7 papers in this area. In addition, he has contributed to building the Dew Computing research community by organizing and hosting the first International Workshop on Dew Computing held

at UPEI in 2016. His contributions were also acknowledged through an invitation to edit a special issue in the *Open Journal of Cloud Computing* dedicated to Dew Computing. Dr. Wang's scholarly achievements have clearly made him worthy of this award.



Gord MacDonald accepting the award on behalf of Yingwei.

Congratulations, Yingwei Wang!

Dr. Edward Chung (Asian Studies)

An eminent scholar in East Asian Studies, Dr. Chung has made a significant contribution to the study of Neo-Confucianism, and, in particular, to the understanding of Korean Confucianism. Especially noteworthy are two recent scholarly books: his 2015 monograph *Korean Confucianism: Tradition and Modernity*, published with the Academy of Korean Studies Press, and his well-received 2016 critical translation of Yi Hwang (T'oegye)'s *A Korean Confucian Way of Life and Thought: the Chasongnok (Record of Self-Reflection)*, published with the University of Hawaii Press, and lately picked up by University Press Scholarship Online. These two books not only underline Dr. Chung's scholarly achievement in demonstrating the ongoing relevance of Confucianism to the philosophical, religious, social, and political life of South Korea and to Korean communities beyond, but they also testify to his ongoing scholarly commitment to making Neo-Confucian thinkers accessible and available to both specialist and generalist audiences.



Congratulations, Edward Chung!

Honouring Our Retirees

At Faculty Recognition Night we were also proud to honour faculty who retired this past year: Kim Critchley (Nursing), Wendy Duckett (Health Management), Janos Fedak (Fine Arts), Dawn Hooper (Robertson Library), Barbara Horney (Pathology & Microbiology), Don MacEwan (Sustainable Design Engineering), Scott McBurney (Pathology & Microbiology), Thomy Nilsson (Psychology), Darcy Shaw (Companion Animals), David Sims (Biomedical Sciences), and Elizabeth Spangler (Pathology & Microbiology). Unfortunately, not everyone was able to make it that evening, but we had five retirees in attendance. Here's what was said.

Dr. Darcy Shaw (Companion Animals)

Presented by Dr. Leigh Lamont

Dr. Darcy Shaw, DVM, MVSc, ACVIM, MBA, joined AVC in 1987, helping to establish the Department of Companion Animals and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. He has served in several key roles including Hospital Director, Department Chair, and Associate Dean of Professional Services. He has received several teaching awards and helped establish the communication skills teaching program at the AVC. He is a Past President (2000–2001) of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. In 2016 he was named co-leader of the Association of American Veterinary Medical College's Leadership Academy.

Over his career, Darcy has developed a deep appreciation for the dedication of people in the veterinary community and the need to support each other, communicate effectively, and lead with integrity.

He retired in June 2016 but remains involved with AVC as an adjunct and graduate faculty member. As well, he is helping us prepare for our upcoming accreditation. Thank you, Darcy, for your dedication and contributions to AVC!

Dr. Elizabeth Spangler (Health Management)

Presented by Dr. Leigh Lamont

Dr. Elizabeth Spangler, DVM, PhD, ACVPM, joined AVC's Department of Health Management in 1987 and served as department chair from August 1998 to May 2004. During

her career, she has contributed her vast knowledge and expertise in epidemiology to our doctor of veterinary medicine students and graduate students. She has an impressive publication and funded research record, and has given or contributed to many scholarly presentations.

Dr. Spangler has served her profession through membership and leadership roles in veterinary organizations, including the PEI Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine... The list goes on! She has also taken an active role at the University, having served on many committees and boards, including the UPEI Board of Governors and the UPEI Senate.

Liz retired in June 2016. On behalf of AVC, I thank you, Liz, for your dedication and contributions to AVC!

Dawn Hooper (Robertson Library)

Presented by Donald Moses

Dawn has been a librarian for more than 40 years and has seen it all... from the bookmobile to virtual reference. We at the Robertson Library have had the good fortune to have her contributing to ours and the University's success for the last 20 years. Dawn's role at Robertson Library has evolved: she's been Reference Librarian, Health Services Librarian, Data and Research Services Librarian, as well as a term as the Acting University Librarian—and she has provided ongoing leadership within and outside of the Library. Dawn has created a legacy of outstanding collections, an instructional program that will be hard to surpass, and has been the guiding force behind one of our most important initiatives: IslandScholar. She's pretty awesome. Dawn has been an incredibly important influence and has been a tremendous support to all of us at the Robertson Library. Thanks, Dawn, very much, for all of your contributions and we wish you the very best.

Dr. Thomy Nilsson (Psychology)

Presented by Dr. Neb Kujundzic

It is my pleasure and my honour to recognize our colleague, Dr. Thomy Nilsson from the Faculty of Arts, in the presence of so many distinguished members of the academic community.

Dr. Nilsson's impact on the Department of Psychology, the Faculty of Arts, and indeed on the entire University of Prince Edward Island has been indelible and it will continue to be long-lasting. Dr. Nilsson has been a true

champion of research; his research in vision, ergonomics, and aging is world-class. At the time when the university was still building its research infrastructure, Dr. Nilsson was a shining exemplar of the highest achievement that the rest of our colleagues, especially in the Faculty of Arts, would strive to emulate. At the same time, his commitment to his students and his passion for teaching has always been second to none.

Our university is so fortunate to be Thomy's home, and we are proud to continue to be inspired by his achievements.

Dr. Kim Critchley (Nursing)

Presented by Dr. Gulrose Jiwani

Dr. Kim Critchley began her career as Assistant Professor with the University of Prince Edward Island in 1996. She was Acting Dean of the School of Nursing from 2004 to 2005 and Dean from 2005 to 2012. She is held in very high regard by faculty at the School of Nursing, and those she has worked with, including her students. Since I have only met Dr. Critchley recently, tonight I see it fitting to share what faculty have said about her... and I quote:

“She is phenomenal.”

“She role models leadership in action... every day.”

“She is approachable and always made time, and she appreciates the School of Nursing.”

“I will always remember Dr. Critchley for her outstanding leadership during times of transition (the new Health Sciences Building, the development of the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and the Master of Nursing program).”

“I will remember her unending support for indigenous students and her ability to garner respect across faculty, clinical instructors, staff, and students, as well as her senior management colleagues. She was an excellent teacher and a well-respected researcher.”

I would like to say, on behalf of UPEI and the School of Nursing, THANK YOU, Dr. Critchley, for all your hard work, dedication, leadership, and significant contributions. Our best wishes to you!!





Make it fair!
Fair Employment Week,
October 23-27, 2017

Fair Employment Week (FEW) is coming up fast, immediately following a CAUT National Conference on Contract Academic Staff.

FEW is an opportunity to:

- § raise awareness about the rise of precarious employment on campus and the unfair working conditions of one-third of academic staff in Canada; and,
- § highlight the contributions made by contract academic staff, under difficult employment conditions.

Watch for local events!

National Survey of Contract Academic Staff

CAUT is undertaking the first ever national survey of contract academic staff (CAS) to understand their experiences in order to improve their employment conditions and inform public policy. The survey will close on November 1, 2017. It is critically important that we hear from as many CAS as possible across the country.

LINK: <https://caut.limequery.org/151696?lang=en>

Social Media Policy

Over the coming weeks, the FA's Communications Committee will be working to develop a policy around its social media. In the spring of 2016, we set up both a Twitter and Facebook page to help disseminate news to Members faster, and to give the Association a public face. However, we need now to think about how Members would like to see us use social media.

What would you like to see?

- Should we just disseminate FA news?
- Would you like to know about news from other Canadian Faculty Associations?
- How about CAUT news?
- News about broader policy issues facing Canadian academics? International trends?
- What about stories about Members' work in the community?

We'd like to hear from you. If you have any thoughts on how you'd like to see the FA use its social media presence, please drop Richard Raiswell a note at rraiswell@upe.ca



The Big Question

Imagine that you did not become a university professor. What other career paths can you imagine for yourself?

You have two options: first, a vocation that is related to your academic field(s); second, a calling that has no connection to your academic field(s)—that alter-ego fantasy career.

Greg Doran (English)

My initial plan was to become a lawyer, but I got sidetracked into academics. In the end, it is hard to imagine an alternative career path; however, my default answer is carpenter. I like working with my hands, so I could see pursuing that path.

Brittany A. E. Jakubiec (Inquiry Studies)

A children's librarian!

Larry Hale (Biology)

When I was a kid, I really wanted to get a job with BC Hydro as an electrical lineman. My dad had other ideas, though.

Still, I'm thinking of something totally different to do when I retire from UPEI. I just may retire a tad early, get my class 1 licence, and drive long-haul for a few years.

We'll see.

Benet Davetian (Sociology and Anthropology)

I would have become a novelist. I already am. My book of short stories *The Seventh Circle* won the Mordecai Richler Prize for Best Book of the Year. Ironically I've never been invited at UPEI to read from it.

Other totally unrelated: cross-country truck driver.

Ed MacDonald (History)

In 1965, at age seven, I decided that I would like to become a professional baseball player. That didn't pan out, so, by Grade 6, I had decided to be an architect, since I was proud of being able to spell the word and liked to draw. But now, if this academic stuff doesn't work out, maybe I'll go back to working in a museum. I liked that the first time around.

Susan Graham (Faculty of Business)

Related to my academic field: Marketing consultant in tourism brand management (specializing in exotic locales).
Fantasy job: Taste-tester for Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream (a person can dream...)

Deirdre Kessler (English)

The calling... For many, many years I have had a vision of a stone-encircled field halfway up a mountain. In a corner of the field, a hut with doorway facing the valley and fields on the opposite hillside. I am the shepherd. Two dogs and I move the little herd of sheep, three donkeys, three goats from one place to another to graze. There are springs and meandering streams—always a source of good water for all of us to drink. In the hut a shelf of books; behind the hut a fenced garden. It's barely ever winter in this place, but when it's very cold there's a barn in the valley, room for all. Mostly, we walk the narrow, sunken, well-trod paths from field to field, spend days from sun-up to sundown quietly, return to the home field at night. In the circle of light around the firepit, we gather to sing all the old favourites, such as "I wish I had ears and a tail" and "Let's go!"

It's greener over there.» Sometimes the dogs sing rowdy carnivore songs, but we don't take offense. We always end the night with a round of "The parting glass," for which we have written enough additional verses to take us to the last birdsong of the evening, when the stars take over the singing and we sleep.

Richard Lemm (English)

I would gladly be an international travel writer, not the "where to go and eat" variety, but the kind who explores cultures, from their deep traditions to contemporary upheavals and transformations.

My alter-ego career would be a jazz sax player, with home bases in Rio, New Orleans, Montreal, and Paris.

Laurie Brinklow (Island Studies)

As someone recently pointed out to me, I'm already living the alternate career path. Although I started out as a teacher and ended up in the publishing business, I swerved off the book path and went back and did my PhD so I could teach again—here at UPEI. But what I really want to be, secretly? A member of a rock band so I can sing and play the piano standing up.

Shannon Murray (English)

Most of my fantasy jobs end up looking a lot like my real job, which is a good sign, I think. I'd love to run Shakespeare's Globe Education outreach program. The Globe is one of the most magical places on earth, and they offer such wonderful opportunities for people around the world to connect with that space. (In fact, I'd do just about anything to hang out there more often, including becoming one of the volunteers who prods groundlings when they sit down during the performances.)

Sung Ha Shin-Bouey (Music)

1. A high school math teacher was one of the options.
2. I have always wanted to open my own café with monthly special live performances, featuring opera singers, jazz singers/musicians, folk singers, a cappella groups, etc. Even if I hadn't ended up teaching voice/music at UPEI, I would still be singing away all through my life, so my café would have provided a performance venue for myself, family, friends, colleagues, students, and other community artists. I still might follow my dream, after I retire from UPEI. :)

Thomy Nilsson (Psychology)

The following describes several alternative careers that presented themselves on my way to Emeritus. High school aptitude tests indicated “mathematician” or “astronomer.” However, I wanted to be what came to be called an “astronaut.” I built rockets—one with a solid fuel engine that could be turned off and on. Presented at the Science Fair, it got the Navy interested, led to a summer job at Grumman Aircraft, and brought a full scholarship to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I enrolled in Aeronautical Engineering and the Air Force ROTC. That career was doomed when my vision failed to pass for advanced flight training. Having switched to Physics by then, I began looking at a career in defense research. A course in optics especially interested me, and I wrote a term paper about a new variation of a Maser that operated at light wavelengths. However, that course caught the attention of a Psychology professor, whose Intro course had aroused curiosity about Human Factors Engineering as another way to get into space. Dr. Kandel asked if I could build an optical system to study binocular vision—a summer job more interesting than riveting wing panels. So in my senior year I added his Sensation & Perception course. The labs were more fun than the abstract senior physics courses so I switched to Psychology and took an extra semester to graduate. Kandel recommended me for a vision research job at Columbia University. However, founding International House at RPI led to some understanding of the wider world. Wanting to travel, I had applied to the Peace Corps. Notice I had been accepted arrived just then. Which direction to choose? I asked Dr. Parsegian, Dean of Engineering, who had helped me found the RPI chapter of the American Rocket Society. “If you join the Peace Corps, you might find it difficult to get back into science afterwards. But if you go the science route, the Peace Corps would likely still welcome you if you change your mind.” That led to the best job on earth: University Professor. Best, that is, until these communities of scholars deteriorate into executive driven pseudo-corporations.

Louis Doiron (Mathematical and Computational Sciences)

How I decided to become an Actuary... Prior to my career as a university professor and director of actuarial science, financial mathematics and predictive analytics, my aspiration was to become an Actuary. While in high school, my dream was to become an important player in the business and financial world, take important decisions and have an impact in the world globally, earn a good salary, and hold a senior

position. I must say that my career as an Actuary exceeded all my expectations.

As he was listening to my vision for my future career, the counsellor in my high school who had noticed my successes in mathematics interjected: “Have you ever considered to become an Actuary?”

“An Actuary?” I replied. “What is that?”

And he answered: “Actuaries are highly sought-after professionals who develop and communicate solutions for complex financial issues.

“Actuaries measure and manage risk. Actuaries have a deep understanding of mathematics, statistics and business management. With this, they help businesses grow and provide value to their customers. Actuaries help leaders make strategic decisions and consumers prepare for their future.

“Actuaries are in demand. They work for and with businesses with a financial focus. Businesses including insurance (life, health, dental, disability, pension, property-casualty, even pet-insurance), banking, investments, government, energy, e-commerce, marketing, employee benefits, product development, enterprise risk management, predictive analytics, consulting, and more...”

And I said: “Wow, very interesting... and how do you become an Actuary?”

He then replied: “To become an Actuary, you should take mathematics, statistics, economics, accounting, and corporate finance in your undergraduate studies at the university, as well as to prepare for your certification actuarial exams. The road to becoming an Actuary is long, but it’s a great career once you reach the end!”

And this was enough for me to enter into my journey into becoming a professional Actuary... Prior to joining UPEI, I was a qualified Actuary for over 30 years, holding positions in major corporations internationally as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief and Appointed Actuary, Chief Risk Officer, as well as a senior executive member of various Boards of Directors Committees and Senior Executive Committees.



In memoriam

Boyd Beck (1960-2017)

By Ed MacDonald
(History)

About fifteen years ago, at the beginning of winter term, the History Department found itself in a jam. A mutual misunderstanding meant that one of our sessional courses, on the history of the Second World War, suddenly had no instructor.

“Do you know anyone who might take this on?” my chair asked me, loathe to cancel a popular course.

I thought for a little. “Well,” I answered, “we could always ask Boyd Beck.” A senior curator at the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, his job focused on Island heritage, but he had taken military history at graduate school, and his passion for the subject had kept him reading about the 20th century’s two world wars ever since.

I canvassed Boyd on the idea. He didn’t hesitate. “Sure,” he said, “I’ll give it a shot. After all, if I’m no good, I’ve got a great excuse.”

He was good.

Over the next decade and a half, he taught both of our world war courses, and when sabbaticals created the opportunity, Pre-Confederation PEI as well. He called teaching his hobby, but I think it fulfilled a quiet passion that had first flowered in graduate school. Sure, he had acquired a local celebrity as CBC Radio’s History Guy, he was an accomplished editor and author, an erudite curator, and an acclaimed tour guide and lecturer, but teaching at UPEI was, I think, a different sort of validation, and one that he deeply valued.

In class, he was a polished storyteller, and students warmed to that. He had a wry sense of the incongruous and the unlikely. Students warmed to that, too. As a museum curator, he was adept at squeezing history from objects, and his history training adapted that skill to the classroom. Now, perhaps he should have warned Security before he took a (disabled) Bren gun to class! Still, it did allow students to grasp what it was to drag one around a battlefield. And loading a knapsack to the exact weight that an infantry soldier carried in the field drove home the physical burden

of combat. Like other ploys, these were ways to bring students closer to the past, to make them less reflexively judgmental about it, to open their minds to ways of seeing and understanding.

A few months before his cancer manifested itself, Boyd guest-lectured in my PEI history class. It was a bravura performance, delivered, as always, without a line of notes. Where once he had disdained Powerpoint, he had since fallen in love with it, and now he fussed over his images like a poet over word choice, finding just the right ones. That day, as usual, he rendered the complicated comprehensible, turned the mundane into fascinating, made the local inform the global. He made teaching what it should be, a conspiracy of learning. I never dreamed that nine months later my friend would be gone.

Boyd Beck is remembered with love by his wife, Anna MacDonald, and their extended families.

In memoriam

Mujeeb M. Rahman (1937-2017)

By Philip Smith (Psychology)



Dr. M. Mujeeb Rahman loved the life of the mind, drawing from the richness of Western and Eastern traditions to think and write about essential questions of existence. He relished the thrust and parry of vigorous debate, the rise in volume often accompanied by a widening of the smile. With students, there was a supportive encouragement in practicing questioning, and an alliance in identifying what both might see as the absurdities of academic regulations and administration.

With colleagues, the sense of supportive encouragement was not so present, at least when it came to matters of running the place, and he withdrew completely from attendance at

departmental and other meetings. Periodic memos, with dense single-spaced typing and much underlining, would be distributed when he noted some disagreeable proposal or action in a meeting agenda or minutes. In later years Mujeeb addressed in formal and published work what he saw as the "betrayal of intellect" in university systems.

Mujeeb completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology at Bombay University, and was a Fulbright Scholar in the United States. He joined the University of Prince Edward Island in 1970 upon completion of a PhD in psychology from University of New Mexico. His evolving scholarly focus is reflected in his four books: *The Freudian Paradigm: Psychoanalysis and Scientific Thought* (Nelson Hall, 1977); *The Psychological Quest: From Socrates to Freud* (Captus Press Publications, 1987, 1990); *The Betrayal of Intellect in Higher Education: A Critique of University Education in North America* (OmniView Publishing, 2010); and *The Spiritual Quest for Self Knowledge: Perspectives in Religion from Myth to Mysticism and Philosophy to Psychology* (Omniview Publishing, 2010).

Mujeeb's teaching with students included regular offerings of statistics, and courses in abnormal psychology, personality, history and systems of psychology, philosophical psychology, and special topics courses on Freud. Although he railed against formalized structures for student engagement (some might recall a particularly densely typed memo about Senate-mandated office hours), his enjoyment of students and his respect for their dignity—regardless of the ease, or otherwise, with which they took to academic life—was clearly communicated to them.

Mujeeb retired from the University in 1997. He is survived by his wife Asifa, and children Gina (John) and Moiz (Sarah).

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Welcome to New Members!

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Laura Bourque, Pathology/Microbiology
Nadja Bressan, School of Sustainable Design Engineering
Melanie Buote, Pathology/Microbiology
Patricia Campbell Charlton, Nursing
Lorna Champion, Education
Xiao Chen, Business
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Belinda Code, Music
Jacquelyn Cutcliffe, Education
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Tiber Falzett, History
Sarah Hagen, Music
Yolanda Hood, Robertson Library
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Erin Keith, Education
Martha Koch, Education
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Cormac O'Feintheadha, Modern Languages
Kimberley Palmer-Nickerson, Business
Oriana Rabb, Companion Animals
Jill Sabeau, University 100
Katherine Scarth, Applied Communications, Leadership and Culture
John Tait, Health Management
Wilson Warren, Education
William Waterman, Business
Hayden Woodley, Business



the FABric Editorial Policy

The FABric is the newsletter of the University of Prince Edward Island Faculty Association. The primary intent of *the FABric* is to keep all members of the UPEI Faculty Association up-to-date and informed. It is also the intent of *the FABric* to communicate UPEI Faculty Association activities and perspectives on issues to a wider community. *The FABric* is published three times per year: September, January, and April, and serves the following purposes:

- *to provide a means for the exchange of ideas, views, and issues relevant to the Association and its members;*
- *and to provide the Association's membership with information relevant to the operations of the Association;*
- *and to provide documentary records of matters pertaining to the Association; and to serve all the functions of a newsletter.*

Contributions (letters, articles, article summaries, and other pertinent information) are encouraged, but anonymous material will not be considered for publication. However, under special circumstances, *the FABric* may agree to withhold the author's name. The UPEI Faculty Association Executive retains the right to accept, edit, and/or reject contributed material. The opinions expressed in authored articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the UPEI Faculty Association.

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