

# the FABRIC

UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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## **State of the Union President's Report**

If there is one thing I learned about this summer, it is the true meaning and power of Solidarity. Solidarity within our Association, solidarity with the other campus unions and other Associations across Canada, and solidarity with our students and the University that we love. I include the latter because throughout all that happened this summer, more than anything else, I heard from our Members their concern for our students and for the wellbeing of all that comprises the University of Prince Edward Island.

Since I last spoke to you from these pages, we have been on quite a roller-coaster ride. For those of us working for the Association on your behalf, the summer has been characterized by periods of frenzied activity and eerie silence.

At the Annual General Meeting on April 21, we reported to you on the status of negotiations to that point. In a subsequent combined unions meeting, Members of all campus unions were updated by the Joint Union Pension team on the substance and ramifications of the Employer's pension proposal. The following two months were filled with an exchange of the Unions' labour board complaints,

the Employer's request for conciliation, and legal argument as we appeared to be on an inevitable slide towards the breakdown of negotiations and potential disruption of campus life. Our Chief Negotiator's impassioned call for "a fair shake" in the Negotiations-At-A-Glance of June 13, 2016, explains, much more eloquently than I ever could, the circumstances that led us to seek a review of those processes by the court.



Nola Etkin,  
President, UPEIFA

In a productive negotiations process the teams must be committed to having open and effective (and often difficult) dialogue in order to find common ground, and solutions that meet the needs of all parties. Following the filing of our application for judicial review, the UPEIFA leadership was able to engage in such a dialogue directly with the UPEI Administration, which allowed us to come to a mutual understanding of what it would take to return to the bargaining tables for both the FA and the Joint Union Pension group. Since then the Joint Union Pension group has met with the Employer's team, and the FA negotiating team spent the last two weeks of August at the table. Further dates for pension negotiations are scheduled for late September, and we expect negotiations to continue into October.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our Members and the unprecedented and inspiring level of solidarity among Members of all campus unions. The leadership of those unions was firmly in support of the FA, and came together on very short notice to approve an agreement that allowed us all to get back to bargaining. Equally critical was the excellent support and advice we received from our colleagues at CAUT – who spent many hours, days, and nights talking and strategizing.

We all owe a big thank you to our Negotiating Teams – both our own FA team led by Sharon Myers and the Joint

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Union Pension group led by spokesperson Wayne Peters. These individuals, and many in the supporting cast, have worked long hours on our behalf to prepare our positions and advance our proposals, and I am hopeful that we will conclude a new collective agreement in the not-too-distant future. An update on the status of negotiations will be provided at the General Membership meeting on September 30. Please make every effort to attend as it is critical that we are informed and that we demonstrate much-needed support to our teams.

Also at the meeting, our new Chief Grievance Officer Mike Arfken will update on various complaints, issues, and grievances that have been dealt with by our grievance officers over the past several months. These include an update on the “Equity and Succession Planning Distribution of Effort” at AVC grievance which, as we reported previously, identified 11 Collective Agreement violations including violations of academic freedom and the processes around faculty review, tenure and promotion, as well as our concerns around the mandatory migration of email to Gmail, which has far-reaching potential impacts on Members’ privacy, Academic Freedom, and Intellectual Property rights.

Amid all of this, we took time on May 4 to gather at the Fox Meadow Golf and Country Club for the annual Faculty Recognition Night, where we honoured the recipients of the prestigious Hessian Teaching Award, Scholarly Achievement Award, and the brand-new UPEIFA Merit Award for Outstanding Service, as well as those Members who are retiring. Photographs and citations for those honoured guests appear elsewhere in this issue. My heartfelt congratulations go out to all the awardees, and to our retirees, who have made such significant contributions to the University, and whose dedicated service to UPEI will be sorely missed.

Normally, I would avoid singling out any one honoree, as all are equally deserving of recognition, but with your indulgence I will say a few words about two whose contributions are of special significance to the Faculty Association. First is the recipient of the inaugural UPEIFA Merit Award for Outstanding Service, Wayne Peters, who served as UPEIFA President from 2004 to 2008 (including leading us through the first, and only, FA strike), while also serving for part of that time as Chair of the Department of Engineering. Wayne went on to serve as President of CAUT, and continues to serve his Department and all UPEIFA Members as spokesperson for the joint union pension group. It is hard to imagine a more deserving

candidate for the inaugural award. The other person I want to mention, and it seems I cannot write one of these columns without acknowledging her, is Betty Jeffery, who retired from Robertson Library after years of dedicated service to the library and to the Faculty Association, including 11 years on Executive – four of those as President.

Wayne is the person I hold responsible for bringing me into service to the union, with a phone call asking me to serve as our representative on the Health and Safety Steering Committee. Over the years I have learned much from Wayne’s leadership of the FA and through his work at CAUT. Years later Betty asked me to serve as her Vice-President, and her mentorship and sage example has guided me into the position of President. I have been very fortunate to have them both as mentors, and in particular to benefit from their collective wisdom and perspective as we navigate our way through these negotiations. I was particularly grateful to have Betty at my side in our discussions with the UPEI Administration earlier this summer.

Before I close I want to bring to your attention the situation of one of our colleagues from Concordia University. Homa Hoodfar is a retired anthropology professor, renowned for her research on Middle Eastern women’s studies. On June 6, Dr. Hoodfar, while visiting family in Iran, was arrested on unknown charges, accused, among other things, of “dabbling in feminism.” Dr. Hoodfar is in poor health, and has recently been hospitalized in Iran. Her family has not been allowed to contact her in the 100 days since her arrest, and the latest news is that the judge in her case has dismissed her lawyer, and appointed a lawyer of his choosing to represent her. Colleagues at Concordia have been working to bring attention to this travesty of justice. The UPEIFA has contributed to a fund to help the Concordia FA publicize this case and work to secure her release, and we have joined other Faculty Associations across Canada in signing a letter to the Iranian government. I encourage our Members to read more at <http://www.homahoodfar.org/> and to sign the petitions or write letters to help bring attention to this serious situation.

Finally, I extend a special welcome to our new Members who join us this year, and remind you all to attend the Fall General Meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and come celebrate the beginning of another academic year at FA Time to follow. May this year provide us with many opportunities and reasons to celebrate.

In solidarity... Nola Etkin

## **FALL GENERAL MEETING**

The Fall General Meeting of the UPEI Faculty Association will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016, 2:00-3:30 p.m. in McDougall Hall, Room 242.

FA Time will be held immediately afterward in SDU Main Building Faculty Lounge.

Agenda is forthcoming.

Please note the date and time, and plan to attend this important meeting.

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

## **Celebrating our Great Small Faculty Faculty Recognition Night**

On 4 May, the FA held its annual Faculty Recognition Night at the Fox Meadow Golf and Country Club. The highlight of the evening came with the awarding of Merit Awards for Scholarly Achievement, the four Hessian Awards for Excellence in Teaching, and the new UPEIFA Merit Award for Outstanding Service.

Congratulations to all the winners!



Great food and drink along with excellent company made the 2016 Faculty Recognition Night a night to remember.

## **2016 Merit Awards for Scholarly Achievement**

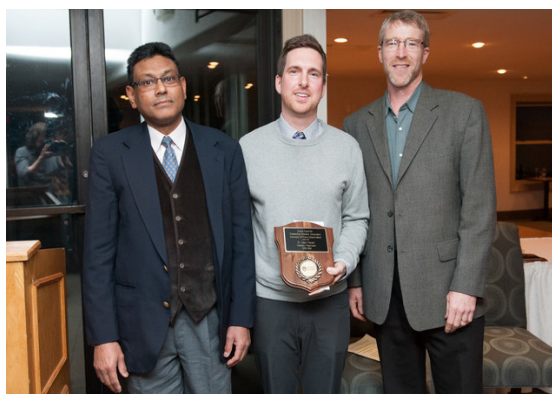
The Merit Awards for Scholarly Achievement are given annually to recognize outstanding achievements of researchers. These awards are intended to honour faculty members who have achieved significant and continuing productivity in scholarly research and/or artistic creation, and in so doing, inspire others to aspire to such achievement. One award is given to a researcher in the Faculty of Arts, Business or Education; one in the Faculty of Science; and one in the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) or Faculty of Nursing. This year's winners are: Catherine Innes-Parker (Faculty of Arts), Jason Pearson (Faculty of Science), and Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte (AVC).

**Jason Pearson** has been at UPEI since January of 2009. He is now an Associate Professor, having achieved early promotion and tenure in July of 2013. His work has been recognized internationally with an award from the World Association of Theoretical Chemists, and in 2012 he received the Presidential Recognition Award of Merit at UPEI for significant achievement in Research, Teaching, and Service.

Over the past six years, Dr. Pearson has received over \$480,000 in research funding from agencies such as NSERC, Canada Foundation for Innovation, and Springboard Atlantic.

He has, indeed, established a strong and highly active research group at UPEI. His current research team consists of 2 postdoctoral fellows, 4 PhD, 2 MSc, and 2 undergraduate researchers.

So far, Dr. Pearson has published 27 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and has delivered 17 invited lectures. Congratulations, Jason Pearson!



**Jason Pearson** accepts the Merit Award for Scholarly Achievement

## 2016 Hessian Merit Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Hailing from the paradise of “Cartagena de Indias” in Colombia, **Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte** is one of the most prolific scientists we have at AVC. Since arriving in 2012, he has maintained an average of over 8 peer-reviewed journal articles per year in an area in which a good researcher should feel proud of generating 3 papers per year.

He currently is PI on an NSERC Discovery Grant and has numerous other grants as a PI or co-investigator. He is flourishing as a researcher and a teacher, delivering three full courses and one full rotation, and contributing to 6 other courses and 5 other rotations within AVC.

Juan Carlos has catapulted as an eminence in his field – the top poultry immunologist in Canada – and is an invited speaker internationally. We are very fortunate to have this calibre of scientist at UPEI. Congratulations, Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte!



**Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte** receives his Merit Award for Scholarly Achievement

Giving a voice to the voiceless is important work. That’s what **Catherine Innes-Parker** does, and it’s not easy, given that the voices she is attending to with compassionate and scholarly attention are many hundreds of years old. Her work – which includes two books, five articles, six refereed conference papers, and \$81,000 in SSHRCC funding in the past five years – looks at, among other things, the fascinating phenomenon of the “anchorite”: women who, by choice, sequester themselves into small rooms to live contemplative and isolated lives. Catherine’s translations, her focus on reading habits and marginalia, and attention to the *Anacrene Wise* – the Anchorite Rule – ensure that for scholars, and for students, those voices from the 13th century are heard in the 21st. Congratulations, Catherine Innes-Parker!

Unfortunately, Catherine was unable to attend and so we don’t have a picture.

**Dr. Cornelia Gilroy** has been in a faculty position at UPEI for 11 years, first in an ongoing contract position and now as a tenure-track Associate Professor. She was awarded the 2015 Zoetis Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, the highest teaching award given at the Atlantic Veterinary College. She is a highly skilled veterinary clinical pathologist who has teaching responsibilities in the second-year clinical pathology course, fourth-year rotations, and various graduate courses, as well as engaging in intensive resident training. Additionally, she provides extensive informal teaching while discussing case data with veterinarians throughout Atlantic Canada; has given continuing education wet laboratories to both veterinarians and technicians; volunteers as a faculty advisor to the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) Student Chapter at UPEI; and she spends many hours preparing and providing extracurricular rounds, lectures, and wet laboratories. In her nomination letter, Dr. Shelley Burton describes, “*In all these endeavours, her teaching is characterized by expert knowledge, thorough preparation, energetic and enthusiastic delivery, a love of her discipline and deep concern for student learning.*”

In her detailed teaching dossier she describes her approach to teaching as enthusiastic and an active process that continually evolves over time. She outlines her role, “*to facilitate learners in their journey of acquiring knowledge to attain the goals needed for future success,*” and she states, “*I care about the welfare and progress of my students and strive to provide an open environment that promotes effective learning to optimize successful interaction time between my students and me.*” She credits the involved guidance of several mentors and her own professional development efforts which have helped her continuously improve her teaching performance and students’ learning.

She has introduced numerous active learning practices into her courses, including team-based learning in laboratory settings, clicker technology to assess students’ grasp of complex material, and additional “wet laboratory” sessions which are organized outside of the required course hours. Her classroom and laboratory are described as employing principles of universal design and including various formats with interactive strategies to encompass multiple learning styles. All of these efforts are made to assist students with managing large volumes of challenging material in order to develop diagnostic skills that are required throughout their training and in the field.

In light of this challenging assignment, colleagues and students identify that Dr. Gilroy approaches her teaching by being meticulously well-prepared; enthusiastic, kind, patient, and generous with her time. She is described by students in these ways: *“Dr. Gilroy has an amazing talent to teach – she always prepares the most amazing lectures and tutorials and always presents the material in an engaging manner”* and *“I describe Dr. Gilroy’s approach to teaching as kind-hearted tenaciousness.”*

She is admired for her integrity in teaching to facilitate learning for future success. Dr. Burton outlines Cora’s response to a challenging circumstance on a senior rotation where the students were coasting along and not fully learning the material. They were content to do the bare minimum of effort. The instructors discussed the situation amongst themselves. Should the issue be addressed and how? Cora decided: *“This needs to be done – it is a disservice to them and their education if we don’t address it, but we need to be supportive and constructive.”* Dr. Burton goes on to describe, *“I was convinced and we talked to the students together, with Cora starting out by carefully and kindly explaining our concerns. It wasn’t easy for the students to hear, but they accepted the feedback in the spirit it was offered, dug in hard and tremendously impressed us for the duration of the rotation! Cora’s strength of character and leadership as a teacher certainly served as a model for me to emulate then and always.”*

Cora Gilroy’s expert knowledge, thorough preparation, availability to students, and deep concern for student learning and future success are the hallmarks of excellent teaching. As one of her students stated, *“If you look up excellence in the dictionary, it says, ‘the quality of being outstanding or extremely good.’ It should also have a small picture of Dr. Gilroy next to its definition.”*



**Cora Gilroy, Winner, Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching**

**Dr. James Moran** has taught in the History Department at UPEI for 14 years, and his teaching responsibilities have spanned across the curriculum from large, introductory survey classes and tutorial sessions to the supervision of honours and graduate students at UPEI and other universities. In his nomination letter, Dr. Ed MacDonald made the case for James to receive a Hessian award based on the following three headings: *“proven excellence in the classroom over time across a broad spectrum of courses, a willingness and ability to reach out to students, and innovation in the creation of new courses and in the classroom.”*

Dr. Moran’s thoughtfully prepared teaching dossier, his supporting documentation, and particularly his students’ survey results and comments convincingly support that he is an excellent teacher, and in Ed’s own eloquent words, *“he exemplifies what excellent teaching is all about: a passion for his discipline, mastery of his subject, commitment to his students blended with compassion towards them, reflectiveness about his methods, a fear of complacency, and the persistence of wonder.”*

Dr. Moran describes his philosophy of teaching as *“Keep the Corridors of Learning Open”* which is tailored to his teaching context. He describes his approach as getting to know individual students, well, in order to help them with their specific challenges as students. He successfully achieves this through his well-described methodologies of interactive lectures, small-group tutorials, supervising honours students, and developing special topics courses that have an interdisciplinary approach and appeal. Who wouldn’t want to take his courses History 114: Plague or History 222: Science and Society in Historical Context?

One of the hallmarks of James’s excellence in teaching is his regular and consistent availability to students through office hours, off-campus meetings and on-campus interaction via chance meetings at various locations. His presence and availability were continually referred to in the student comments as evidence of his caring about and his concern for students. Further evidence of this was provided by Dr. MacDonald in his nomination letter when he states, *“Many times, while James and I have been chatting over tea about teaching or history, students have happened by. On such occasions, James doesn’t just excuse himself in order to assist them; he invariably invites them to have tea with us. If they have time or inclination to accept, he includes them in the conversation in a natural and unaffected way, instinctively extending to them the compliment of collegiality.”*

Dr. Moran’s dossier clearly indicates that he is a generous colleague who shares his passion for his discipline and his gifts as a fine teacher across our campus and in various

other settings such as through UPEI Open Class Day, the SPUR program organized through the VP's Research Office, and in delivering the Nigel Rusted Lecture in the Medical Humanities at Memorial University entitled, "St. Paul's Bay Disease: Health Crisis in 18th-Century Quebec."

James's Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys are consistently excellent and his current students *unanimously* endorsed his worthiness for this award. They describe his teaching practice in superlative terms: "*James is an outstanding teacher who really cares about his students' success, not only does he care about classroom success, he also cares greatly about the wellbeing of all of his students.*" "*James is an excellent teacher and deserving of this award because of his passion for teaching. James loves teaching and relishes each class in a way I have never seen. He has earned a repeat customer in me.*" Many students described him as the best teacher they have ever had. The last word comes from two of his own, "*James is honestly the best teacher I've ever had and being in his class was an honour,*" and, returning the compliment of collegiality, "*I would be proud to have him receive such a prestigious award.*"



**James Moran**, Winner, Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching

### **2016 Hessian Merit Awards for Excellence in Teaching by a Sessional Instructor**

**Dr. Bonnie Stewart's** teaching career has spanned all three coasts of Canada and brought her around the world; and since 2005 she has been centred at UPEI. She proudly considers herself a scholar of teaching and learning, an advocate for engaged, inquiry-based learning on the UPEI campus, in PEI education, and globally through her international work in digital scholarship. In her nomination letters she is described as "constantly pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a teacher in the 21st century" and she is noted as a leader in the Faculty of Education for her ability to "engage her students very well in her online teaching, but crucially she also supports other instructors

in their online teaching." She began her UPEI teaching in the Faculty of Arts, using Moodle for the first time ever in English 101, and since 2011 she has taught in-person and online courses in the BEd and MEd programs, and her "first ever" digital model PhD portfolio has now become standard within that program. Her expertise is shared among her colleagues here at UPEI and she is a sought-after keynote speaker for conferences and a facilitator for workshops and in-service training programs, as well as being widely published in her field. Dr. Tim Goddard describes her in this way: "In a Faculty where most of us pride ourselves on our teaching abilities, she stands out from the crowd."

In her deeply reflective teaching philosophy Dr. Stewart comments on her own educational journey and the struggles of "complying" within a system that did not accommodate her natural curiosity. She writes, "When I entered education as a field, I committed to being a teacher of learning, rather than a teacher of compliance. That commitment has generated a powerful, career-long responsibility to continue to learn and experiment with teaching and learning approaches that put students and their potential at the centre of my work. I believe in approaching each learner as an individual with specific understandings and needs." She identifies that her teaching practice has been shaped by working with learners on the margins of geographic, cultural, and school achievement norms, and influenced by two distinct schools of thought, andragogy and critical pedagogy. Her work has been guided by the principle of "don't tell: ASK."

When describing her teaching methods Dr. Stewart states, "stemming from my work with networked scholarship and its intersection with the field of instructional design, I also make a conscious effort to articulate, model, and enact good practices around presence and community-building." One student nominator described her experience, "I would go as far as to say it was transformative for me. This experience totally changed my ways of thinking about how content can be 'delivered' and inspired me to begin learning more about networked knowledge creation."

Bonnie employs different methodologies in her face-to-face and virtual classrooms, including mini-lectures, discussions, debate, think/pair/share activities, student presentations, panel discussions, guest speakers, role play, theatre games, and mentoring, all while using many different modalities and platforms to facilitate what she described as multiple channels of student-student and student-teacher communications. She incorporates principles of Universal Design, and the flipped classroom to engage students in

activities and projects with publics beyond the walls of their classrooms. She provides real audiences for their work and exposure to ideas and platforms they can use both for their own teaching and professional development. One of her graduate students describes her experience in Bonnie's virtual classroom as "our work as learners was extensive, but the fact that she carefully tailored the work so that no one was penalized for a lack of digital literacy while still being exhorted to learn and innovate was a key motivator in the very real digital literacies learning that occurred. Her evaluation strategies stressed understanding and application while still encouraging the high-level critical thinking that ought to mark graduate work."

Dr. Stewart's CV of scholarship and teaching innovation is impressive. She cites more than 25 publications, conference presentations, and talks. Her recent projects start at home and span the globe and they include Education 473 students providing formative feedback as mentors and "critical friends" with grade 7 bloggers at Englewood School in Crapaud; Education 626 students participating in #Ed1to1, a worldwide three-day Twitter chat; a Radio Edutalk webcast with Scottish (& global!) educators where her students participated, taking different roles in presenting and engaging the theme of "Networked Education"; and, finally, global participation and at home hosting of the Digital Pedagogy Lab.

As a sessional instructor Dr. Bonnie Stewart engages with students individually, meets them where they are, and brings the world to them. One of her most recent students in an online graduate course says it best, "Bonnie really does go above and beyond in her capacity as a teacher. Not only does she bring a boundless enthusiasm to her material, but she is able to disseminate it using a variety of engaging activities and practices. Bonnie is really invested in her students' success, and it shows. She is innovative and enthusiastic about what she does and her passion for the subject is engaging for the student."



**Bonnie Stewart**, Winner, Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Sessional Instructor

**Professor Chris Vessey** has been teaching at UPEI since the fall of 2000. He is most often the first computer science professor that students encounter and he is described as greatly influencing students who carry on to major in this discipline. In addition to his teaching and staff responsibilities, Prof. Vessey is deeply committed to supporting student learning and engagement outside the classroom and laboratory through involvement in a variety of campus and community projects. As well, Prof. Vessey has developed and delivered new courses, including the recent CS 271 Practical Embedded Systems which involves students in projects on the cutting edges of technology. Chris's teaching assignment with CS 151, a required threshold course, is described by Dr. Gordon MacDonald in his nomination letter in this way: "Only a few of our Computer Science professors are ever allowed to teach these courses. It is a sign of the confidence that the School of Mathematical Sciences has in Chris that he is often assigned to teach one or both of these courses as Sessional Instructor." Both students and colleagues have commented "that Chris is willing to go above and beyond to enhance the student experience here at UPEI." One of his student nominators writes, "Chris has a natural compassion for student learning and achievement. As a student I can attest to his nurturing of us as budding computer scientists, always making time for us in or outside the classroom. He has spent countless hours teaching the most basic of computer studies yet making it still seem very enlightening and fun not just to his new crop of students but also to those that listen to him answer endless questions in the lounge assisting whenever he can."

In his teaching philosophy, Professor Vessey states, "my role here is not just to teach material relevant to the course of study, but to foster a desire for learning in the student." He indicates a firm commitment to the concept of "universal" education that includes more than just a depth of knowledge in a subject; but also about breadth of knowledge and experience. He reflects on his involvement with teaching as a responsibility to serve society and be part of the development of technologies that will change how we live and shape the future. He states, "Our students are the agents of that change. That is what motivates me as a teacher."

Professor Vessey relies on tried-and-true teaching methodologies to deliver the challenging material in required courses. He is described as being perpetually well prepared with excellent materials, making himself readily available to students in a variety of settings and formats and nurturing the confidence of both star and struggling students through

peer teaching activities and challenging but fair assessment practices. He encourages questioning through “unlimited phone-a-friend” options and awarding a virtual “brass filigree with a bronze oak-leaf cluster” (a term an old music teacher of his used to acknowledge extra effort). One of his students this semester writes, “In his lectures Mr. Vessey never fails to not only show a deep and rich passion and knowledge for the subject matter, but also an outstanding enthusiasm for teaching. His talent for communicating even the most complex ideas to his students is inspiring. His friendly and encouraging attitude has made him one of the most beloved instructors in the Computer Science faculty. His lectures and labs consistently display a high quality of work and preparation. He excels at challenging all levels of students in his classroom, and strives to engage everyone in learning and exploring the subject. His high standards of work create a challenging and satisfying experience for his students. In addition to this his examinations are always dynamic and engaging. Students of all levels will be challenged as they have to demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding instead of dull memorization and regurgitation.”



**Chris Vessey, Winner , Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Sessional Instructor**

Chris Vessey’s level of engagement outside of the classroom is noteworthy and admirable. He actively supports UPEI students in preparing for and attending the Atlantic Universities Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science conference. He even drives the van! Additionally, he serves as the faculty liaison for the student society; he has held numerous roles for many years with the PEI Regional and Canada Wide Science Fair and the annual 10,000 Villages sale. In the community Chris serves many organizations including the Sidewalk Astronomers of Charlottetown and the Red Cross Disaster Service.

Professor Vessey is recognized for his deep and rich passion for and knowledge of the subject matter, outstanding enthusiasm for teaching, his talent for communicating even the most complex ideas to his students, and the genuine care

he displays. As one of his students this semester wrote, “Professor Vessey is outstanding in every definition of the word. His dedication to his profession and students stands the highest of any teacher I have ever met. He encourages you to figure things out for yourself, but he is always there to offer guidance and advice if you are struggling. Chris Vessey is undoubtedly the greatest professor I have had the honour of learning from.”



Four of UPEI’s exceptional instructors: **Moran, Gilroy, Stewart, and Vessey** with **Louise Hessian** (centre), representing the Hessian family.

**2016 UPEIFA Merit Award for Outstanding Service: Wayne Peters**

A faculty member of the Department of Engineering for 20 years, Wayne Peters rose to prominence in significant leadership roles with the UPEIFA in 2004 and has remained an important fixture of UPEI leadership ever since. Among these roles he has served as Chair of the Job Action Committee, as President for four years, and as Past-President for three years.

During his term as President from 2004 to 2008, he was pivotal as we transitioned from an association to a certified labour union. We had just signed a first collective agreement for Bargaining Unit #1. Wayne set about working with the Executive to identify and put in place an appropriate governance model and structure to enable the UPEIFA to best meet its new challenges and responsibilities. His influence, direction, and initiative, inclusive of his dealings with government, were key throughout our successful strike and negotiations of 2006.

His years as Vice-President and then President of CAUT were distinguished as he championed for the integrity of academic work, and against all forms of pressure to disarticulate its teaching, research, and service components.

Since 2012 Wayne has served as Chief Pension Spokesper-



son and Negotiator of UPEI's Joint-Union Pension group where he serves to promote, advance, and defend the pension benefit for all academics and staff at UPEI.

Within his discipline of Engineering, he has asserted his administrative skills in numerous capacities, most recently in collaborating with all stakeholders in creating the new Sustainable Design Engineering Degree program.

Among his unique traits is Wayne's willingness and engagement to devote himself totally to the pursuits he values and which affect others.

As the recipient of the UPEI Faculty Association Award for Outstanding Service we recognize Wayne's exemplary participation, leadership, and achievement in this pillar of academic life. His work ethic, performance, commitment, and dedication to furthering UPEI's mission represent a model for us all.

UPEI is a much better place as a result of the contributions of Wayne Peters.



**Wayne Peters**, winner of the UPEIFA Merit Award for Outstanding Service

### **Retirees**

Faculty Recognition Night was also an opportunity for FA Members to say goodbye to a number of colleagues upon their retirement, and to thank them for their many years of outstanding service.

- David Buck** (Classics)
- Martha Gabriel** (Faculty of Education)
- Betty Jeffery** (Robertson Library)
- Fiona Walton** (Faculty of Education)

## **Want to Know More about the Work of Our Exceptional Colleagues?**

As luck would have it, the FA has just the thing!

Back in April, the FA began producing a series of videos highlighting the variety of work undertaken by Members.

We're rolling these out on our brand new UPEI FA Facebook page over the coming weeks and months.



**Libby Osgood** from UPEI's School of Sustainable Design Engineering discusses aspects of her research in the first of the UPEIFA's video series.

Check out our Facebook page and find out about the important work being done by your colleagues in and out of the classroom.

## **Welcome New FA Members**

- Ali Ahmadi** (Sustainable Design Engineering)
- Alexander Alvarez** (Mathematical & Computational Sciences)
- Hollis Corney** (Economics)
- Mark Cousins** (Robertson Library)
- Louis Doiron** (Mathematical & Computational Sciences)
- Marsha Doiron** (Business)
- Reiko Dolan** (Modern Languages)
- Andrew Godbout** (Mathematical & Computational Sciences)
- Matthew Hall** (Sustainable Design Engineering)
- Keith Hillier** (Business)
- Meghan Landry** (Robertson Library)
- Somi Lee** (Modern Languages)
- Matt Marx** (Business)
- Grant McSorley** (English)
- Remi Morin Chasse** (Economics)
- Trung Ngo** (Sustainable Design Engineering)
- Joel Ross** (Biology)
- Raphael Vanderstichel** (Health Management)

## The Big Question

Every issue, we like to poll FA Members about a completely frivolous topic. And, once more, the Great Minds of this Great Small Faculty have come up [Donaldless] trumps. For this issue, we asked:

Over the summer, did you get time to watch anything on Netflix or Crave TV? If so, do you have any recommendations for the rest of us Netflix and Crave addicts?

**Larry Hale** (Biology), *Letterkenny!* Pitter, patter. Let's get at 'er.

**Benet Davetian** (Sociology & Anthropology), Since I hate the hot humid summer I spent a lot of time in front of the computer watching Netflix or writing. Some things I enjoyed:

For foodies: *Cook Abroad*, *Steak (R)evolution*, *Bourdain: Parts Unknown*

For series junkies who do not like usual cops and robber junk: *Merlin* (5 seasons King Arthur and the realm of magic)

Absolute Favourite movies: Indian movies: *The Lunchbox* and *Amal*

Grossly overrated film: *The Revenant*. All those Oscars. Great cinematography. Best actor not.

**Pamela Courtenay-Hall** (Philosophy), *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*. An astounding film by Ken Burns created almost entirely out of original video footage of Theodore, Franklyn, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Explores the incredible courage, dedication and passion of these three amazing people... and the great changes they helped to effect in the US political and economic system.

**Ann Braithwaite** (Diversity and Social Justice Studies), I don't think I want my colleagues to know how many bad post-apocalyptic epidemic and zombie films I watched this summer, especially in August... but I will own up to *Lucky Man* (TV series) as a lot of fun!

**Richard Raiswell** (History), We have been thoroughly enjoying *Deutschland 83* lately. Set in 1983, it centres on an East German spy who has infiltrated West German army command. It rises above the conventional spy drama in that it effectively communicates the anxieties in both the DDR and the BDR over Reagan's decision to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles in the West--all set against a backdrop of classic 80s music including Peter Schilling's "Major Tom (Coming Home)" and--of course--Nena's "99 Luftballons."

On a (slightly) lighter note, the Icelandic hit crime drama (yep, there is now such a thing), *Trapped* was super. Set in a small, isolated community on the north shore during a blizzard, the local detective has to deal with a string of grisly murders before the big guns from Reykjavik take over.

I can also highly recommend the French series *Les Revenants*—it's genuinely creepy, but also highlights the profound difficulty those who have seemingly returned from the dead have reintegrating into society. Apparently, that's a problem.

**Tim Goddard** (Education), Over the summer I binge-watched *Rake*, a show on Netflix. It's about a lawyer in Sydney (Australia) and was great fun, albeit with a strong undercurrent of social justice. Spoiler alert: the ending was a bit silly!

**Nola Etkin** (Chemistry), *Breaking Bad*—although there are no likeable characters, and way more violence than I normally tolerate, this chemist couldn't turn away. And, for fans of *Orange is the New Black* ... *Wentworth* is even better. My current obsession ... rewatching every episode of every *Star Trek* series.

**Shannon Murray** (English), We watched—and would recommend—*Brooklyn 99* for laughs, *Broadchurch* for drama, and *Tallulah* for a delightfully original movie.

**Richard Lemm** (English), I recommend *Occupy*, a Norwegian series (eight parts) in which the governing green party and Prime Minister of Norway terminate oil production and prepare the transition to renewable energy. A "soft takeover" of Norway by Russia ensues, with the tacit approval and/or direct instigation of the European Union. Main characters in addition to the Prime Minister and his principal aid: an investigative journalist married to a struggling restaurant owner; one of the PM's body guards who has abilities beyond his pay grade; the Russian ambassador; the Minister of Justice.

Also, *The Killing*, a three-season detective series set in Seattle. Superb writing and acting. The psychological depth and intensity can be draining, yet very rewarding. Meteorological caution: Yes, it does rain a fair bit in Seattle, and it is overcast without rain a lot. But in this show, to quote e.e.cummings in his WWI novel *The Enormous Room*, "The rain did, from time to time, not fall."

For a "cozy mystery" antidote to *The Killing*, you can't go wrong with *Midsomer Murders*, set among quaint middle- and upper-middle-class villages in mid-England. Two dozen seasons and going strong. It does cause you to suspect every kind of person, from veterinarians and taxidermists, to rose

breeders and glass blowers, to chemistry professors and Renaissance historians, to pastry chefs and antique collectors and ornithologists.

**Rosemary Le Faive** (Digital Infrastructure and Discovery Librarian), Hah! Finally an easy question. *Stranger Things*, *Jessica Jones*, and *Sense8*. Documentaries: *Chef's Table* (Netflix) and *Cooked* (Netflix). Anything else I like watching (*Star Trek*) seems to go in and out of availability—damn licensing agreements!

But while I'm at it, the library has streaming access to a huuuuuuuge collection of documentaries and performances—that faculty can use for instruction—on Films On Demand: <http://proxy.library.upci.ca/login?url=http://digital.films.com/portalplaylists.aspx?aid=14978>

One entrancing one I'm watching is on Issey Miyake's origami-clothing: *Issey Miyake* (NHK Enterprises 21).



## Mark Your Calendars!

Please join your colleagues for...

FA Coffee Time in the Main Building Faculty Lounge, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 13

Friday, November 18

FA Time in the Main Building Faculty Lounge, 4-6 p.m.

Friday, September 30

Friday, November 18

Holiday Social (venue to follow), 7:30-10 p.m.

Friday, December 2



Intense discussion at a previous FA Time!

## Betty Jeffery

This spring, UPEIFA Past President Betty Jeffery announced that she would be retiring at the end of the 2015/16 academic year.

Betty has been a stalwart of the FA and a passionate defender of our Collective Agreement over the years. Without her tireless work, our Association would not be the strong, united, and potent force that it is on Campus.



**Betty Jeffery** with UPEIFA President **Nola Etkin** and UPEI President **Alaa Abd El-Aziz** at Faculty Recognition Night in May.

While we wish her a very pleasant retirement, we are delighted that she has applied to become an Associate Member of the FA: a rare and exceptional honour (that largely involves lots of extra work—but don't tell her that). Her wise and experienced counsel will be invaluable as we continue our negotiations for a new Collective Agreement.



A small band of FA Members met at a secret, undisclosed location in June to thank **Betty Jeffery** for her service to the Association

## ***We want your input***

Feedback, comments, articles, letters, images, etc. for future issues are always welcome! Contact the Newsletter Editor, Laurie Brinklow, if you are interested in contributing a piece to *the FAbrik*, [brinklow@upei.ca](mailto:brinklow@upei.ca), 902-894-2881. The Newsletter Editor would like to thank all those who contributed to this edition of *the FAbrik*.

## ***the FAbrik Editorial Policy***

*The FAbrik* is the newsletter of the University of Prince Edward Island Faculty Association. The primary intent of *the FAbrik* is to keep all members of the UPEI Faculty Association up-to-date and informed. It is also the intent of *the FAbrik* to communicate UPEI Faculty Association activities and perspectives on issues to a wider community. *The FAbrik* 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 FAbrik* 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.

## ***UPEIFA Executive***

### **President:**

Nola Etkin (Chemistry)

### **Vice-President:**

Malcolm Murray (Philosophy)

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### **UPEIFA Office Manager:**

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