



Three UPEI graduate students awarded prestigious scholarships

The Master of Arts in Island Studies (MAIS) program at the University of Prince Edward Island is pleased to announce three of its students are receiving awards from this year's Canada Graduate Scholarships Master's Program Competition from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The program is open to Canadian graduate students from across the country. This year, a total of 73 \$17,500 awards were given out in the Master's category.

Says Dr. Laurie Brinklow, Interim Co-ordinator of the MAIS program, "These awards recognize top scholarship from across the country, and thus are indicative of the quality of the research being done by our students here at UPEI. We couldn't be more proud of Sarah, Joyce, and Megan. Their research will make an important contribution to the culture and environment of Prince Edward Island, and serve as object lessons for other islands around the globe."

The three MAIS students are all thesis students who began their studies in the fall of 2019.

Sarah Davison is a rural island resident and an entrepreneur who is interested in the stories and visual representations of island entrepreneurs who work in PEI's tourism industry, specifically within the arts and culture sector. As a photographer, Sarah loves all forms of art. She is passionate about exploring coastal communities, supporting local businesses and collaborating with creative entrepreneurs. Her topic is entitled "An exploration of how tourism imagery in Prince Edward Island compares to and influences local arts and culture entrepreneurs' understandings of self, place, and business."

Joyce Ferguson's research interests revolve around the relationship between energy policy and community in an island setting. Joyce has chosen to focus her thesis research on her home province of Prince Edward Island through a case study of a wind farm expansion controversy in eastern Kings County entitled "Prince Edward Island and Renewable Energy: The Preconditions for a Sustainable Future."

Megan Lane MacDonald comes to the program with a background in history and English literature. She is a UPEI alumna and is currently studying the poetry of Prince Edward Island (when she's not writing her own). Her project is entitled "Islands of Words: An Analysis of Island Cultures through Their Poetic Works."

There are currently 43 students registered in the Master of Arts in Island Studies program: 27 in the thesis stream; 4 in the Island Tourism course/work-study stream; 10 in the Sustainable Island Communities course/work-study stream; and 2 in the International Relations and 2 in the Island Public Policy course/work-study stream. While the majority of the students come from Prince Edward Island, others are from Halifax, Ontario, the US, England, the Bahamas, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Sweden, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana, and China.