

Elizabeth Epperly shares vision of UPEI'S future

Local presidential candidate speaks out



By Shannon Younker

THE MONTH BETWEEN THE END of September and the end of October will be a hectic one at UPEI. The four candidates for President of the University of Prince Edward Island are each vying for the position, campaigning for the position. These tours began this past week with Professor Elizabeth Epperly.

Dr. Epperly is originally from Virginia, although Prince Edward Island is the love of her life. She is currently Associate Professor of English at UPEI and is founder and chair of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Institute. Previously, Dr. Epperly was Head of the Department of English at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Epperly's term as an administra-

tor at MUN was a valuable experience for a prospective president. She headed a faculty of eighty full-time and twenty part-time professors. The body of students taking English courses at any given time numbered around 1400; that is approximately fifty percent of the total student population of UPEI.

Universities exist as islands within their host cities. This is the theme that Dr. Epperly used for her public address Wednesday, Sept. 28 on the UPEI campus. During this address, Dr. Epperly shared her vision of UPEI in the year 2000, proposing changes she hopes will bring us into the twenty-first century. UPEI has reached a crucial point in its development after twenty-five years. In the past we have been looking back at what we were. Dr. Epperly advises UPEI to "stop looking at yesterday and today and begin looking at today and tomorrow".

Dr. Epperly acknowledges that UPEI is good, but suggests that we, the university community, don't know how good we are. This is one goal for the next five years. Students need to get to know students, faculty needs to get to know faculty and all of the different constituency groups which call UPEI

home need to get to know each other. UPEI may be seen as an island within Prince Edward Island, but there is no room within UPEI for smaller islands, each composed of one faculty or department. To facilitate unity, Dr. Epperly would like to see the building of a new student centre as well as a faculty and staff lounge. Encouragement from administration could lead to students having more pride in UPEI and participating more in their own government.

Epperly is a strong believer in communication between the different communities on campus. Regular meetings with representatives of the Student Union would be a priority. Students would also be given a voice in other decisions (for example, through the continued use of teacher evaluations). Part-time students are a growing sector of the university population. As president, Dr. Epperly would try to make MAPUS members feel more a part of the university.

These suggestions are all ways to improve morale, something Dr. Epperly sees as lacking at UPEI. Further suggestions for improving morale include greater rewards for excellence for both faculty/staff and students. This could

help to alleviate teacher burnout and maintain the quality of UPEI's teaching. Increased pride in the university should also make recruiting more foreign and out-of-province students to UPEI, one of Dr. Epperly's priorities, easier.

As good as Dr. Epperly knows UPEI to be, she admits that some consolidation and internal shaping of the university are among her initial plans if elected. Dr. Epperly claims the UPEI community would communicate so efficiently under her management that any changes would not be surprises. Epperly may flatten the hierarchy of the university, but there are two additions that she will make as priorities. One is a Vice President of the University. The other is a gender officer.

As well, Epperly knows UPEI must convince government and the larger community of Prince Edward Island that the programmes we offer are not only good but essential to the community, proving the university worthy of its large donations, grants and endowments.

Above all else, Epperly exudes a genuine passion for the province and its university. Clearly, Dr. Elizabeth Epperly is running for president of UPEI because she "loves PEI so much".

Community kitchens coming to Dalton Hall

New pilot project begins

By Jennifer Taylor and Shannon Younker

SOME ECONOMICS STUDENTS will be participating in "community kitchens" this fall as part of the requirement for their Introductory Management course.

Community kitchens are food-based community development projects designed to involve individuals in improving their own food security. Food security ensures that all people always have access to safe, nutritionally adequate, personally acceptable foods in a manner which maintains human dignity. Community or collective kitchens have been springing up all over the country with participants including such diverse groups as low-income individuals and families, older adults and students.

The objective of this pilot project is to provide a hands-on approach which will help increase awareness of the benefits of healthy eating and how to make healthy food choices. Skills in planning economical and nutritious meals and reading food labels will also be developed, all while having fun and meeting new people.

Each month, the group will prepare five "heart healthy" main dishes for their families. All members share in the planning, shopping, preparation and clean-up. Each participant contributes toward the financial cost of the food, supplemented by other sponsors. In addition to the Home Economics Department, which is providing the facilities for the project, partners in the com-

munity kitchen project include Holland College, Heart Health PEI, Health and Community Services, Queen's Region, and other community groups.

"Projects like these provide a real alternative for families who are striving to cope in these times of economic hardship," claims Jennifer Taylor, a faculty member in the department of Home Economics. "It would be great to see the program continue next year and expand across the province. It certainly provides invaluable learning experiences for all the students involved."

Participants in the community kitchen will include 18 women and men from the G.O.A.L. program at Holland College. G.O.A.L., which stands for "growth, options, attitudes and learn-

ing", is a new adult education program coordinated and instructed by Barbara McNutt and Karen Chandler, sponsored by Employment Enhancement, and funded by the province. Other modules of the G.O.A.L. include parenting, drivers' education and defensive driving, fitness, first aid and CPR and computer training, as well as academic subjects.

McNutt is very pleased and excited with the interest shown by UPEI and Holland College students, and is encouraged by the support of service clubs in the Charlottetown area: "This is a prime example of how educational institutions, government and the community can work together as partners," she says.