

UPEI Business Internship Program celebrates National Co-op Week

By KAREN RAWLINES

This week, internship or co-operative education students from across Canada will be promoting National Co-op week to inform potential employers and students about the benefits of participating in these programs.

UPEI's Business Internship Program is among those participating in the events of the awareness week, which runs from March 22 through 27.

"The Business Internship Program is an optional exploration program for students entering their third year of Business Administration," says Ben Mersereau, a third year Business Administration student.

"It is an integrated approach to higher education that enables bright, highly motivated students to alternate academic terms on campus with work terms in relevant employment," he adds.

Mersereau estimates that there are approximately 90 students involved in the program, noting that this is the third year for the Business Internship Program at the UPEI School of Business.

PEI Minister of Education Chester Gillan is in support of the program, saying that employers benefit by hiring students with enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a dedication to hard work.

Students involved with co-op programs gain valuable, paid work experience, explore career possibilities and develop excellent contacts for future employment after they graduate from university.

"My work terms have given me the opportunity to

build on my experience and have helped me broaden my appreciation for the many dimensions and challenges in the workplace," says Stephen Ramsay, a UPEI Business Internship student who is on his second work term with Human Resources Development Canada.

"For instance, I have been involved in planning a national news conference, developing an internal newsletter and developing a marketing/promotional campaign for one of the summer youth employment programs."

Mersereau will begin his first work term this summer. "However, I have already benefited from the many workshops offered by the Internship Program, such as job search techniques, resume writing, job interviews, and employer expectations." These workshops were a joint effort between the Internship Program and Student Services on campus, he says.

For an employer, the program provides relief time for staff, a chance to view potential employees in actual work situations, and serves as an opportunity to enhance community profile. The students are dedicated, hard-working employees who have already acquired a significant academic knowledge-base.

"We were very pleased with the Internship student from UPEI who joined our team," says Michael Tkachyk, Accounting Manager, TELUS Advanced Communications, Calgary. "He was a self-starter, always looking for additional work to do. He was exceptionally quick and fre-

quently suggested new ways of doing things. His ability to think analytically was a major asset."

UPEI's internship students obtain a Bachelor of Business Administration in five years with three, four-month, paid work terms. Their first placement generally starts in the spring of their third year. They must have an average of 70 per

cent in their second year of studies and must maintain a 65 per cent average to stay in the program.

"This spring, 16 students will have completed at least three work terms and 40 academic credits, making them the first group to graduate from the UPEI Business Internship Program," says Don MacCormack, Director of the Business Internship Program at UPEI.

In order to promote National Co-operative Education Week, several activities will take place. Students will be guests at some Rotary Club meetings, speaking to local high schools about the program, and promoting the event to the local media. There will also be an information booth at the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce mixer on Thursday, March 25.

UPEI announces honorary degree recipients

The Senate of the University of Prince Edward Island announces that it has selected the recipients of honorary degrees to be conferred for the 1998-99 academic year. Angèle Arsenault and Dr. Colin McMillan will receive the distinction at convocation in May 1999.

Angèle Arsenault is an Acadian from Prince Edward Island who has achieved national and international recognition for her outstanding contribution to music and the arts in Canada.

From launching her career at age 15 to performing solo for over 20 sold-out engagements at the prestigious Place de Arts in Montreal, Arsenault has experienced impressive success. Her now famous album, *Libre*, sold over 300,000 copies and earned her a Félix award from the Québec Music and Entertainment Industry Association for the most popular

album of the year.

An accomplished song-writer and performer, Arsenault is known for her ability to establish unique connections with children and to communicate with audiences through her voice, spirit and lyrical skill. Arsenault is described by many as being a pivotal ambassador for Acadian and Canadian culture.

A Rhodes Scholar and UPEI alumnus, Dr. Colin McMillan is a graduate of St. Dunstan's University, Oxford University, and McGill University Medical School. He has been a clinical instructor in the Department of Medicine at Dalhousie University since 1991 and was a sessional lecturer at St. Dunstan's University in the Department of History.

In addition to his professional career as a respected cardiologist, McMillan has a long history of volunteerism and community leadership. His

long-standing commitment to the medical profession is evident. He served as Chief of Staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, President of the Medical Society of PEI and he was the first Chair of the Canadian Medical Association's Board of Directors to come from PEI.

In the non-profit sector, McMillan has served in a variety of notable volunteer roles including: a Director of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of PEI, Governor of the National Theatre School of Canada, Board member of the PEI Arts Council, Board member of the former UPEI Foundation, and Chair of the Confederation Centre of the Arts Board. McMillan is currently Board Chair of MD Funds Limited and a Director of MD Management and MD Private Trust.

Arsenault will deliver the convocation address and McMillan will be the speaker at Baccalaureate.