

Exchange Students



Cathy Greene - Scranton University, Pennsylvania

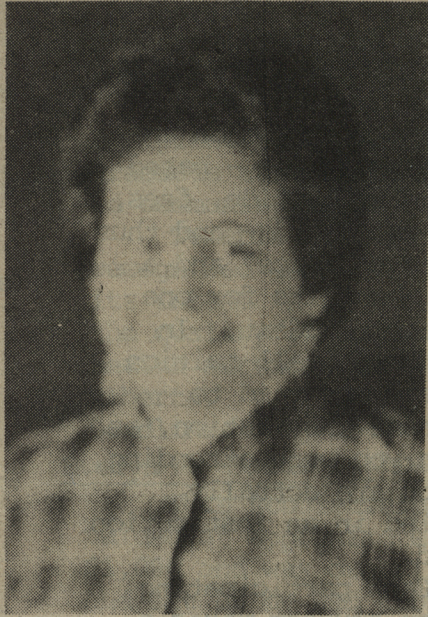
My home university is the University of Scranton located in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. I live in the city of Philadelphia. I've been asked how I heard about ISEP and why I choose to come to UPEI.

I'll be honest here. I heard about ISEP from a friend a few days before the application was due. I went to see the ISEP coordinator at my school and he suggested that I try Canada rather than some of the other ISEP sites. However, he did not have any info on the schools in Canada who were participating in the exchange program. I applied to all four schools and asked ISEP to place me in any one of them.

The main reason I jumped at this chance was because I was beginning to feel restless in Scranton. I was tired of the same routine and people. Also, I have always wanted to travel and ISEP makes it economically feasible.

I have really enjoyed my year here. I have met a lot of new people, I have made a few close friends and I have also learned a lot about myself and a way of life different from my own.

I encourage anyone who has an inside feeling to try something different. This may be just what you are looking for. It can be done so GO FOR IT!! I hope that maybe I'll see some of you next year at the University of Scranton!



Teresa McKenna - Saint Peter's College, New Jersey

When a friend of mine in New Jersey mentioned to me that he was planning on spending the next school year in Scotland, I thought he was kidding. I found out he wasn't and he explained the ISEP program to me. The next thing I knew I was filling out an application to go abroad. It was quite tense for the next couple of weeks as I waited to hear whether or not I was accepted. Evidently I was, or I would not be writing this right now.

This trip has just been one new experience after another for me. I come from a very urban area, approximately one half hour from New York City. Living on Prince Edward Island for the past 5 months has shown me there are more ways to live than the fast paced metropolitan life. I've been exposed to and learned more about things here than I would have discovered at home. (What do you mean I'm storm-stayed?).

I must admit that when the initial excitement of going away faded, a type of fear set in. It was hard saying good-bye to my family and friends and I couldn't figure out what was making me want to leave. I was going away from everything I had and going to a place where I knew no one and knew nothing about.

But I did it and I'm glad. At first I had my nationality to fall back on for conversation; (You're from the States?

What made you come here?) but that's no longer necessary. I've formed many solid friendships and discovered a whole new world in another country that no longer feels foreign.

I highly recommend looking into ISEP. It is an opportunity that doesn't come along too often, and it has been a fabulous experience for me. I wouldn't trade the memories for anything and I don't regret one moment of the time that I've spent away from home. The chance to live with and learn about the lifestyles and personalities of people in another country is something you will always remember.



Pamela Shaw

I always knew that someday someone would ask me, as an exchange student, to assess my year here at UPEI; I just never realized it would be in front of the entire faculty and student body in the SUN! Well, I'm pleased to say that I've really enjoyed my year at the university, and it saddens me a bit to leave in April.

The weather, as you may have guessed, has been one big problem for this South Carolinian, but with lots of advice from friendly Islanders I seem to have made it through the brunt of winter (knock wood). I've seen more snow this

year than I've seen in the eight years since I left Pittsburgh, but it sure has been a change of scenery.

One of the really nice things about going to UPEI is the size of the student body with regard to classes. I have three classes with less than ten people in them, which is highly beneficial. My home university of South Carolina, has a student population of 30,000, with about 5,000 faculty members; it is rather difficult to become acquainted with people in an environment that large. UPEI has an intimate atmosphere that is a real plus to attending this university.

I've also liked getting involved with the extracurricular activities here. For instance, last semester I played on the Bernadine Hall broomball, football, and softball teams, and this semester I've been busy working with Under Milk Wood. I'm also getting a chance to direct my own play, something I've always wanted to do but couldn't with the Theatre Department at home.

Probably the most important result of my year at UPEI is a feeling of independence and self-confidence which one must obtain when on a program such as this, in order to survive the year. I feel much more self-assured than before, and I think I have my friends at UPEI to thank for that. When the 1980-81 academic year is over, I'll miss the Island and the university, but at least I'll have been fortunate enough to have spent as long a time as I have spent here. That's the main drawback to the program - getting close to people, then having to leave after only two semesters. As I mentioned before, however, it's been very beneficial.

Photos by Preston Delaney

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4:00 p.m. Friday

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