

TO: All U.P.E.I. Faculty
FROM: Seniors College of P.E.I.
DATE: August 27, 2013
RE: Sharing Our Research Course
RSVP: Dr Callum Beck (cabeck@upei.ca);
Frank Hennessey (fthennessey@gmail.com)

Seniors College is a non-profit school, closely affiliated with U.P.E.I, and devoted to providing learning opportunities for Seniors (over fifty years of age) on Prince Edward Island. Courses range from Astronomy to computer basics to Irish Literature to Island history.

During the last academic year, Seniors College ran a very successful research course in which a number of professors from UPEI shared their research. This *Sharing Our Research* course is being offered again during the winter of 2014.

The course provides an opportunity for professors at UPEI, from numerous faculties, to share some of their exciting research. This is an excellent opportunity for members of Seniors College to connect with UPEI faculty members in a setting that allows learning to take place as well as fostering stronger connections between the community and the university.

The course will be held on the campus of Maritime Christian College (right across the road from the UPEI campus), Friday mornings from 9:30-12:00, for eight weeks (January 3- February 21).

We are looking for lively presentations on topics of interest to our well-informed and intelligent students. Each Friday would see 1 or 2 professors sharing the results of their research, with a break in the middle. The length of your presentation would then be either about an hour or two hours.

The following are examples of topics covered last year:

- *Research in Early Child Development in Prince Edward Island*
- *Research on Aging*
- *Emerging Technologies in Microscopy - Improving Human Health One Slide at a Time*
- *Microfinance in South Africa*
- *John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and Early Children's Literature*

If you have a topic that you think would appeal to this group please submit a brief proposal with the following information: title of your talk; a short summary of the topic; a brief statement on your teaching methodology (lecture, power-point, interactive, etc); whether there are any Fridays you cannot make it; and the best time slot for you.

Last year course was a great success. We had very positive feedback from the seniors who took the course. The professors who presented also greatly enjoyed the experience and highly recommended that other colleagues consider participating in the course. The following are some samples of their feedback:

“Here's the way to speak to a highly appreciative audience, who will love your presentation, ask good questions, and become involved in your topic of interest” (David Simms, Veterinary Medicine, AVC).

“I strongly encourage my colleagues to participate in the Sharing our Research course offered by Seniors College. I thoroughly enjoyed sharing my research on aging with this group. They had a lot of questions about my research and gave me some great ideas to explore” (Lori Weeks, Applied Human Sciences).

“The group is curious and receptive, and it's a wonderful chance to let the wider community know all the varied research work going on at UPEI” (Shannon Murray, English).

“I found the class very knowledgeable and there were excellent questions throughout my talk. I was made to feel very welcome ... I would encourage others to volunteer a talk when the class is given again. It's a good opportunity to tell about your research to a very appreciative audience” (John Burka, Biomedical Sciences, AVC).

The remuneration on the financial level for this course may be nihil but on the personal level it is very high. You will be sharing the fruit of your research with a group of people who have come to hear you just because they love learning. So please let us know, by email (cabeck@upei.ca and fthennessey@gmail.com), as soon as possible whether you would like to be part of this venture.

Frank Hennessy (Director with Seniors College)

Dr Callum Beck (Sessional Professor at UPEI and Seniors College Instructor)