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COMMUNITY  
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## Mount A student grabs golden opportunity

Felicia Pickard knows a golden opportunity when she sees one.

The 20-year-old Mount Allison biology student received the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award in 2007 and has now been appointed to sit on the international board of the award committee. Pickard is one of only 12 youth to receive this appointment and will be representing the Americas with two additional youth on the committee, chaired by Prince Edward.

Pickard was appointed to the board during the International Gold Event with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, held in Mauritius this fall. Here she participated in a number of activities and projects. Pickard volunteered at a detoxification centre for women, participated in skills workshops, and a physical expedition, which included mountain climbing, snorkelling, and absailing. Participants were also responsible for organizing a "Stand Up Take Action Day" against poverty.

As one of a dozen global youth reps, Pickard will bring to the committee a youth's perspective on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, how it is presented, and its criteria.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a self-directed development program for young Canadians age 14 to 25. There are three award levels to achieve; bronze, silver, and gold. Participants must complete activities in four main areas -- community service, skills, physical recreation, and adventurous journey. The



Mount A student Felicia Pickard volunteered at a detoxification centre for women, helping care for children, in Mauritius this fall.

award began in the 1950s and over 33,000 Canadians are involved in the program.

Pickard received her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in 2007 after four years of activities with a number of organizations. She is a member of the 4H Club in Jacksontown and has worked with Free the Children, travelling to Kenya to help build a school, the Global Medical Brigades, and the Drew Nursing Home.

Pickard is currently in her fourth-year at Mount A studying biology and is a researcher with the Mount Allison dendrochronology lab, which studies tree rings and climate change.

For more information on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, contact the NB division at [newbrunswick@dukeofed.org](mailto:newbrunswick@dukeofed.org) or visit <http://www.dukeofed.org/nb/>.