April 16, 2018

Discovering secrets in the Amazon

Edmonton – Hamdi Issawi never saw himself chasing story leads in the company of countless species of insects and amphibians. The fourth-year journalism student, and six other MacEwan University students had to contend with the Amazon rainforest's many creatures as they explored the unique economic, political and environmental issues affecting the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in Ecuador.

Situated amid one of the most biodiverse locations in the world, the station is more like a camp, with limited running water, and an open-air mess hall with swinging monkeys and swooping bats overhead.

“The trip to Ecuador was my first time leaving the country,” says Issawi. “I had never considered studying abroad, but I felt like bursting out of my bubble and trying something new. One day we were sitting outside, eating lunch, and a giant cockroach flew into my friend’s chest, then fell on the floor. There’s so much life there, it hits you in the face—literally.”

The student’s work in Ecuador culminated in an online magazine, The Tiputini Project. Issawi served as the copy chief of the magazine, and he is presenting the final online project. The presentation will include stories, videos and images he and the team captured.

Issawi in one of 225 students who will participate in MacEwan’s upcoming annual Student Research Day. “There has been significant growth in the number of students participating compared to last year,” says Cynthia Zutter, associate vice-provost, MacEwan University. “Student Research Day is an event for students and recent graduates to showcase their research, scholarly and creative activities,” she said. “For many students, Student Research Day is a capstone to their degree. It gives them an opportunity to hone their presentation skills in front of their peers and faculty members.”

When: Monday, April 23
Where: Robbins Health Learning Centre, 2nd Floor Atrium (10910-104 Avenue)
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

For more information, please contact:
David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor
780-497-5586  Cell: 780- 231-5954  Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

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