

# Mirror : Le Miroir : Wenjujaqmati : Sgàthan



**Master of Education  
Newsletter**

**Spring 2012  
Volume 1, Number 2**

Faculty of Education  
St. Francis Xavier University

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**Have you applied for  
Spring 2012  
Convocation?**

**Spring Convocation:  
May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Have you registered  
for Summer Session?**

**Summer School 2012:  
July 3 – August 3**

**Registration deadline:  
June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Register as early as  
possible to avoid course  
cancellations.**

**Summer 2012  
Calendar:**  
[http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/sites/sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/files/SpringSummer2012\\_14.pdf](http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/sites/sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/files/SpringSummer2012_14.pdf)

## ***Hello Graduate Students!***

I welcome you all to our Spring semester! Congratulations to the “Brown Couch Gang” (our full-time residential graduate students) who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the “Name the Newsletter” contest. They suggested the concept of mirror (and we’ve translated into French, Mi’kmaw and Gaelic). The editorial staff felt that the concept of mirrors and reflections are a large part of graduate education. In our Masters program we hope that practitioners will be able to step back from their practice and ‘think hard’ about what they do and why they do it. Graduate spaces are places where we can, as Maxine Greene suggests, make *our practices strange to ourselves* so we can really critically reflect on them! Let us hope that whether you are doing a course, project, or thesis based program you are finding lots of mirrors along the way. Thanks to Al Brennan, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the contest.

***Joanne Tompkins, Chair  
Department of Curriculum and Leadership***

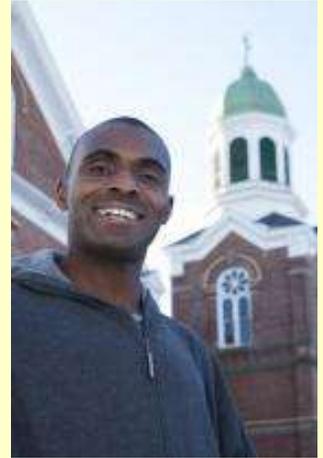
## **StFX Email Accounts: Big News:**



Frustrated because your StFX email account has expired. TSG has addressed this problem by allowing students to have ‘Self-serve Password Manager’ which means you can control the activation of your email account. Please follow the guidelines in the tutorial provided on the following link: [Guides & Tutorials](#). With the webFX Self-serve Password Manager, you can activate your webFX account, reset your webFX password, update your webFX challenge questions, or unlock your webFX account.

## **Congratulations to Lawrence Nyika who received a \$10,000 Scotia Scholarship from the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation**

The scholarship is awarded to a master's student who has achieved a first class average and is completing health-related research at eligible Nova Scotia universities. This spring Lawrence is defending his thesis entitled "Exploring Factors that Influence Risky Sexual Behaviours of Undergraduate Students". Dr. Anne Murray Orr is Lawrence's thesis advisor. After graduation Lawrence hopes to pursue a PhD and become an education professor with a focus in health education.



### **Important Information:**

- Summer School 2012 will be held **July 3 - August 3**. The Summer School schedule is now available on line:
- **Welcome to our newest cohort!** This spring STFX is pleased to begin a cohort in Leadership with educators from the Halifax Regional School Board.
- **Early enrollment in courses means less course cancellations!** We ask that you register for courses as soon as possible to avoid cancellation of courses. We have to ensure courses have robust numbers in order to offer them. This year, particularly in the spring, we had to cancel several courses due to low enrollment. Students registering at the last minute were unable to get the courses they wanted. . The same applies for summer school. ***Please register now to ensure you get the course you want.***
- All new MEd students beginning their program this summer will be pre-registered by the program office in their required courses.
- Fall / Winter / Spring 2012/2013 registration will be open for registration in mid-July. The calendar link with the course offerings will be emailed to all MEd students' StFX email accounts. Seats are limited in each course and are on a first come first served basis.
- Students intending to graduate at the upcoming **Spring 2012 Convocation** are reminded that they must apply to do so. The application can be found in the self serve module of your personalized MesAMIS.
- Students intending to graduate at the **Fall 2012 Convocation** must ensure that they have met all program requirements by the conclusion of the summer 2012 term. **Please note: Students enrolled in Fall term courses are not eligible to graduate at the Fall convocation.**
- **X-ring Eligibility** - If you are in good academic standing and have earned and/or enrolled in a total of 36 credits, you are eligible to consider applying for the University's X-ring. For Further details on the X-Ring please contact our Student Union Office at (902) 867-2495.

## Building our Community

It all began on a beautiful, sunny July morning. We arrived at St. FX from different parts of the province, country, and the world. Each one of us brought our own individual backpack, venturing out to begin two summer MEd courses. The classes started with community building activities. It was interesting to participate in these activities, and frankly, at the time, we thought we would depart in four weeks not seeing each other—so why have these activities?

Then we had lunch in Desmond Hall with all the other students and faculty members. Imagine being in a room with people whom you really do not know but you feel close to simply because of the same reason – to begin a post graduate degree, to become more knowledgeable educators, to learn from one another. That’s how it felt in Desmond Hall on that day.

Then we started thinking ... it is exciting to be a part of this group. We should get to know one another. We should build a community. We should unpack our backpacks.

The last day of our summer courses quickly approached. Our summer educational journey became a full circle, ending where we all first met - at Desmond Hall. But this time, we were presenting our research projects to our newfound friends and classmates. How quickly time flies! In four short weeks of summer courses, we met new friends and began building our community. And then, it was over! Most of us parted our ways and would meet once again in a virtual space learning community in September. Some of us returned to Xavier Hall in September as full time students and luckily we were able to continue our community building.

One day in September, we all received an email from Dr. Joanne Tompkins, the Chair of Graduate Studies, informing us about a hike at Cape George. A few of us took her up on the offer, missed the beginning of the hike, and got lost. We decided to make our own trail, the road “less traveled by,” and eventually joined the main trail. While trying to find our way out, we decided to continue meeting regularly. This was a turning point in our learning journey this year. Our small community became our friends, our family.

This year was a wonderful experience for all of us. We visited different schools, met students, teachers and scholars in our field; we attended conferences; we presented on professional development days; we shared our knowledge and experiences with the pre-service teachers; and we were inspired by one of our colleague’s success in attaining a prestigious scholarship. But most importantly, we understood the importance of building a community. The faculty members were there for us every step of the way. They were encouraging, reassuring, and helped us move forward in our learning. Thank you so much! And, our special thanks go to our Chair, Dr. Joanne Tompkins, and our Dean, Dr. Jeff Orr, for supporting our community.

If you ever want to meet, just knock on the door of Xavier Hall 303A. We have coffee, tea, and always time for a chat!

We have a few suggestions that we think may help you if you are new to the program:

- Obtain your StFX ID immediately, and run to the library for your library account to be activated. This will enable you to have access to library holdings online.
- Shop for groceries on Tuesdays anywhere in Atlantic Canada. You will have a student discount!

*(This article was written by the Brown Couch Gang - the full-time residential Masters students and they wanted to share their reflections of the year.)*

**Finally, we have a question for you.**

**Where does the title “Confusion Square” come from?** The first correct answer will receive a \$10 gift certificate from Tim’s. Forward your answers to [med@stfx.ca](mailto:med@stfx.ca)