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**Master of Education
Newsletter**

**Winter 2013
Volume 2, Number 1**

**Faculty of Education
St. Francis Xavier University**

Contact:
(902) 867-3906
Toll Free: 877-867-3906
Email: med@stfx.ca

**Have you registered for
Spring Session?**

Spring Calendar:
http://sites.stfx.ca/continuing_education/sites/sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/files/CalendarFW12-13.pdf

**Spring Registration remains
open to all eligible MEd
students.**



**Frustrated when
courses are cancelled;
register early as possible to
avoid course cancellation.**

Transforming the world, one classroom, one school at a time...

An article in the Chronicle Herald on December 27, 2012 describes how Rebecca Fraser, a Nova Scotian teacher and StFX M Ed graduate student (2012), led her students in critical reflection. Rebecca worked with a group of high school students to create an anti-racism video project entitled “No Glory Productions: Our Stories” and the students were awarded the 2012 Nova Scotia Human Rights Award for this production. Despite the win, Rebecca Fraser said there was “no glory in making an anti-racism video in 2012” since it raised awareness of how racism lingers in schools. “We knew that we worked with students who had stories to tell,” Fraser said. “For every story that was told they could have told hundreds more.” Rebecca emailed me to say that her many conversations with professors and colleagues throughout her Master’s program at X helped to stimulate her to engage more confidently in critical reflection and challenge assumptions about learning. These are two of the explicit goals of the graduate program in education at StFX. As program chair I hear stories each week of how our Masters students are transforming what is happening in their sphere of influence. Sometimes it makes the papers, as Rebecca’s story did. Other times it is through conversations with public school students or their parents who comment on exceptional learning that is happening in classrooms. Often graduate students talk about the fresh eyes they bring to their practice because of their own learning in our graduate programs. As we head into a new semester and a new year I wish you all the best as you continue to transform learning around you...

Dr. Joanne Tompkins
Chair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

[Have you applied for Spring 2013 Convocation?](#)



[Convocation Ceremony May 5th](#)

Important Information:

- All students intending to graduate at spring 2013 convocation must apply to do so. The application to graduate is located in your personalized mesAMIS account. Please note that a student cannot be considered a candidate for graduation unless an application has been submitted.
- Students requiring re-imbusement for their courses can obtain official receipts from our student accounts office by emailing slmacdon@stfx.ca or dnemeth@stfx.ca; course start and end dates and proof of completion of courses can be verified by requesting your official transcript through our registrar's office. The transcript comes authenticated with the official university seal and the signature of our registrar. The link to our transcript request form is:
http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/files/Transcript%20request%20form.pdf.
- Students who drop a course within 2 weeks of the start date of the course are subject to an automatic charge of \$100.00 to their student account.
- Registration for spring remains opened to all eligible students. If you have not done so we ask that you register as soon as possible. Course offerings are contingent on enrollment numbers and courses may be cancelled (including core courses) if there is insufficient enrollment. Following is the link to our course offerings:
<http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/sites/sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/files/CalendarFW12-13.pdf>
- Students are able to register for as many EDUC 569s (Selected Topics) as their elective requirements allow provided the course title of each is different.
- Need assistance selecting your courses? Please contact the program office for assistance at med@stfx.ca or 1.877.867.3906.
- **PREVENT WEBFX ACCOUNT LOCK OUTS, ENROLL IN THE WEBFX PASSWORD MANAGER:** Setting up the WebFX password manager provides users with the ability to reset their own passwords in the event of an account access issue. For security reasons WebFX account passwords expire every 90 days. The WebFX password manager service allows users to reset their own WebFX password by answering three personal questions, selected by you during in the enrolment process. If you have not enrolled yet you can do so by using your most recent challenge answer and selecting new user setup at <http://mypassword.stfx.ca>. Initial challenge answers are emailed to un-enrolled users on the 15th of every month. Students who have enrolled since January 2012 can find their challenge answers listed under the "My Accounts" tab in mesAMIS. Complete instructions for setting up the WebFX password manager can be found online at <http://sites.stfx.ca/tsg/sites/sites.stfx.ca/tsg/files/SelfServeSetup.pdf%20>.

RECENT RESEARCH IN THE NOVA SCOTIA CONTEXT

THESES:

COLLABORATION AS A RESPONSE TO TEACHING IN THE INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM: THE PERSPECTIVES OF THREE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS.

Elaina Armstrong
(Supervisor: Dr. Jennifer Mitton)

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to understand the experiences of inclusion from the perspectives of teachers situated in lower elementary classrooms. Three teachers were selected from two rural schools in Southwestern Nova Scotia. The results of the study are described in portraits so that the experience of inclusion for each teacher participant can be understood from their perspective. Collaboration with others (students, colleagues, specialists, administrators, and parents) played a critical role in helping these teachers support the diverse learning needs of their students.

VOICES OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES OF LAPTOP TECHNOLOGY IN ALBERTAN CLASSROOM.

Scott MacDonald
(Supervisor: Dr. Lisa Lunney Borden)

Abstract

In this study the researcher used a phenomenological approach to unpack the participants' lived experiences, fleshing out their attitudes and beliefs about technology and how their experiences lead them to these attitudes and beliefs. Ten participants took part in this research study, four teachers and six students. They shared detailed lived experiences regarding how the one-to-one laptops assigned to the students for the year were used in and out of class. Two teachers in this study were core subject teachers who had the students in a full one-to-one class and two were non-core subject teachers who taught a mixture of one-to-one students and non-one-to-one students. The six students were all from the one-to-one class.

This study showed how technology could enhance good pedagogy and cloak less than ideal pedagogy. The teachers that looked for ways to integrate technology into their lessons were the ones who made the greatest strides in their teaching practice. A consistent theme was the need to improve student skills in Internet research. Further, this study shed light on the significant need for professional learning to help teachers be better prepared to integrate emerging technology into their teaching. Finally, it was evident that effective teaching practice should be the main priority. The vivid portrayal of the stories told by the participants showed the importance of allowing time to fully digest memories so they become lived experiences that the person learns from.

PROJECTS:

AN EXPLORATION OF ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING PRACTICES IN A GRADE 12 NOVA SCOTIA MATHEMATICS CLASSROOM.

David MacFarlane
(Supervisor: Dr. Katarin MacLeod)

Theses and projects are available through the Angus L. Macdonald Library in hard copy form only.

To Watch For:

One of the recommendations from the Inter-University Forum on Teacher Education held in Truro in June 2012 was that research done in Masters of Education programs in the province be made more accessible and available to educators, school boards and other researchers. At StFX we will be working to make this happen over the next few months as a way of putting a stronger spot light on the tremendous research that is going on in our graduate program!

Congratulations Fall 2012 Graduates:

Acker, Sarah Anne
Aldred, Adam Jeffrey
Ali, Mary Alice Mehvish
Avery, Barbara Eileen
Banks, Wade Brian
Barro, Terry Stewart
Boertjes, Audrey Nicole
Boertjes, Stephanie Gail
Bolt, Sarah Catherine
Boss, Tasha Ann
Boutilier, Erin Myrene
Bray, Andrew Thomas
Brewer, Amanda Elizabeth
Brown, Paul Johanne
Brown, Timothy Allan
Casey, Susan Joan
Comeau, Robert Marcel
Connell, Jill Meredith
Curry, Carrie Ann
Daley, Colleen Margaret
Daye, D'Arcy Michael
Dease, Julian Landon
DesBarres, Carole Jean
Digout, Gerald Robert
Doucette, Brian Douglas
Ferguson, Alan David
Flynn-Comeau, Jill Bernadette
Fougere, Kathleen Joyce
Fougere, Wanda Michelle

Fraser, Glenys Beta
Fraser, Rebecca Peace
Goulden, Tara Lynn
Griffin, Janice Mary
Heighton, Michelle Louise
Hiltz, Melanie Yvonne
Kennedy, Toni Lyn
Kenney, Sean Michael
Langille, Laura Dawn
LeBlanc, Janine Lorraine
LeBlanc, Lori Marlene
Lesser, Derek Anderson
MacDonald, Leanne Dawn
MacDonald, Ryan Daniel
MacDonald, Scott James
MacFarlane, Shaun David
MacKenzie, Allan G
MacLean, Crystal Dawn
MacLeod, Kevin Robert
MacRae, Ian Thomas
Marchand, Tracy Nadine
Martell, Jenna
Matheson, Serena Rebecca Jean
Montgomery, Jennifer Ann
Mood, Katrina Laura
Mood-Nickerson, Andrea Doria
Morrow, Erin Elizabeth
Munro-Sigfridson, Lori Agnes
Murphy, Candice Joan

Nicholson, Barbara Ann
O'Leary, Karla Paulette
Page-Scott, Lynn Dawn Frances
Page-White, Miranda Danette
Paschal Fisher, Melissa Sarah
Poirier, Adele Nichole
Richard, Lori Ann
Rioux, Kirk Isidore
Robinson, Ingrid Mara
Scott, Mary-Jane Covert
Spinney, Nicole Marie
Stevens, Dawn Maribeth
Stuart, Anne Lesley
Teasdale, Darren Peter
Temple, Andrea Lee
Titus, Jason Mathew
Tomie, Susan Elizabeth
Veinot, Gregory Michael Thomas
Veinot, Robert James
Ward, Rosemary Stella Ouellette
Warren, Chad Steven
Webster, Scott Gregory
White, Gregory Scott
White, Setz-Sue-Ann
Whittaker, Allen Trent
Wilson, Kim Susan
Young, Christopher Gordon
Young, Tennille Merrie

News Around the campus:

Live help with writing now available to distance students:

Students enrolled in distance courses can now benefit from the same kind of one-on-one help the Writing Centre provides to on-campus students. Using Skype, a free videoconferencing application, students can meet with a Writing Centre instructor and get live feedback on their essay, annotated bibliography, or other writing assignment.

In the past, distance students could receive written comments on draft assignments, but the interactive element was missing. As Writing Centre instructor Keeli Smith emphasizes, the opportunity for live discussion makes the feedback clearer and easier to apply. "This type of session leaves little room for misinterpretation," says Smith. "It's face-to-face, and any misunderstandings can be dealt with straightaway."

Smith recommends that students who sign up for a Skype appointment e-mail the Writing Centre instructor a copy of their assignment in advance. (While instructors do not preview assignments before a Skype session, they like to have time to print a hard copy.) Students should also download and test the Skype application, which is available at www.skype.com.

Question or comments regarding this initiative can be directed to:

The Writing Centre
Immaculata Hall
2360 Notre Dame Avenue
St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5
Phone: (902) 867-5221
Fax: (902) 867-5380
Email Us: writingc@stfx.ca

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STUDENT ACCOUNTS

St. Francis Xavier University will be **discontinuing the mailing of paper statements effective December 1, 2012**. This is one of several initiatives the University has implemented to cut costs. This will eliminate the costs associated with printing and mailing statements while at the same time help the environment.

Notification will be sent to your **St. Francis Xavier University e-mail account** on a monthly basis. The message will include your balance and other important information such as payment deadline dates. At any time, details of your student account can be viewed by visiting your mesAmis account online and selecting [LookupStudent Account Information](#).

University policy recognizes that the financial account belongs to the student. Therefore, if your student account is being paid by someone other than yourself, it is your responsibility to ensure that the appropriate person is made aware of the contents of this message.

For inquires concerning this new process please contact

Sonya MacDonald
Student Accounts
slmadon@stfx.ca
(902) 867-2123

OR

Deborah Nemeth
Student Accounts
dnemeth@stfx.ca
(902) 867-3738