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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  
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**Have you registered for  
Spring Session?**

**Spring Calendar:**  
<http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/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 5<sup>th</sup>](#)**

### 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-imbursement for their courses can obtain official receipts from our student accounts office by emailing [slmacdon@stfx.ca](mailto:slmacdon@stfx.ca) or [dnemeth@stfx.ca](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:slmadon@stfx.ca)  
(902) 867-2123

OR

Deborah Nemeth  
Student Accounts  
[dnemeth@stfx.ca](mailto:dnemeth@stfx.ca)  
(902) 867-3738