

# Mirror : Le Miroir : Wenjujaqmati : Sgàthan

## Master of Education Newsletter

Winter 2015 VOL 4 NO 1



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Education

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### What's New?

**New Master of Education  
Cohorts:**

**\* Teaching Indigenous  
Students 2**

**\*Mental Health & Wellness 2**

**REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR  
SPRING SESSION**

**SUMMER REGISTRATION IS  
NOW OPEN**

**See Summer Calendar at  
<http://www.sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/>**

**ALL COHORTS WILL BE  
REGISTERED BY THE  
PROGRAM OFFICE**

“Welcome to Winter – I am writing this on our second stormy Tuesday where the university is again shut down and ice and snow are everywhere! What is interesting to see is how digital technology has changed how we experience storms and snow days and virtual classrooms! We have had discussions about what it means when the physical university is closed and what does that mean for our online courses. We are pleased to be offering a wider number of platforms in our graduate program. We continue to offer a summer residential program in July where normally our new graduate students come together for two introductory courses. This July experience allows us to build the learning community and also introduce students to graduate education. While some students resist the idea of coming on campus for the first July, most graduate students are grateful to have started their program this way once they have been here on campus. Many students report knowing their classmates better in the online world because of this experience and some great and lasting friendships are formed.

Increasingly our graduate courses are being offered in a synchronous fashion allowing people better access to courses. After the first summer it is possible to complete our program online. Our Teaching Indigenous Students cohort is a great example of the vast geography that our ‘virtual classrooms’ cover- with educators from Northern Quebec, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Manitoba and Alberta and the Maritimes learning together. The conversations are rich and we see similar patterns of colonization regardless of what Indigenous students we are discussing. A success story that one graduate student from Nunavut might give a teacher of Mi’kmaw ideas or vice –versa. Some of our cohorts share a very distinct bounded geography such as Mental Health #1, French Cohort #4 and Cape Breton Diversity #2 and these students use a blended model of learning and meet face to face on some occasions and then go online for part of their program.

This winter Dr. Matthew Meyer has launched our first asynchronous 508 class which means the course does not meet in ‘real time’ but rather students are expected to go into the Moodle site and view presentations, participate in discussion forums with both classmates and their instructor throughout the week. Another such course will be offered in the spring. Asynchronous courses allow learners a great deal of flexibility to choose the time when they would like to complete their course work.

Each platform does things well. Different learners have different preferences and we will continue to try to have some options available for our students. We appreciate the ongoing support of Wendy Kraglund Gauthier who supports both instructors and students as we become more skilled in teaching and learning in and out of virtual classrooms.”

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

## Important Information

- **Summer School 2015** will be held July 6 – July 30
- **New Students** beginning their program this summer will be registered by the program office for their required courses.
- **X-Ring Eligibility:** [http://www.stfx.ca/sites/default/files/pages/x-ring\\_policy\\_2014\\_.pdf](http://www.stfx.ca/sites/default/files/pages/x-ring_policy_2014_.pdf) For more information please contact Mary Jessie MacLellan at [mjmaclel@stfx.ca](mailto:mjmaclel@stfx.ca).
- **Dropping a course** within 2 weeks of its start date will result in an automatic charge of \$100.00.
- **All official letters regarding student standing** must come from the Registrar's Office. To request a letter from the Registrar's Office you can log into MesAmis and fill out the online form. This form allows you to indicate to the Registrar's Office exactly what you need and where they can send the letter. (<https://mesamis.stfx.ca/reports/login.asp>).  
If you have any questions, please contact the Registrar's Office at: [registr@stfx.ca](mailto:registr@stfx.ca) / Toll Free: (888) 734-7839 / Phone: (902) 867-2160
- **EDUC 569 Selected Topics:** Students may register for as many as their elective requirements allow, provided the course title for each is different.
- **STUDENT STATUS:** If your student status changes for any reason, please notify the program office at [med@stfx.ca](mailto:med@stfx.ca)



Daniel Demers (center)  
with French Cohort #4

Have you applied for Spring 2015 Convocation?

Convocation Ceremony - Sunday May 3

<http://www.stfx.ca/about/convocation/>

## Congratulations Fall 2014 Graduates



- O'Sullivan, Sonya Lee
- Penny, Leedi Francisca
- Piccott, Kimberly Ann
- Rogers, Nora Kathryn
- Breen, Melanie Ann Ross
- Scallion, Christine Claire
- Sheppard-Keirstead, Jennifer Lynn
- McPhee, Juanita Maria Strangis
- Thorburn, Stacy Dawn
- Valentim, Jennie
- Walker, Jeremy Courtney
- Webber-Cook, Mary Georgia
- White, Setz-Sue-Ann
- Winchester, Derek Richard



- Gilfoy, Daniel Peter
- Grover, Clarissa Margaret
- Hudson, Karen Darcell Julian, Sheri Ann
- Kavanaugh, Jamie Campbell
- Kavanaugh, Michelle Darlene
- Kelly, Elaine
- Kirby, Megan Elizabeth
- Lajeunesse, Lacey Hosannah
- MacDonald, Courtney Anne
- MacDonald, Patricia Teresa
- MacKeigan, Charlotte Anne
- MacLellan-McPhee, Lindsay Frances
- MacLeod, Graham Robert
- McCarron, Michelle Marie

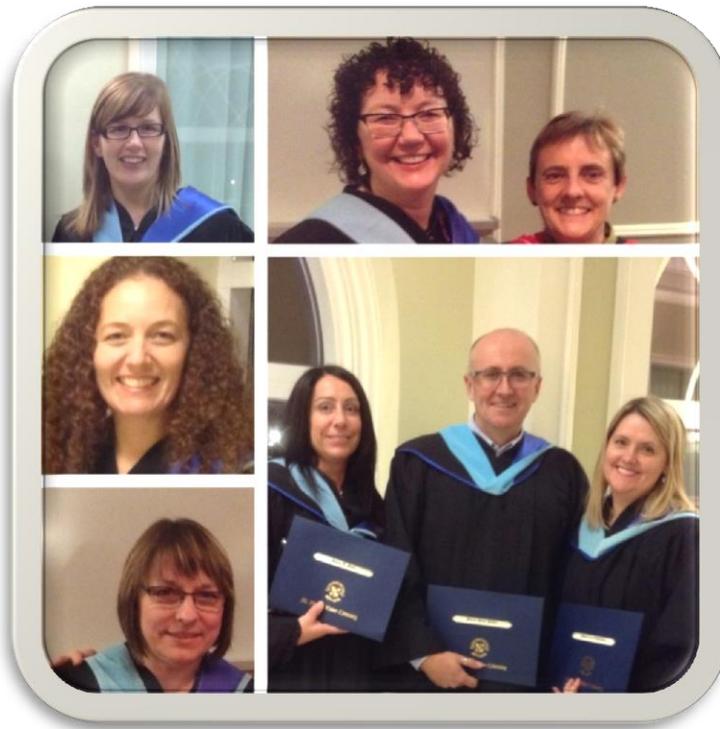


- Banks, Lisa Laura
- Birt, Gwendolyn Joy
- Chisholm, Michelle Anne
- Chopect, Tracy Lynn
- Colford, Alyson Joy
- Costello, Marsha Ann
- Daye, Karen L.
- Delaney, Maralyn Ann
- Doiron, Joesph Francis
- Doiron, Karen Anne
- Doyle, Lynn Ann
- Faulkner, Michael James
- Fraser, Victor Conrad
- Garden, Janice Margaret

Stacy Thorburn  
(South Shore School Board)

Juanita Strangis  
(Cape Breton Victoria)

Gwen Burt (Halifax  
Leadership Cohort)



Mary Webber Cook with Joanne Tompkins  
(Chignecto Central Regional School Board)

Karen Daye, Daniel Gilfoy,  
Sonya O'Sullivan  
(Halifax Leadership Cohort)

## Recent Research

Marsha Costello completed a thesis entitled “*An Inquiry into Teacher Professionalism: How Elementary Language Arts Teachers Experience the Implementation of Literacy Initiatives*” (Supervisor: Dr. Anne Murray Orr). Congratulations Marsha!

## MEd Student Achievements



Mi'kmaw Language App L'nui'suti by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey

Congratulations to Yolanda Denny, an M Ed graduate student, who has been busy working on developing a App to support MI'kmaw Language. Check it out. A wonderful example how digital technologies can revitalize Indigenous languages.

<https://appsto.re/ca/e1sW2.I>



Laura Stiles-Clarke is a part-time faculty member in the Department of Astronomy and Physics at Saint Mary's University in Halifax and is nearing completion of her M.Ed thesis at StFX. She applied and has been selected to give a talk on her research at CSSE 2015 at the University of Ottawa as part of the Science Education Research Group (SERG). Her talk will share her research and findings of her thesis entitled, "*Why not major in physics? A Qualitative Exploration at a Mid-Size Atlantic Canadian University*". She is a graduate of Queen's University (B.Sc., 1997, B.Ed., 1998) and

Mount St. Vincent University (M.Ed., 2006). Laura has taught math, science, and physics, in particular, for over ten years in the Halifax Regional School Board. She is interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Education through St. FX as the next step on her learning journey. She has been working with Dr. Katarin MacLeod since February 2014. Laura's research interests lie in science curriculum, student persistence in sciences, student engagement, gender differences in science education, and Physics Education Research (PER).

## Upcoming Conferences

Canadian Educator's Conference on Mental Health

Ottawa - April 23-24

[www.cecmh.ca](http://www.cecmh.ca)

Investing in Child and Youth Mental Health – Mobilizing Atlantic Canadians for a Positive Future

Symposium on Child and Youth Mental Health

August 17-19, 2015

<http://www.asi-iea.ca/en/asi-2015/>