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Master of Education Newsletter

Winter 2016 VOL 5 NO 1



Faculty of Education

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WHAT'S NEW?

New Cohorts:

- 21st Century Literacy
- Early Elementary Pedagogy
- Culturally Responsive

Pedagogy (CCRSB)

<http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/MEdCohorts>

REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR SPRING SESSION

There is still space in the following

Spring courses:

EDUC 501: School Data

Management

EDUC 529: School and Teaching

Effectiveness

SUMMER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

See Spring & Summer 2016

Calendar at:

<http://www.stfx.ca/continuingeducation>

Maintaining high quality teaching and learning in the online classroom

Dear M Ed students

Welcome to Winter 2016. Sitting in Northeastern Nova Scotia we have already had 2 great winter storms! Both dropped upwards to 40 cm of snow on campus and the last one resulted in many power outages and broken trees. Not very many years ago we offered most of our M Ed in a face-to-face manner. It amazes me how we ever survived winter travel as folks drove once a week and often on weekend to their respective classes.

Elluminate and Blackboard (the first generation platforms) and now Collaborate and Moodle allow us the possibility to reach into communities where teachers previously would have had no access to graduate education. Last term Lisa Lunney Borden and I taught EDUC 508 in the Teaching Indigenous Cohort and there were graduate students from 3 territories and 3 provinces and 3 countries. The geographic difference allowed for rich learning conversations, made possible because of online technology. In some courses we have many parents of young children who find that online learning allows them to participate in courses in ways that they could not otherwise consider. For many it allows people the comfort of simply being home and learning. Online teaching levels the playing field for learners who, for a variety of reasons, would not be able to access face-to-face learning. Your postal code should not dictate whether you can enroll in an M Ed.

However, we do know that learners report becoming disengaged more quickly if the online learning is not of high quality. In our program we place a lot of effort thinking about how to use best teaching and learning practices for engaging learning and find the right technological tools to support that. We start with teaching and learning first and then think about technology second. Continuing and Distance Education at STFX has been a leader across the country in this area. We have had a team of excellent instructional designers (Farnoush and Wendy) who have worked with you as students and us as instructors over the past years. They have been excellent pedagogues, have been knowledgeable about technology, and have had the patience (tons of it) to work with all of us as we learned the ropes of online learning!!!

I am pleased to welcome Shafik Nanji who joined us in mid-December. Shafik brings that special blend of skills that we need in our program. He is a thoughtful educator with experience teaching in public schools. He has worked in educational development projects in Bhutan. He brings passion and skill about engaged learning and then he adds to that a wide range of experience and expertise in digital tools and technology. He will be working to support your learning and he will be working with us as instructors to ensure that online teaching and learning is of the highest quality!

Enjoy the winter whatever that looks like where you are! Joanne

Important Information

- **Summer School 2016** 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.
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** has been added to the Continuing & Distance Education website for Master of Education students. <http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/master>
 - How do I request a transcript?
 - How do I request an official receipt for tuition?
 - How do I request official letters of enrollment?
- **X-Ring Eligibility:** 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.
- **Dropping a course** within 2 weeks of its start date will result in an automatic charge of \$100.00.
- **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

In the News

- **The Master of Education community was saddened to hear of the death of Suzanne Lynch who was a member of the Mental Health Cohort #3. You may follow the link to read Suzanne's inspiring obituary. On behalf of the entire faculty I extend our condolences to Suzanne's family, friends and to the members and instructors who worked with Suzanne in this cohort.** <http://www.smithsfh.com/book-of-memories/2333284/Lynch-Suzanne/obituary.php>
- **Putting 21st century education into practice, elementary education, and physical and health education focus of upcoming StFX education master's cohort** <http://www.stfx.ca/news/view/19366/>

Recent Research

Sarah Coates – Jeff Orr (Supervisor)

Having the Experience and Capturing the Meaning: Exploring experiential learning and global mindedness with high school males

Congratulations Fall 2015 Graduates

Barbara Ann Al-Khouri
Karen A Berezowski
Benjamin Charles Berthiaume
Euphemia Ann Boutillier
Lee-Ann Margaret Burke
Corinne Diane Chappell
Tanya Nicole Colson
Angela Charlene Delorey
Kerry Leanne Delorey
John Patrick Doucette
Sean Lachlan Gillis
Joseph Edmund Goguen Cheryl
Lynn Hartnett
Jane Elizabeth Height
Donna Marie Johnson-Lameman
Joan Monique Kennedy
Jillian Kathleen Kiley
Pascale Alice Landry
Laura Dawn Langille
Shelley Beth Langille
Jennifer Lee Lowther
Catherine Jane Lumsden
Cheryl Annette MacDougall
Michael Alexander MacIsaac
Natasha Marie MacKinnon

Amy Ethel Maloney
Naomi B. McQuaid
Trudy Ann Megeney
Nadine K. Mohammed
Sherry Lynnette Neville-MacLean
Rachel Colleen Power
Eric Sarcino Proctor
Laura Michelle Smith
Jeffrey Clayton Waye
April Darlene Weaver
Donalda Judith Westcott
Angela Jane Wylie

Physical & Health Education Cohort 3

Brenton Robert Dickie
Alicia Kaelin Gillis
Andrew Brian Himmelman
Dylan McMaster Irvine
Oliver David Angus Jupp
Tracy Jean MacKay
Kathleen Jane Marshall Cormier
Mary Vanessa Steele
Susan Lynn Steele

Cape Breton Diversity Cohort

Amy Mae Barron
Tara Nadine Barter
Maria Vanessa Canova
Kimberly Anne Chiasson
Valerie Lynn Chisholm
Tanya Marie Chislett
Melanie Danette Dolan
Kimberly Dawn Ferguson
Marjorie Ann Graves
Carla Michelle Kennedy
Kimberly Dawn MacDonald
Mary Nadine MacLellan
Jillian Lee MacNeil
Ronald Joseph Martin
Lisa Lynn Mayich
Stephanie Lynn Penny
Krista Ann Starzomski
Jillian Nicole Vallis



(l-r) Kim Ferguson, Stephanie Penny, Kim Chaisson, Jillian MacNeil, Jill Valis, Nadine MacLellan, Krista Starzomsky

Have you applied for Spring 2016 Convocation?

Convocation Ceremony - Sunday May 1

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