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Master of Education Newsletter

SUMMER 2017 VOL 6 NO 3



Faculty of Education

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**Frustrated when
courses are
cancelled?**

**Register early to
avoid possible
cancellation of
courses!**

**See Page 2 for
more
information.**

**Fall Convocation
will be held on
Saturday
December 2, 2017.
See page 2 for
more information.**

As this is my first newsletter as MEd Chair, I'd like to take just a moment to introduce myself. For those who may not know me, my name is David Young, and I've been with the Faculty of Education at StFX since 2008. Since that time I've been actively involved teaching in the BEd, MEd, and PhD programs. Previously, I was the Chair of the Inter-University Doctoral Degree Program, and as I now transition to the role of MEd Chair, I look forward to working with students, faculty, and staff associated with this program.

I'd also like to thank the past MEd Chair, Dr. Joanne Tompkins, who provided strong and steady leadership over the past six years. Joanne is beginning a well-deserved sabbatical, and I wish her much success during her year away.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge our exceptional instructional team. Both our full- and part-time instructors give so generously in lending their time and expertise. Certainly, the commitment of our teaching staff makes the program what it is.

In addition to our instructional team, a special thanks to Jennifer Farrell, who I am sure many of you know through email. Jennifer ensures everything is organized, and will often be your first point of contact. In fact, as I learn the ropes of this program, she often is my first point of contact as well! I'd also like to recognize Shafik Nanji, who works tirelessly ensuring our online course offerings run smoothly, in addition to offering instructional support for those of us teaching and learning online.

I'd like to say a few words in general about the MEd program. This July we have 116 new students beginning their MEd degree, as well as new cohorts launching in Outdoor Education, Secondary Science Education, Early Elementary Pedagogy, Indigenous Education, and Mental Health Education. In addition to this, 228 current students are enrolled in face-to-face or online classes. It is worth recognizing that for some, their educational journey is drawing to a close. Congratulations to the following cohorts, who have or will complete their capping experience this July: Early Elementary Pedagogy #2, Teaching Indigenous Students #2, and Mental Health Cohorts #2 and #3.

During these past two weeks, I've had a chance to meet many of the cohort and non-cohort students taking classes on the StFX campus, and I'm so very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication displayed. For many teachers, summer brings with it a hiatus from the classroom, but for those of you enrolled in a course, it represents an opportunity to learn and grow. A term we often hear attached to teaching is lifelong learning, and although it may be clichéd in some circles, it is alive and well in the MEd program, as each of you truly epitomizes the principle of being a lifelong learner.

In closing, whether you are enrolled in your first course, or your program is nearing completion, I thank you for being part of our community of learners. I know I can speak for my colleagues when I say that it is an absolute privilege to teach and learn alongside those of you pursuing an MEd degree at StFX.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Best wishes, David

FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING REGISTRATION OPENS WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2017:

COHORT STUDENTS: Cohort students are automatically registered in their courses by the program office. Your schedule is listed in the Fall & Winter Calendar 2017-18.

NON-COHORT STUDENTS: Non-cohort students are responsible for registering themselves in the required courses. Your options are listed on pages 23-25 of the Fall & Winter Calendar 2017-18. Some helpful tools are listed on the Frequently Asked Question page including how to register for a course and a check list of what courses you need to take (“How do I know how many courses to take?”). Non-Cohort students are encouraged to take core courses first.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Courses that do not have a minimum enrolment will be cancelled. An administration fee of \$100 will be applied to students dropping courses within the two weeks prior to the course start date.

ALL STUDENTS: It is the responsibility of all students to notify the Program Office (med@stfx.ca) if you need to withdraw from a course. A notice to your instructor is not sufficient.

Fall & Winter 2017-18 Calendar: <http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/>

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/FAQ>

Have you applied for Fall 2017 Convocation?

Convocation Ceremony – Saturday December 2, 2017

<https://www.stfx.ca/student-life/convocation/fall-convocation>

See Frequently Asked Questions for instructions on how to apply.

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

Important Information

- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** for Master of Education students has been added to the Continuing & Distance Education website. <http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/FAQ>
 - [What is the refund policy?](#)
 - [How do I register for a course?](#)
 - [How do I request a transcript?](#)
 - [How do I request an official receipt for tuition?](#)
 - [How do I apply to graduate?](#)And many more...
- **X-RING ELIGIBILITY:** <https://www.stfx.ca/alumni/everything-x-ring/x-ring-information> For more information, please contact Mary Jessie MacLellan at mjmacllel@stfx.ca.
- **DROPPING A COURSE** 2 weeks prior to the start date will result in an automatic charge of \$100.00. Please see the refund policy under Frequently Asked Questions: <http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/FAQ>
- **EDUC 569 SELECTED TOPICS:** Students may register for as many 569s 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
- **ASYNCHRONOUS:** We have developed several asynchronous courses. Asynchronous e-learning is an interactive, student-centered approach to learning that is not bounded by geography or time.
- **CORE COURSES:** Non-Cohort students are encouraged to take core courses first. Please visit the FAQ's for a list.



Technology Tips & Tricks

Have you heard? A new and improved Blackboard Collaborate is on its way!

- Collaborate Ultra is being rolled out next term. Unlike the previous version of Collaborate, Ultra is browser-based, so it does not require any downloads. You can enter your online classroom with just a couple of clicks from the Moodle page. Also, audio and file uploads are much more reliable. Can't wait? [Click here for a sneak preview of the new interface.](#)