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Master of Education Newsletter

Summer 2014 VOL 3 NO 3



Faculty of Education

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Yearning for Learning...

Many of you are deep into your summer courses so it seems a bit late to say “Welcome to Summer School 2014”! How did we get here this fast? The last two weeks have been a wonderful buzz on welcoming new graduate students to our summer program and meeting the familiar faces of returning graduate students to summer courses. This summer we were pleased to welcome students into the cohort in *Teaching Indigenous Students* who come to us from all across the country who work with First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners. The newly launched (and keen) *Mental Health Cohort* began EDUC as their second course. We also welcomed educators from across the province into the *Early Elementary Pedagogy* cohort, which kicked off with a summer institute right after Canada Day. In Halifax and Dartmouth cohorts in *French Immersion Resource*, *Physical Education*, and *Leadership* were meeting and in Sydney a *Diversity* cohort was deep in professional learning. In Ottawa, the *Algonquin Higher Education Leadership* cohort was studying program development. In addition to cohort learners we welcomed 30 non-cohort students to the program with representation from Newfoundland to British Columbia and into 2 of the 3 territories! And in the online and multimodal classes educators were engaging in wonderful professional learning – whether it was in the Qualitative Research course (EDUC 507), the Restorative Approaches in Schools (EDUC 569), Professional Development and Supervision (EDUC 573), Dynamics of Change (EDUC 533) or Mindfulness in Education (EDUC 569). The place was hoping. All is all we are welcoming 380 course registrants to our program this summer!

What strikes me most as I watch the energy of summer school unfold is how much educators yearn to attend to their own learning. I have said many times that what motivates us as teacher educators to be involved in summer school teaching is to see the devotion and dedication of teachers who come back to ‘our’ school a mere few days after packing up their own classroom. It is truly inspiring to the joy that comes when teachers can devote time to their learning needs. What I witness each summer is just how deep the yearning for learning is in teachers and how learning both rejuvenates and revives them. Why is it that the job of ‘teaching’ gets so big or overwhelming that teacher’s own learning takes a back seat? It does make me wonder how we might create more time/space in our schools for teachers to be able to learn without having to leave their buildings. Just this week I have heard several educators talk about what a *pleasure* it is to follow their own interests, to have long, uninterrupted conversations with colleagues, to have their thinking challenged and to write or talk their way to new levels of understandings. As faculty we consider it a privilege to be able to be witness to the learning transformations that are taking place all around in our program. Enjoy summer school and may August be filled with sun-filled days

Joanne Tompkins, Chair, Department of Curriculum and Leadership

**FALL-WINTER-
SPRING 2014/15
REGISTRATION
OPENS JULY 21**
Please note: many
online courses are
now offered in a 7-
10 pm time slot
<http://tinyurl.com/q5hmzlt>

*Best wishes to Jodi
van Dompsele
who begins a new
position on August
5 with Service
Learning at StFX.*

*Welcome Lisa
Sampson to the
MEd Program
Office.*



**Have you created
an account with
the Angus L.
Macdonald
Library?**
<http://tinyurl.com/p3mj7hd>



**Have you applied
for Fall 2014
Convocation?**
Convocation
Ceremony is
December 6, 2014

Important Information

- ◆ **Master of Education program handbook:** <http://tinyurl.com/q93ggce>
Answers many questions related to your program - from general information to specifics on student accounts, technology guidelines, funding support, attendance policy, completion policy, academic writing and more. A great read!
- ◆ **Fall / Winter / Spring 2014-15 registration opens JULY 21** – Enroll early to ensure you get the course you want.
- ◆ **All students are recommended to complete their core courses first.** Electives are always available, while some required classes may only be offered once a year.
- ◆ **Early enrollment means fewer course cancellations! Calendar is online NOW!** <http://tinyurl.com/q5hmzlt>
- ◆ **Fall 2014 Graduation** – students must ensure that they have met all program requirements by the conclusion of the Summer 2014 term. **Students enrolled in Fall term courses are not eligible to apply to graduate at the Fall Convocation Ceremony.**
- ◆ **All students intending to graduate at Fall 2014 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.
- ◆ **X-ring Eligibility:** If you have earned and/or enrolled in 36 credits towards your degree and are in good academic standing, you may consider applying to receive your X-ring. For more information please contact Julieanne Mattie at jmattie@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.
- ◆ **StFX Email-** All university communications are conveyed to students via student email. **Please check yours regularly,** and ensure it remains active.



Opening day of Summer school 2014

Technology Tips



Technical Support Tips Logging into Collaborate

If having difficulties logging into Collaborate, there are a number of things that could be going on.

- Did you try a different web browser? Is there a prompt to open or save the Collaborate meeting.collab file somewhere on the screen? Is the file sitting in your downloads, waiting to be clicked?
- Are you blocked? Depending on what you use, your Internet browser or computer privacy and security settings may be preventing Collaborate's start-up process. School-based Internet networks and computers are often firewalled.
- Did you reboot your computer? Sometimes the virtual memory is full and the system needs to be refreshed. Rebooting will also finalize many software updates.

Still having difficulties?

Contact Blackboard Collaborate Technical Support (Available 24/7):

- Call: Toll-free: 1-877-382-2293
- Web Resources (Including Live Chat): <http://tinyurl.com/6anp25y>



Online Teaching & Learning Tips & Tools Creating Presentation Slides

When creating a presentation slide deck, remember Collaborate's whiteboard is limited to MS PowerPoint or Open Office's Presentation. If using Keynote, you must export your file as images (not as powerpoint). When slides are loaded to the whiteboard, they become static images; this means those hyperlinked web addresses are not "clickable" and there are no bullet or page transitions. Be sure to have the web address at hand so you can either provide it to participants via the Chat or by sending the class on a web tour. Test drive your presentation before its due date by uploading it to your course's sandbox (available 24/7). Once you leave the sandbox, the whiteboard erases.

To learn more about the pedagogical power of Collaborate, contact Wendy Kraglund-Gauthier, Continuing & Distance Education's Instructional Designer. She can be reached by emailing wkraglun@stfx.ca or calling (902) 867-4530. If you are in Antigonish, make an appointment and come in to see her in MacDonald Hall, 204. As well, you can click any time on Blackboard Collaborate's "How To" section at <http://tinyurl.com/6anp25y>



Restorative Justice Practices in Schools -Multimodal classroom with online participants via Collaborate



Cohorts at work!