



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

To the campus community,

The academic year at StFX is off to a terrific start. So much has been fitted into the last four weeks. Particularly heartening was the overwhelming support and solidarity shown last week at a remembrance ceremony held on campus marking the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

Outstanding Achievements by Faculty & Students

We've also had occasion to celebrate. A couple of weeks ago we proudly shared news that English professor and Jules Léger Research Scholar, Dr. Kailin Wright, received the Atlantic Association of Universities' Distinguished Teaching Award. It was wonderful to learn that Dr. Wright's students describe her as going above and beyond to enrich her teaching in order to enhance student success.

English professor Dr. Mathias Nilges was named editor of one of the world's leading journals in the study of contemporary culture, arts, and theory, *Postmodern Culture*. Also, aquatic resources professor Dr. Jordan Matley was lead author of a paper released in *Trends in Evolution and Ecology* entitled "[Global trends in aquatic animal tracking with acoustic telemetry](#)." These professors are thought leaders and serve as outstanding mentors to our students.

Turning to the achievements of our students, four have been recommended to proceed to the next round of applicants in the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship competition. StFX's hallmark of caring about our community has also been evident. Senior student Ben Boudreau is 'Paying it Forward' using proceeds from his small business to purchase an X-Ring for a deserving classmate who otherwise may not be able.

Achievements in the classroom as well as in the community -- that's what being a Xaverian is all about.

Homecoming

This past weekend, the university celebrated virtual Homecoming 2021 with a number of on-line events that connect our valued alumni to their alma mater and sporting events that further connect our students to each other and this community. More locally, there was a lot of socializing and although some took things too far, there was good adherence to gathering limits and conduct expectations. I thank frontline staff and community support workers for their extra efforts during this period. Additionally, I extend my thanks to the vast majority of students who took personal responsibility and did their part by socializing in a safe and respectable manner, which in turn, helps keep us here together. I also wish to acknowledge the work of students

who took it upon themselves to initiate a post-Homecoming campus clean-up and members of the Outdoor Recreation Society who initiated clean-up activities in Antigonish. Our community deserves such care and attention.

Thanksgiving this weekend – Stay Safe

Thanksgiving weekend provides a welcome opportunity for many to enjoy some time with family and friends and to enjoy a small break before the start of midterms and exams. I encourage all members of the StFX community -- students, faculty, and staff -- to stay close to home this weekend and to limit travel if you can. If you must travel, please continue to practice the basics to keep yourself and your community safe and consider getting tested upon your return. To echo the words of Dr. Robert Strang, if you have chosen not to be vaccinated against COVID, please do not travel. Please remember that we, in Antigonish, are very fortunate to enjoy considerable freedoms due to the lack of COVID outbreaks in our community. We are all partners and share responsibility for maintaining what we have achieved together to date. By focusing on your personal health, the entire community benefits.

Thank you for your efforts. Enjoy the time away from the classroom and stay safe.

Andy

ANDY HAKIN

PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR

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ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

More2gether
Two doses means fewer restrictions

I acknowledge that StFX is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.