MESSAGE FROM DR. KIRK ANDERSON, DEAN

Hi Everyone,

As you’ll see in the pages that follow, we’ve been very busy over these past few months, welcoming new faculty members, revamping some of our programs, and of course welcoming new and returning undergraduate and graduate students back to class.

Yes, we are well into fall but who doesn’t enjoy looking back at spring and summer! So this issue of The Scribbler covers spring/summer 2016 when we welcomed a group of special visitors from Norway, celebrated the graduation of new teachers (including from our first cohort of new FI teachers), introduced new faculty and prepared for a busy fall semester,

I’m cheating a little here as I jump ahead to October, when, on behalf of the faculty, I was honoured to receive a very special gift of original art created by students in the Inuit B.Ed. program based in Happy Valley/Goose Bay. They had travelled to St. John’s along with their professor Dr. Sylvia Moore to take part in the Inuit Studies Conference of Inuit peoples from the circumpolar world. (Stay tuned for photos and story in the next issue.)

The artwork will have a prominent place in our faculty as it serves to remind us, and to show us, that MUN has the capacity to serve the people of the province wherever they are.

The message of inclusivity is timely no matter the season.

Take Care,

Kirk

Faculty Council minutes – Spring/Summer/2016

Associate Dean’s Report – Undergraduate:

Spring/Summer 2016

Undergraduate admissions are consistent with previous years, and Intermediate/Secondary institutes held were very successful. Dr. Heather McLeod mentioned that she recently joined the Senate Committee on student dismissal.

Associate Dean’s Report – Graduate:

Spring/Summer 2016

Dr. Rhonda Joy reported there have been subtle changes in the deferral policy for students accepted to graduate programs. Students will be allowed one deferral per semester unless exceptional circumstances are documented.

Pre-requisite courses should be complete or in progress before an application for admission to a graduate program will be put forward for consideration

If face-to-face enrolment numbers fall below 10, a course will likely be cancelled and students redirected to online options if available.

Dean’s Report:

Spring/Summer 2016:

Program Development:

Undergraduate and Graduate: Dr. Anderson commended faculty and staff for their work on program development including the Native and Northern and STEM degrees. He also
mentioned that in coming weeks and months there would be reconfiguration of graduate programs.

Drs. Anderson and McLeod attended meetings in Labrador about the IBED program. They plan to have future meetings with the Innu about a program similar to the IBED; the master’s cohort (14 students) is up and running and Dr. Badenhorst is chairing a working group responsible for exploring the possibility of a doctoral cohort within non-traditional groups.

In Corner Brook discussions were held with VP (Grenfell) Dr. Mary Bluechardt about the future of programing and the enrolment of students; Dr. Anderson said the aim is to remain a multi-campus facility and stay engaged.

The Dean met with Kim Myrick about development of SMART Goals for faculty’s strategic plan STC 2020, and consultation meetings updating the four-year-faculty staffing plan will be held.

The Faculty will host an official opening ceremony for Blair’s Corner once the space is finished.

Dr. Anderson mentioned that a China proposal for teacher development is being prepared.

**Hiring Update:**
Welcome to Dr. Darron Kelly, Ms. Leslie Redmond, Dr. Christine Arnold, Dr. John Hoben and Dr. Alireza Moghaddam.

**Faculty News and Events**

**First co-hort of FI B.Ed. students present their work**

Students in the first cohort of faculty's French immersion (FI) option, Primary/Elementary Second Degree program graduated this past October, 2016. But last summer they celebrated how much they had learned, sharing class presentations on a diverse range of topics related to helping struggling learners. The event was organized by Prof. Leslie Redmond, who teaches in the new program, along with French Education Liaison Camilla Stoodley. Attending were faculty, staff, and FI educators from the Avalon region.

**Research partnership finds strength in community**

How can we increase the school success of our youth so more of our young people graduate high school?

Community Centre Alliance member and Rabbittown Community Centre Executive Director, Lilly Lush, brought that question to Dr. Morgan Gardner, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education with whom she’d previously worked.

The two women spearheaded *Growing Community Power*, a community-university research partnership of students,
parents, youth workers and other social housing community members in the Rabbittown community of St. John’s.

Dr. Gardner and Dr. Kate Scarth of Dalhousie University co-wrote *Building Community Power*, the research report which examines the myriad of ways that the social housing community helps students achieve success. It deliberately contrasts some views that low-income communities and their members lack necessary knowledge and skills to help their youth.

The research team is working on getting their findings into the hands of educators, and education leaders.

“One of our big goals as a team is to do a lot more partnering,” said a community centre staff and team member. “We want to build relationships with schools. We’ll meet with principals and vice principals and invite schools in our community to get to know us, and what we offer.”

---

**Getting to know you:** Last spring, Dr. Jennifer Anderson and our faculty organized and hosted a successful Experiential Education Institute for Education students from MUN and also from Tromso University in Tromso, Norway. They packed many adventures into two weeks of learning, including winter camping, a hike and visit to Mistaken Point, a visit to the Rooms and other important cultural sites. Integrating an experiential approach into classroom learning was a key focus.
Convocation Day last spring began with the NLTA’s Teacher Induction Ceremony for new graduates of our primary/elementary B.Ed. program.

Dr. Connie Morrison with one of our new grads!