

Mount Allison *Newsletter*

Social Sciences

July 2017

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Message from the Dean

Greetings from the Faculty of Social Sciences:

The Faculty of Social Sciences had a productive year with a number of new initiatives and activities, which strengthened our focus on student success and experiential learning.

This annual report showcases our various departments, accomplishments of our colleagues, and students. Perusing these pages, you will find the work of faculty and students brought to life through stories on book publications, research grants, and innovative student projects.

Over the last year, my interaction with students, faculty and staff has reinforced my belief in the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of our learning community in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, students, and staff for another successful year.

Sincerely,

Nauman Farooqi



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Social Sciences

Social scientists — in anthropology, commerce, economics, geography and environment, political science, international relations, and sociology — each look at human behaviour from a different angle. Political science may explain why one political candidate is chosen over another, economics why food prices are going up, geography and environment how human activity influences our environment, and anthropology why one person believes something different than another.

It is with this in mind that the 2016-2017 academic year saw the inaugural discussion of the Social Sciences Discussion Series, *Presently Engaged*, organized by Dr. Patricia Kelly Spurles. The series is organized to explore how professors in social sciences experience their connection to

Presently Engaged: Social Sciences Discussion Series

important current issues as researchers and as teachers.

Current events influenced the series when Donald Trump was elected in November and a session was organized with the title, *Trump from Canada*. Sessions were also held on police brutality, reconciliation, mental health, and climate change

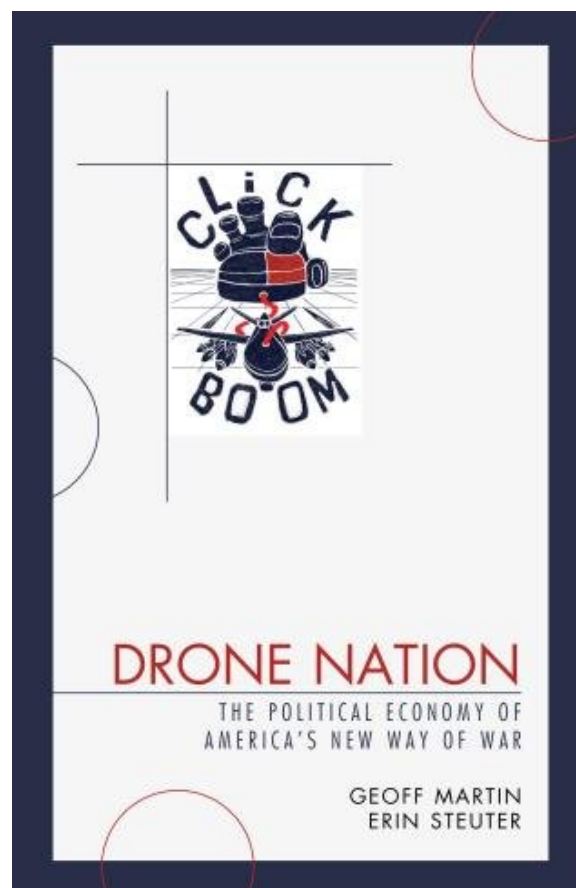
Four professors in the Social Sciences have had books published in the past academic year.

Commerce professor Judith Holton has co-authored, *Classic Grounded Theory Applications With Qualitative and Quantitative Data* (SAGE Publications) with Isabelle Walsh from the SKEMA Business School, France. She also received a Best Paper award from the Academy of Management at its annual conference in Anaheim, CA.

Four new books published in Social Sciences

Sociology professor Morgan Poteet has co-edited, *After the Flight: The Dynamics of Refugee Settlement and Integration*, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing) with Shiva Nourpanah, a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University.

Geoff Martin, Political Science, and Erin Steuter, Sociology coauthored the book *Drone Nation: The Political Economy of America's New Way of War* (Lexington Books).



Mount Allison Anthropology

A grant received by Anthropology professor, Dr. Robert Adlam resulted in an experiential learning opportunity for his students. Adlam is part of a 3 year \$166,000 Atlantic Ecosystems Initiative (AEI) grant.

"A relationship with the traditional territory is inherent in Mi'kmaw culture and for that reason the project will incorporate their perspectives and traditional knowledge into the ecosystem monitoring by using social science methods to identify the impact of agriculture on Mi'kmaw community members," says Adlam.

Adlam had the students from his anthropological research methods course taking part in the study as part of their course. "Essentially, in the course we are concerned with research design and the conduct of research within the tradition of anthropology."

Anthropology student Shaelyn Vlaar, from Vineland, ON, said, "The class is quite a small one, with only 12 students — all of whom are anthropology majors — allowing for great discussions and bonding within the class and program as a whole."

"Each class we are encouraged to share our own opinions and reflections on the material we talk about, which has developed critical thinking and the opportunity to formulate strong arguments."

"This semester Dr. Adlam has included us in an experiential learning opportunity to work with the Annapolis Valley First Nations community, largely through the development of a workshop and household survey that are being used to outline the cultural

Experiential Learning in Anthropology

ecosystem services of importance to this specific community. This project has introduced each of us to hands-on work in the field."

In one part of Adlam's larger project, **Honours Anthropology student Sarah Murphy's research** looked at cultural ecosystem services in an Indigenous community and the values they promote.

The research is being done locally with Fort Folly, L'nu First Nation, and the help of two community stakeholders there.

"We have been developing a cultural experiences trail and in developing that trail we highlight different ways that the people of Fort Folly and the L'nu people in general have interacted with their surrounding landscapes over the years. It covers things like language and how the environment helps people come up with words to describe place," explains Murphy.

"Beyond helping the Fort Folly community educate their youth and help bring outsiders into the context of what has to happen to maintain identity on this land, it also helps inform my research on ecosystem services and their cultural value."



RON JOYCE CENTRE *for Business Studies*

The Ron Joyce Centre for Business Studies hosted its first Public Accountability Symposium in October 2016. The symposium explored the meaning of public accountability. Michael Ferguson, Canada's Auditor General, gave the keynote speech.

Noted academic, Dr. Chris MacDonald opened the proceedings with a talk titled "Trust in the Private and Public Sectors: Meaning and Mechanisms." MacDonald is the author of the highly respected Business Ethics Blog and director of the Ted Rogers Leadership

Public Accountability Symposium

Centre at Ryerson University, where he teaches ethics and critical thinking.

There was also an interactive panel discussing the meaning of accountability across disciplines and student-led lively small group discussions in World Café format on a number of questions on accountability.

The Ron Joyce Centre Presents speaker series hosted Waneek Horn-Miller in November. The title of her talk was Empowerment, Resilience & Success and the title aptly describes her life. Horn-Miller is a Mohawk from the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory near Montreal and was behind

the lines during the Oka crisis, where she was stabbed by a Canadian soldier's bayonet. The experience did not stop her and, in fact, she has used it to inspire others.

The Centre also hosted a number of guest talks in the winter term as part of the Alumni Speaker Series. These included Ron Outerbridge, Jonathan Hudson, Matthew Kiessling, and Craig Noble.

Many successful business alumni have explained that they learned aspects of leadership while at MTA through MASU (SAC), student club activities, and sports. This led to the introduction of the leadership council, which is designed to build on what students are learning about leadership at MTA. The council meets once per month and have a professionally facilitated confidential conversation about current issues student leaders are facing. There is also a

Student Leadership Council

presentation and discussion of a specific topic on leadership. The council offers students an excellent opportunity to discuss their leadership challenges and find solutions. It is also a great networking opportunity to meet with fellow Commerce student leaders.

Interdisciplinary studies and experiential learning were combined in the second Business of Science Workshop that took place in September. The event included members of Mount A's Science and Commerce faculties and students, local entrepreneurs, and an expert on patents and copyrights.

The collaboration between these two disciplines gave students the opportunity to explore commercialization possibilities of various research projects of the professors in science. These areas were Lyme disease, microwave radiation, and chemical extraction of precious metals.

The centre also hosted their second annual Entrepreneurship panel with alumni and other speakers; year two of the growing alumni mentorship program and internship program; and the hiring of a three year pilot experiential learning manager to expand programs offering experiential learning to students.



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Economics hosted two major events in the past academic year. In September, Larry Schembri, the Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada, gave a talk entitled "Wood, Wheat, Wheels and the Web: The Evolution and Prospects for Canadian Exports." After the talk he held a recruitment session for economics students. The Department also hosted the 2016 Atlantic Canada Economics Association Conference in October. The conference theme was "Economic Conditions for Regional Development and for First Nations."

Stephen Law is a member of a team of experts from the academic, private and public sectors, led by McMaster University economist Michael Veall, who received a \$2.495M SSHRC Partnership Grant. The team will examine productivity growth in Canada by investigating performance at the firm level. Each team member will look at a different sector of the Canadian economy.

Dr. Law's sector includes network industries such as telecommunications. Thanks to one of the partners under the grant, Statistics Canada, the Productivity, Firms, and Incomes Project will have access to important data sets, which have not been available in the past.

Bell Scholar and economics and commerce student Isaac Gazendam of Kingston, ON was selected by his peers as the 2017 valedictorian. He addressed Convocation on behalf of his classmates on May 15, 2017. Isaac started out as a commerce student. He says, "Some economics courses are a requirement for the Commerce degree, and after completing these introductory courses I was inspired to learn more because I loved the content. Economics has taught me so much about why the world works the way it does, and the influences driving current affairs."

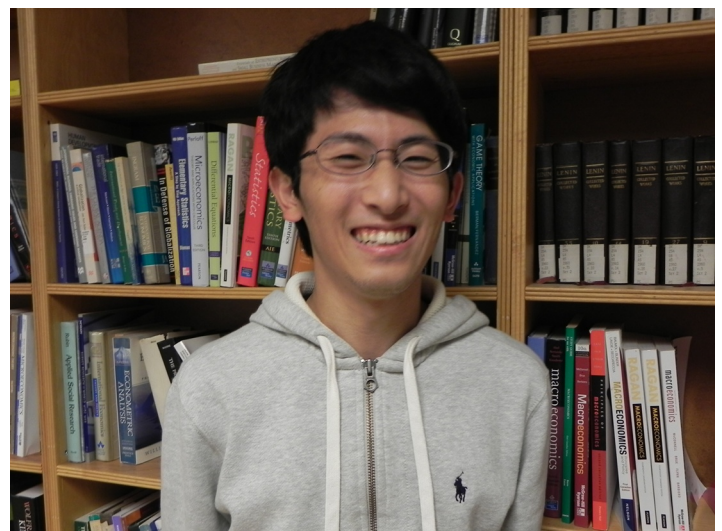
Dr. Law member of team receiving \$2.49M SSHRC Grant

Honours Economics graduate Shin Yoshida is attending the School of Economics at Kyoto University in Japan this fall to do an MA in South East Asian Sustainable Development.

3 Econ Grads receive SSHRCs for Grad School

Economics graduate Alex Lepianka is doing his MA in Social and Political Thought at York University with the support of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canada Graduate Scholarship.

Two graduates from last year's class of 2016, Chris Haley and Rosemary Cockshutt, are also attending graduate school this fall with the support of SSHRCs. Chris is attending McMaster University and Rosie will be going to Queen's University. Both will be doing their MAs in Economics.



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Geography & Environment



Geography and Environment students had many opportunities for experiential learning this year, including taking part in a public symposium on microbial water quality in the Northumberland Strait. Advanced GIS students, under David Lieske's direction, analyzed land usage in the Shediac Bay area to gain a better understanding of its potential impact on water quality in the strait. Students compiled their own geodatabases using information gathered from a variety of sources, and also digitized features.

Experiential Learning in Geography and Environment

A key finding included a general relationship between bacterial levels and the amount of rainfall in the preceding 72-hour period. This suggests that surface runoff from the surrounding bay was an important driver. The runoff effect was related to a reduction in the amount of wetland and woodland cover and an increase in the amount of 'impervious' surface that are associated with roadways and rooftops. Students presented their findings at a packed open forum in the Crabtree Auditorium in April.

In another class, Mike Fox took his Research Methods In Human Geography and Environment

students to New Orleans, Gulf Coast to examine planning for climate change in vulnerable coastal communities.

Two students, Ella Porter and Jamie Dalgleish, from Tim Reiffenstein's Montreal Field Methods Course won the inaugural Marie Hammond Callaghan essay prize in women's history for their research paper that used census analysis, site visits and interviews to address whether Montreal's Gay Village is an inclusive community.

Geography and Environment professor Dr. Joshua Kurek,

who was awarded over \$78,000 from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to establish the Environmental Change and Aquatic Biomonitoring Lab (ECAB Lab) at Mount Allison, had his research team of students, studying lakes and rivers in Maritime Canada last summer.

They looked at potential impacts of recent environmental changes, including the freshwater algae didymo (commonly known as 'rock snot') on juvenile salmon habitat and diet. "My research program focuses on understanding how environmental stressors impact lakes and rivers," explains Kurek.

The work continues this summer. In fact, three of his students, Marley Caddell, Caeleigh Marshall, and Taylor Crosby, received Mount Allison Independent Student Research Grants to carry out their research.

Kurek's honours student Paul MacKeigan's project looked at three lakes in New Brunswick to see how the concentrations of DDT in these lakes have influenced their zooplankton communities. New Brunswick and forestry companies sprayed DDT to control spruce budworm about 60 years ago. Kurek and MacKeigan worked closely with Dr. Karen Kidd from UNBSJ whose lab analyzed the amounts of DDT from the historic sediment samples gathered by Kurek's lab.

"I want to know if the historic concentrations of DDT in lake sediments influence the zooplankton in these lakes. I am reconstructing their population through time and shifts related to DDT. I want to know what were the baseline community structures. Do we see an assemblage shift with greater DDT use? And have those systems recovered? Right now what I see is that lakes have not recovered. The data is very obvious," says MacGeigan.

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Politics & International Relations

Panel on Electoral Reform

The Department of Politics & International Relations held a panel discussion on Electoral Reform in Canada in October 2016. The panel discussed the options for electoral reform confronting the Trudeau federal government as well as the recent initiatives pursued by the Gallant government in New Brunswick and the MacLauchlan government's Democratic Renewal initiative in PEI.

The three panelists were William Cross, Hon. Dick & Ruth Bell Chair for the Study of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy, at Carleton University, Don Desserud, Professor, Political Science at University of Prince Edward Island, and Joanna Everitt, Professor, Political Science, UNB (Saint John). Mount Allison's Dr. Geoff Martin moderated the panel.

Dr. Mario Levesque was awarded SSHRC research funding in 2016 for his project entitled, "Fostering the Next Wave of Disability Leaders." The project examines disability program implementation and the working relationship between governments and disability groups in the Atlantic region. His work, which involves several Mount Allison student

researchers, focuses on non-profit organizations with a core mandate dealing with disabilities and their provincial government counterparts.

"As part of this study we will be looking at leadership styles for these non-profit groups," says Levesque. "Many of these positions, both in the non-profit sector and the government, require various skills and styles of leadership. Determining these styles can help these groups

Fostering the Next Wave of Disability Leaders

work together and assist with policy and program implementation to benefit their clients and the public."

Through this study, Levesque will identify key skills for the next generation of disability leaders as well as foster future disability scholars by engaging his students in the process.

Levesque is also finishing up the second year of another \$224,000 Insight Grant for a SSHRC project focusing on the environmental governance in the Gulf of St. Lawrence with Peter Clancy of Saint Francis Xavier University.

The department co-hosted, with the Physics Department, a talk by David Harries entitled "Pugwash and Nuclear Disarmament: Anxious Times"

Harries studied nuclear engineering at the University of London. He served in the Canadian military for several decades as a NATO officer, UN peacekeeper, airborne engineer and military professor, and finally as Director of Curriculum Planning and Deputy Commandant at the National Defence College of Canada in Kingston.



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Philosophy, Politics, & Economics



PPE Graduates its First Students in May

Claire Henderson-Hamilton and Daniel Michaelis-Law became the first graduates of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) program, established at Mount Allison in 2013, when they crossed the stage in May. The program is based on the renowned model at the University of Oxford and is one of only a handful offered in Canada.

Henderson-Hamilton was also the first recipient of the LR Wilson Internship in Public Service and Public Policy in 2015. The internship, valued at \$10,000 annually, allows PPE students to gain practical work experience in an agency, non-governmental organization, or government department during their undergraduate studies.

Henderson-Hamilton worked for the non-governmental organization (NGO), Inter Pares — Globalize Equality where she

conducted interviews with past and present staff members of the NGO, to gain insight into the philosophy of the organization and its partners across the globe.

"The links between politics and economics are usually more obvious but I found my philosophy teachings also came out during my internship experience," she says. "You realize how important it is to have this basic foundation of skills, such as critical thinking through this kind of experiential learning. An internship is a great opportunity for any student, no matter what their degree."

Michaelis-Law who completed his PPE degree with a minor in computer science, is attending Concordia University in the fall to do an MA in Political Science. He also received the L.R. Wilson Internship in 2016 and worked for the NB Green Party MLA David Coon's office.

This year, three students received the internship: Diane Ortiz-MacLeod, Tierra Stokes, and Grant Benjamin. Ortiz-MacLeod, who is from Toronto, ON, will be completing an internship with the New Brunswick Department of Social Development's Planning, Analytics and Initiative Management Unit.

Stokes will be spending her internship working with Food Secure Canada in Montreal. The organization carries out research, policy work, and advocacy on food sovereignty and security in Canada, promoting education and awareness as well as making recommendations to the federal government on health and environmental issues.

Benjamin is going the furthest afield, completing an internship with Laterite in Kigali, Rwanda. Laterite conducts research and data analysis on the economic and social development of Rwanda.

"Outside parties will pose policy recommendations to them and it allows them to see if it will fit and be an effective policy," Benjamin says. "My responsibilities will be a lot of data analysis and data cleaning."

Laterite already has a Mount Allison connection — Economics graduate Mallory Baxter ('08) is the organization's senior research associate and Benjamin was able to connect to them through her.

Finally, the PPE Society and students have a new space to meet and study in Avarad Dixon G15.

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Sociology

Sociology honours graduate

Cassidy Glennie, from River Hebert, NS won the Canadian Sociology Association's Outstanding Graduating Student Award at Mount Allison.

Her honours research study looked at the effects of mainstream western media on Inuit women. Historically there have been inaccurate and stereotypical media representations of indigenous peoples reproduced in many forms of entertainment media. Glennie explains how Inuit women make sense of southern popular music videos that utilize Inuit themes. She collaborated with Local indigenous organizations in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, to facilitate focus groups, which enabled Inuit women to express their reactions to the videos and discuss how their culture is presented in mainstream western music videos. Four themes were identified: unrealistic western beauty standards projected onto women; the normalization of harmful media tropes; the importance of positive role models, and; self-representation in media.

The focus group identified some themes that Glennie was not expecting, including a desire to connect cultures, silence regarding Inuit women victimization, missing and murdered Aboriginal women, and loss of culture and traditional hunting practices.

She plans to continue her research next year in a Master's program at Dalhousie University.

Students research in Sociology

Courtney McLaren's honours

research was entitled "Why Has the Music Stopped?: Fan Policing and Content Distribution among International K-pop Fans on Tumblr."

The Korean Wave, first brought to the attention of the mainstream Western world through Gangnam Style, is a growing wave of South Korean popular culture that has dedicated fan bases around the world.

McLaren used a case study of the Sewol Ferry Tragedy of April 2014, to look at international K-Pop fandom practices on the the blogging platform Tumblr to assess fan response to the tragedy. Fans were found to take part in information sharing through the platform by circulating news articles and updates, as well as inner-fandom policing, where fans attempted to control other fan's content based on moral beliefs.

This incident provided a unique opportunity to explore fandom practices in response to a community-disrupting event, and raised questions about if K-Pop fandom involvement impacts global awareness and political participation.

Sociology students had the opportunity to step outside the classroom and test out theories they were learning in class, all while lending a hand to local community groups in a class taught by Lori Ann Roness.

Groups worked with the organization The Walk in the Park, which raises awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia, with community members who wanted to start an after hours youth drop-in centre, and with two Horizon Health Network working groups.

The students, acting as consultants, carried out various tasks including organizing a public forum; developing, administering, and interpreting the results of a survey; developing a business plan; planning and facilitating a workshop to develop vision, mission, goals and objectives; and writing reports.



Mount Allison

Social Sciences

Geography and Environment professor Zoe Finkel's and Mathematics professor Andrew Irwin's Marine Macroecology and Biogeochemistry Lab continues to grow. They currently have six postdocs working with the lab, with five more arriving in the next couple of months. They also have seven Mount Allison student researchers, working with the lab this

summer from five different departments: Math, Biochemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, and Economics. It is truly an interdisciplinary experience for students.

The lab is part of a research consortium with a \$7.25M grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative funded by British Petroleum for independent research in response to the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. The Mount A researchers also have support from NSERC, CRC, NBIF, CFI, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Simons Foundation, Ace-net, NASA, MITACS, Mount Allison University, and the Marjorie Young Bell foundation.

Marine Macroecology and Biogeochemistry Lab growing

Among the great opportunities for the students working in the lab, one honours student in Environmental Science, Matt Fyfe, spent two weeks in June on a cruise leaving from Hawaii and going to ~ 40 N. This is one of three cruises members of the lab have been able to take part in that were funded by the Simons Foundation. The crew is sampling microbes across ~20 degrees latitude, which is an area that has a dramatic productivity gradient. "We want to understand how the microbial community changes and why," explains Finkel. Another student, Catherine Fiset, honours Biology, has recently had her first scientific paper published and participated in a mesocosm experiment at Texas A&M University looking at the impact of oil and the dispersant corexit on marine microbial communities and how these microbes impact the fate of oil in the marine ecosystem.

Finally, Finkel and Irwin had a research paper they wrote with Andrew Barton, a researcher at Princeton University, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and featured by the BBC last year.



Please consult the Social Sciences website for updates and information about the activities of our faculty and students:

http://mta.ca/community/academics/faculty_of_social_sciences/faculty_of_social_sciences/