Fall 2020 Leadership Meetings
Friday, November 27, 2020
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm (AST)

Hosted online by Dr. Nola Etkin, Dean of Pure and Applied Science (UPEI), Dr. Christian Lacroix, Chair of Science Atlantic, Professor of Biology (UPEI), and Lois Whitehead, Executive Director

Schedule of Events
Events are open to all

1:00 pm  Annual Members Meeting
2:00 pm  Presentation and discussion of findings from interviews with Atlantic faculty
3:30 pm  Guest speaker: Cynthia Sweeney, Simply Good Form; Beyond the Binary: Increasing Connectedness and Inclusivity
4:45 pm  Closing and Next steps
Our Mission

The mission of Science Atlantic is to advance post-secondary science education and research in Atlantic Canada by:

- Providing opportunities that foster and enrich students
- Supporting and inspiring researchers, educators, and the broader scientific community
- Using our collective voice to address important regional science issues
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Annual Members Meeting Agenda

November 27, 2020, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm AST

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Establishment of Quorum
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2019
5. Remarks from the Chair and Executive Director
6. Acceptance of 2020 Committee Reports
7. 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Update
   i) Presentation of Financial Statements for the Interim Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2019
   ii) Presentation of Draft Financial Statements for the Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2020
   iii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2021
   iv) Presentation of 2020-2021 Budget
9. Membership Report
   i) Election of 2020-21 Board of Directors
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Following the business meeting, we hope you will stay with us for two important discussions:

1. Michelle McPherson, Science Atlantic Membership and Project Support Officer, will present findings from interviews with faculty members across Atlantic Canada, followed by breakout groups to discuss possible actions to address faculty interests and needs.
2. Diversity and Inclusion Educator Cynthia Sweeney of Simply Good Form will speak on “Beyond the Binary: Increasing Connectedness and Inclusivity.”
2019-2020 Year in Review

Providing opportunities that foster and enrich students

Last year, four conferences were held before COVID-19 shut down events. In total, 455 undergrads, grad students, and post-secondary educators attended, and 45 awards were given for outstanding student presentations. Fall 2020 conferences are going virtual, with competitions, presentations, and a virtual field trip! A cross-disciplinary Conference Oversight Committee has reviewed online event options and has also selected a new registration and abstract submission system. We also helped promote the first Queer Atlantic Canadian STEM Colloquium.

Several member engagement projects took shape this year. In particular, we interviewed faculty, instructors, and technicians not involved with Science Atlantic to learn about the broader post-secondary community. Findings will be presented at our 2020 Members Meeting and used to develop new participation options. As well, a newly crafted Member Journey launches this Fall to orient members to the organization, and initial assessment has been completed to upgrade the Virtual Commons.

Using our collective voice to address important regional science issues

Supporting and inspiring researchers, educators, and the community

Our core value of inclusivity was reflected across activities this year: Nova Scotia Community College became a full member; policies were updated with attention to equity, diversity, and inclusion; the website has improved accessibility and navigation; our language has changed to "Science Divisions" from "Committees" to welcome a broader audience.

As you can see, we are activating member-led committees and hope you will join us! Please see how you can get involved on our Action Committees webpage at http://sciatl.org/actioncommittees!

Looking to the future; expanding and improving with your help
Atlantic Faculty Community Research Project Presentation

Michelle McPherson, Program and Membership Support Officer, will present the initial findings from a community research project conducted in collaboration with the Membership Engagement Committee.

The goal of this research was to learn about the needs of various types of faculty not currently served by the programs Science Atlantic delivers. Currently, the active Science Atlantic membership represents a small percentage of the faculty population in the Atlantic region, consisting almost entirely of tenure/tenure-track faculty members. Anticipated outcomes of this project will be to engage a more diverse audience and to identify how Science Atlantic might be able to serve the broader academic community.

About Michelle:

Michelle McPherson completed both an undergraduate degree in Biology as well as a Master’s degree in Earth Science at St. Francis Xavier University. Her Masters work focused on the impacts of climate change on Lyme disease in Canada. To continue her work in the research field, Michelle also works part-time as a Research Coordinator at Dalhousie University in the information management department.

As Science Atlantic’s Program and Membership Support Officer, Michelle applies her research and project management skills to better understand faculty needs and improve member onboarding. In addition, she works with conference organizers to educate them on Science Atlantic’s role in conferences and to share best practices.

Science Atlantic Membership Engagement Committee:

- Trevor Avery, Aquaculture & Fisheries Committee Chair; Acadia A&F Representative
- Stephanie Jones, Acadia University Psychology Representative
- Christian Lacroix, Board Chair; Professor of Biology, UPEI
- Michelle McPherson, Program and Membership Support Officer
- Lois Whitehead, Executive Director

Interviewers:

- Ben Dornan, Dalhousie University Commerce co-op student
- Richard Inkpen, Saint Mary’s University Psychology co-op student

Special thanks:

Ashley Greene, CEO and founder of The Instratify Group (https://www.instratify.co/) and a customer insight advocate, provided pro bono support throughout this project.

Ashley is also a former intern in the Youth Education and Communications Program run by Science Atlantic (then the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences) from 2002 to 2006. The YEC Program placed high school students as research assistants at member institutions, combining hands-on research experience with professional communications training. Participants graduated as Ambassadors of Science and presented their experience at public schools across Atlantic Canada.
CYNTHIA SWEENEY

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION BEYOND BINARY EDUCATOR CONSULTANT | KEY NOTE

MEET CYNTHIA (SHE HER)

Human rights and global citizenship are the founding principals of Simply Good Form. Cynthia’s passion for communication and navigational expertise are focused on beyond binary inclusion and creating space for everyone.

BIO/INTRODUCTION:

Cynthia Sweeney is Founder of Simply Good Form, the consultancy for beyond binary thinking.

Having launched the socially-focused diversity and inclusion consultancy in Jan. 2019, Cynthia and her team empowers businesses, schools and organizations and the people within, to be intentionally inclusive through service delivery, recruitment procedures and policies that shake up our biases.

With a background in journalism and writing, she is acutely aware of the present-day thirst for accurate, detailed and fact-based information in today’s sea of murky false-news-overload. And she loves connecting with people.

She is committed to giving back to her community and is a returning Director on the board of PRIDE Lunenburg, along with being the founder and chapter leader of Pflag Halifax; part of the national non-profit Pflag Canada. She is a navigator supporting World Professional Association of Transgender Health and speaks regularly at the IWK Integrated Trans Health Symposium for youth into adulthood and hosts a weekly Podcast Hey, Cis! with Co-host Isaac C.

Having firmly rooted herself on the east coast from Ontario; by way of Dublin, Ireland, Cynthia is a parent of three wonderful children, a whippet, one-eyed feline and a celtic mate with a colourful tongue. She doesn’t believe everyone deserves participation medals. She simply believes everyone deserves an opportunity to have space in the game.

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SIMPLY GOOD FORM

ISaac Cook
Inclusion Team Educator
They/Them

CYNTHIA SWEENEY
CEO/Founder/Educator
She/Her

Kaylee Fox
Inclusion Team Educator

Brianna Simons
Navigator/Consultant
She/Her
1. Welcome and Call to Order

Christian Lacroix, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

2. Establishment of Quorum

Christian Lacroix confirmed that a quorum of members was met.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was modified as follows:

- Item 7, bullet 2, “Presentation of the Draft Financial Statements for the Interim Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2019” was removed; statements will be presented at the 2020 Annual Members Meeting.
- Item 9, “2018-2022 Strategic Planning Update” was removed; this report is included in the Executive Director’s Report.

Moved (Amanda Cockshutt/Nola Etkin) that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the November 9, 2018, Annual Members Meeting

Moved (Petra Hauf/Amanda Cockshutt) that the minutes of the November 9, 2018, Annual Members Meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. Remarks from the Chair and Executive Director

Chair, Christian Lacroix, and Executive Director, Lois Whitehead, both gave verbal remarks. Christian thanked the staff and all members for their contributions to the organization over the past year. A copy of Lois Whitehead’s remarks is appended to these minutes (Appendix I). [note: available here]

6. Acceptance of the 2019 Committee and Staff Reports

The Committee Chairs summarized the main activities of their respective committees. Written copies of the reports are appended to these minutes (Appendix II). [note: available here]

7. Financial Report

- Presentation of the Audited Financial Statement for the period ending March 31, 2019

Patty King, Special Projects Officer, presented the Grant Thornton audited financial statement for the period ending March 31, 2019 (Appendix III).
Moved (Petra Hauf/David McCorquodale) that the audited financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2019, be accepted as presented. Carried.

- **Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2020**

  Moved (Petra Hauf/Brent Myron) that Grant Thornton be retained as the financial reviewer for 2020. Carried.

8. **Membership Report**

   **Election of 2019-20 Board of Directors**

   David McCorquodale, Past Chair, presented the proposed slate of officers for 2019-20. All nominated positions are for a two-year term unless otherwise noted.

   **Executive:**
   - Chair:
     - Continuing: Christian Lacroix, Professor, Biology, University of Prince Edward Island
   - Chair Elect:
     - Nominated: Robert van den Hoogen, Professor, Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, Saint Francis Xavier University
   - Treasurer:
     - Open

   **Director-at-Large, Institutional Representative (up to three positions):**
   - Continuing:
     - Travis Fridgen, Associate Dean of Science, Administration and Undergraduate, Memorial University
   - Nominated:
     - Reoffering for a 2-year term: Amanda Cockshutt, Dean of Science, Mount Allison University
     - Alain Joseph, Director of Applied Research, Nova Scotia Community College

   **Director-at-Large, Committee Chairs’ Representative (up to three positions):**
   - Continuing:
     - Mel Schriver, Professor, Chemistry, Crandall University; Science Atlantic Chemistry Chair
   - Nominated:
     - Michelle Gray, Associate Professor, Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick (Fredericton); Science Atlantic Environment Chair
     - Third position: open

   **Director-at-Large, Community Representative (up to two positions):**
   - Nominated:
     - Reoffering for 1-year term: Brent Myron, Acting Director, Strategic Institutional Research Initiatives (SIRI), Memorial University
     - Jennifer Stamp, University Teaching Fellow, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Dalhousie University

   Two potential nominees for the position of Treasurer had not yet confirmed whether they agreed to let their names stand. The members present agreed that the position should be
filled as soon as possible following the Annual Members Meeting and that the Board be empowered to make this decision.

The members present further agreed that the third Committee Chair representative would be selected at the Committee Chairs Meeting following the Annual Members Meeting, to be announced on Saturday.

There being no other nominations from the floor, the slate was approved by acclamation.

On behalf of the Board, David McCorquodale thanked outgoing Board members Roby Austin (SMU; Community Representative), Marcia English (StFX; Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee Chair), and Petra Hauf (UNB-F; Treasurer), for their participation. Christian Lacroix thanked Dave for his contributions as Chair and Past Chair.

- **Call for Participants for Action Committees**
  Christian Lacroix reminded members to consider participating on one of the Functional Committees struck subsequent to the development of the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

9. **2018-2022 Strategic Plan Update**
   Included in the Executive Director’s report.

10. **Other Business**
   No other business was identified from the floor.

11. **Adjournment**
   The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

   **Immediately following the meeting, Gordon Deveau, NSERC Deputy Director, presented an update on NSERC’s new Research Partnership Grant.**
Proposed 2020-21 Board Slate

** Names in bold identify nominated or reoffering Directors

**Executive**

Incoming Chair: Robert van den Hoogen, St FX (to November 2022)
Past Chair: Christian Lacroix, UPEI (to November 2021)
Treasurer: Rick Pierrynowski, CBU (continuing)

**Directors-at-Large, Institutional Representatives**

Travis Fridgen, Memorial (reoffering to November 2022)
Alain Joseph, NSCC (continuing to November 2021)
Amanda Mary Cockshutt, Mount Allison (continuing to June 30, 2021)

**Director-at-Large, Committee Chairs**

Nominated: Andrea Burgess, UNB-SJ, Science Atlantic Math & Stats Chair (offering to November 2022)
Russell Easy, Acadia, Science Atlantic Biology Chair (continuing to November 2021)
Michelle Gray, UNB-F, Science Atlantic Environment Chair (continuing to November 2021)

**Director-at-Large, Community Member (two positions available)**

Nominated: Edward (Eddie) Francis, PEI BioAlliance (offering to November 2022)

**Biography:** Eddie is a graduate from the University Prince Edward Island where he received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Molecular and Cellular Biology. His research focused on inhibiting early-stage cancer progression pathways and he received a full scholarship from the Canadian Cancer Society for the latter. Prior to joining the PEI BioAlliance, Eddie spent the last 15 years in the private sector in early-stage companies as an owner, operator and project manager and specializes in helping early stage companies restructure their operations and continue their growth projections. Eddie’s current role with the PEI BioAlliance is focused in the Emergence Incubator, in which he assists early stage companies in commercializing products and/or technologies. As a member of the Emergence Incubator, Eddie serves as a mentor and business development officer to over 60 companies that are currently enrolled in the program. Eddie also serves a mentor for the Propel ICT program (Charlottetown, PEI cohort) and currently sits on the working groups for the ‘Oceans Supercluster Initiative (PEI)’, the ‘Centre for Cannabinoid Research’ and the ‘PEI Fermentation/DSP Initiative’.
Nominated: Kelly Schnare, RAH2050 (offering to November 2022)

**Biography:** Kelly Schnare is a trained environmental scientist and engineer with a passion for watershed management. With project-based training in over five countries and graduate school in Taiwan, Kelly thinks globally and acts locally. Kelly is practiced as a group facilitator, classroom educator, and concept to outcome designer in community engagement and public literacy. She thrives in dynamic and complex environments for changemaking and builds value-based relationships.

Regionally focused, Kelly aims to develop a less humble character for our Atlantic identity by integrating creative solutions through art and science deliverables. Kelly is passionate about Reimagining Atlantic Harbours (RAH; www.rah2050.ca), of which she is the Programs Director. RAH combines data, citizen science, STEAM art installations, and watershed knowledge to create deeper awareness of the state of our harbours.
Conference Oversight Committee Report

The Conference Oversight Committee was initially struck in the Fall of 2019 to identify an all-in-one registration, payment, and abstract submission software to replace the custom-made system that was used for several years. The committee completed a survey outlining the priority features required in such a platform, and Science Atlantic staff researched a number of platforms. A shortlist of software options was developed, with Fourwaves being the frontrunner. The AUGC 2020 organizers piloted Fourwaves for their conference, held Nov. 21, 2020.

As a result of COVID-19, the majority of the 2020 winter/spring conferences were cancelled. With the support of a co-op student employee, Richard Inkpen, the Conference Oversight Committee shifted their focus to understanding how to create engaging online events. Research was conducted into various virtual conferencing platforms and staff attended several demos to understand the functionality of each platform. VirBELA, an avatar-based platform, became the focus of interest. After attending a demo, the committee was excited about its capabilities.

A survey was circulated to the Science Atlantic membership to gain feedback from faculty and students about their preference of a VirBELA vs. Zoom-like event platform. The results showed that students’ preference was split down the middle, while faculty had a stronger desire to stick with what they already knew. After much discussion, investigating VirBELA continued and a Board meeting was held in VirBELA. The Board was generally enthusiastic; however, concerns arose regarding how the platform addressed accessibility and inclusivity. Upon further research and discussions with the VirBELA team, it was decided that these issues would not be adequately addressed to be in keeping with Science Atlantic’s EDI policies in development. As a result, over the next two months staff conducted more research into dozens of platforms. A comparison matrix was compiled as well as a list of pros and cons for each service.

A mini-demo of the two top-ranked softwares, PheedLoop and Whova, was conducted for AUGC’s conference organizers to help with their decision making. Whova was chosen by AUGC for their Nov. 21 virtual conference, and feedback from the attendees will be collected to assist future Science Atlantic conference organizers.

Science Atlantic staff will continue to work with the 2020-2021 conference organizers to assist with decisions related to online conferences.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Gray
Division Committee Reports

Aquaculture & Fisheries

Conference highlights

The Science Atlantic Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology Conference (March 14-15, 2020) at Cape Breton University was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Cape Breton University has agreed to host the 2021 conference and plans are currently underway.

The A&F committee had a slate of sponsors arranged for the 2020 AFB conference. Sponsors were given the choice to not be invoiced or to leave received funds in place for 2021.

Committee business

- Executive membership (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Tour Coordinator, etc.)
  - Because there was no annual meeting at the AFB conference, the executive will remain as it was in 2019-20. In practice, A&F only has two standing executive members: Chair Trevor Avery and Secretary Jillian Westcott. All other duties are handled by volunteers from the A&F committee on an ‘as needed’ basis (e.g. judging of conference presentations).

- Annual/semi-annual meeting highlights
  - A&F only has a yearly meeting taking place at the conference. Because the conference was cancelled, we did not conduct a yearly meeting. The A&F agenda typically revolves around the conference (sponsors, deciding on awards, etc.). Other business is generally sorted through informal or formal emails. To date, there have been only a couple of minor issues put to the A&F committee; resolved through email.

- Uses of Holding Account funds
  - There was no use of Holding Account funds this fiscal year. The A&F Holding Account typically is used to support the AFB conference if/when the AFB conference requires more funding.

Other activities and projects

- Trevor has been involved with the SA Customer Discovery Project headed by Michelle McPherson and Lois Whitehead. We have had several meetings over this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor Avery, Committee Chair
Biology

Conference

AFB 2020 was to be hosted at Cape Breton University (Mar. 14-15, 2020) but was cancelled due to COVID-19. Kellie White, the local organizer, did an outstanding job in cleaning up all the loose ends from the conference. CBU has agreed to host the 2021 conference which will be another joint conference with Aquaculture & Fisheries, though Environmental Sciences will not be joining us. Future conference locations: University of Prince Edward Island (2022); order of next conferences to be determined but possibly UNB, Saint John (2023), Dalhousie Agriculture (2024), UNB, Fredericton (2025).

Committee Business

The Biology Committee's regular fall business meeting was held virtually Nov. 6, 2020 hosted by CBU. The meeting was attended by 11 individuals from Atlantic Canada universities. Russell Easy (Acadia University) is serving in his third year as Chair of the Committee, and Bruce Hatcher (CBU) is Vice Chair. New representatives are Jantina Toxopeus (StFX) and Kim Davies (UNBSJ).

The meeting began with an introduction of new members followed by a discussion of how we are moving forward with the 2021 conference given necessary COVID-19 restrictions. Kellie White has agreed to stay on and coordinate a virtual conference for 2021. Thus, the next joint Biology and Aquaculture & Fisheries Conference will be held online and hosted by CBU Mar. 12-13, 2021.

We are currently exploring how we can offer an engaging and scientifically satisfying conference online. Several ideas were presented, including online activities to engage students, including ice breaking events and quizzes to make the conference interesting and perhaps challenging for participants. We also discussed various virtual conference hosting platforms, including:

- PheedLoop: trial will be conducted, cost is ~$50 per person
- VirBELA: has a nice poster presentation function
- We agreed that technical support is essential. Some platforms have technical support included in price. Science Atlantic may have a part-time student employee available to help, and the hosting university may also provide technical support

We discussed the presentation format and agreed on the following:

- Each institution will present two oral and two judged poster presentations, although more poster presentations are allowed.
- The format for oral presentations may be reviewed given a virtual setting. The benefits of pre-recorded versus live talks, which may be disrupted due to technical issues, were discussed. Organizers may allow pre-recorded presentations followed by a live question and answer session with the presenter; it was also suggested that pre-recorded talks be viewed synchronously by attendees at scheduled times.
- Social events will be organized to promote interaction among students and faculty from different universities; CBU biology student society may organize a virtual meet and greet.

Our second topic of discussion continued on the subject of quantitative literacy and when/how to introduce to undergraduates. We were joined by Trevor Avery (Acadia) and Danielle Quinn (Memorial University) who brought their expertise in introducing quantitative literacy to students of all ages to the discussion.

Action items arising from the meeting:

- Explore ways to engage students attending conference in a virtual setting
Russell (with help from Trevor and Danielle) will draft a document summarizing our discussions on the next steps to introducing quantitative training in the early years of University education.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Easy, Committee Chair

Chemistry

Conference
ChemCon2020 at Mount Allison University was cancelled due to COVID-19.

MtA has agreed to host the 2021 conference.

Speaker Tour

2019-20 Speakers:

- Dr. Alison Thompson, Dalhousie University, presented her talk titled Synthesis and manipulation of pyrrole-containing chemical species at Saint Mary’s University and University of New Brunswick Fredericton. Her talk at Memorial University was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Dr. Danielle Tokarz, SMU, presented her talk titled Advances in Nonlinear Optical Microscopy at SMU, MtA, and Acadia University.

2020-21 Speakers:

There is currently no Speaker Tour scheduled for 2020-21.

Committee Business

The executive of the Chemistry Committee continues with Mel Schriver (Crandall, currently 3rd year in position) and Aaron Kelly (Dalhousie, currently 2nd year in position). The Committee has an annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Science Atlantic Chemistry Conference typically in the late spring with an optional autumn meeting held at the request of the Committee.

This year the annual meeting was held June 12 via Zoom with representatives of 11 member institutions attending. The meeting was dominated by discussions regarding the impact of the pandemic on the scheduling and format of the student conference, and the local impacts on teaching and research at the member institutions. The efforts of the MtA Chemistry Department faculty and students in organizing and preparation for ChemCon2020 (which was re-scheduled to 2021) were appreciated and recognized. It was understood that the graduation of members of the organizing committee would require the recruitment and involvement of a new organizing committee for ChemCon 2021. The Committee encouraged the Chair to participate with Science Atlantic in creating a rotation of host departments for ChemCon and eliminate the current process of selecting the next two hosts by vote at the Conference banquet.

The Visiting Speaker programs at the member departments have, for the most part, become virtual due to the pandemic. It was agreed that the Science Atlantic Chemistry Tour Speaker program would follow the lead of the member departments with the possibility of organizing a simulcast speaker to multiple departments if the opportunity appeared.

Regarding the Holding Account, the Committee agreed that the account would need to be used as a reserve to aid ChemCon2021 with the potential of using the funds to enhance the online environment, web development, and research that may be needed to host an online student chemistry conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Schriver, Committee Chair
Computer Science

Conference

The 2019 Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Conference was held October 25-27 at Dalhousie University. Last year’s report did not include exact final numbers. They are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>230</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A profit of $7,045.16 was realized, even after a larger-than-normal reimbursement of the Newfoundland institutions to cover much of the travel costs they incur above what other Maritime institutions would have. This level of reimbursement is not possible every year.

The 2020 conference was hosted online by Saint Mary’s University, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Reported preliminary numbers are as follows: total registration was approximately 150, though since registration was free, it was speculated that some who registered did not participate. Approximately 25 students participated in the mathematics contest and 40 students (19 teams from seven universities) participated in the programming contest.

In the programming contest, first place went to StFX Coladog (Juqui Wang and Ti Zhou). Second went to MTA 0x2A (Crystal Sharpe, Rija Ali, and Calum Bird), and third place went to UPEI Panthers CSW (Christopher MacDonald, Scott MacIntosh, and Will Taylor-Melanson). The top CS paper was presented by Bivash Pandey of SMU, and the second-place presentation was by Acadia’s David LeBlanc.

The Sedgwick Lecture (CS) was by Sreejata Chatterjee (LeadShift) on *Big Data and Local Startups*, while the Blundon Lecture (Math) was given by Gordon MacDonald and Andrew Godbout (UPEI) on *Volume Preserving Neural Networks*. The Fields Lecture (Statistics) was given by James Watmough (UNB) on *Epidemics, Endemicity and Herd Immunity*.

The budget for the 2020 conference was $1,000. Registration and abstract collection were done by email and thus there were no monetary costs.

Committee Business

The CS Committee Chair remains Owen Kaser (UNBSJ), and the Secretary remains Liam Keliher (MtA).

The CS and Math & Stats Committees met jointly online on May 25. The main topic was how MCSC2020 should be conducted in light of the pandemic. The CS group reported on discussions related to maintaining our affiliation of our programming contest with the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). MSCS2020 was to have served as a pilot run of an unaffiliated contest, but given the uncertainties related to the pandemic, a "real" pilot in 2021 may be needed.

The CS and Math & Stats Committees met again jointly on Oct. 31. StFX confirmed they will host MSCS2021, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 22-23, 2021. It was noted that MtA appears to be next on the rotation after StFX. The organizers from SMU talked about making a set of notes about organizing a remote contest in...
case it is needed in the future. Hopefully by mid-spring we will have a better idea as to the possible format of MSCS2021. The merits of holding the conference on Friday/Saturday vs. Saturday/Sunday were examined. There was a discussion of how courses are being adapted (because of the pandemic) at member institutions. Test invigilation received particular attention.

The CS Committee met on June 25. A subcommittee recommended that the MSCS conference should be decoupled from the ICPC contest, and that we should continue to organize a programming contest for MSCS. Due to unusual circumstances for 2020, a reduced/low-stakes contest was held this year, as it was unclear how we could stop cheating. A subcommittee consisting of CS Committee members from MtA, UNBSJ, SMU, StFX, Acadia, and UdeM was set up to prepare the contest for MSCS2020.

The CS Committee met again on Oct. 31. The upcoming NENA (ICPC) contest is likely to be held around the first of March but its format is currently unknown. Some member institution(s) may need to host satellite sites, depending on the format, and if so, the logistics may be non-trivial, since potentially many teams could have to be hosted. We also briefly discussed how labs (not so much of a concern for Math & Stats) are being adapted for the pandemic.

**Uses of Holding Account Funds**

The costs of hosting MSCS2020 may be covered partly from the CS Committee’s Holding Account, as well as the purchase of the new contest plaque.

Respectfully submitted,
Owen Kaser, Committee Chair

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**Earth Science**

**Conference**

AUGC 2019 was held at St. Francis Xavier University, Oct. 24-26, 2019. The conference incurred a sizeable surplus. The funds contributed by StFX were returned to the dean of science and research offices which then allocated the funds to an earth sciences student travel for future educational trips. The remainder of the surplus was returned to the Holding Account and will be used to cover AUGC 2020 expenses.

AUGC 2020 is being hosted online by University of New Brunswick Fredericton on Nov. 21, 2020 using the Whova platform. There will be a virtual field trip run by Mike Young. Registration is $20.

**Speaker Tour**

2019-2020 Speaker Tour:

Audrey Limoges of University of New Brunswick presented the talk titled *The future of Arctic sea ice and primary production in a changing climate: insights from the past* at StFX and Dalhousie University.

John Jamieson of Memorial University of Newfoundland presented the talk titled *Ore-forming processes on the seafloor – understanding the difference between black smoker vent fields and the formation of metal-rich massive sulfide mineral deposits* at Saint Mary's University, Acadia University, and UNB-F.

2020-2021 Speaker Tour:

Lectures will be given virtually; dates have not been confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
Lexie Arnot, Committee Chair
Environment

Conference

SAEC 2020, hosted by Cape Breton University (Mar. 13-15, 2020) was cancelled due to COVID-19.

SAEC 2021 will be organized mainly by the reps from CBU and University of New Brunswick Fredericton and will be 100% online. We have not yet determined if the conference will be marketed as being hosted by these institutions or if it will just be the virtual SAEC 2021. We are awaiting feedback from SA staff regarding two online event platform options they were evaluating.

Committee Business

- **Executive membership**
  - Chair – Michelle Gray, UNBF
  - No other positions are formalized – minutes are taken by the best volunteer of the day 😊

- **Annual/semi-annual meeting highlights**: Fall meeting, Oct. 21: A check-in was done to see how each institutional rep was handling the fall term. Plans and a date for SAEC 2021 were also discussed.

Uses of Holding Account funds

The 2021 SAEC organizing committee will propose uses of these funds, perhaps in lieu of fundraising.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Gray, Committee Chair

Mathematics & Statistics

Conference

The 2019 Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Conference (MSCS) was held Oct. 25-27, 2019 at Dalhousie University. The 2019 conference reported a sizeable profit of $7,045.16. Attendance numbers were not available at the time of the committee’s 2019 report, so they are included here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MSCS2020 was held online Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2020, hosted by Saint Mary’s University using the Zoom platform. The conference featured three plenary lectures:

- **Blundon lecture**: Andrew Godbout (UPEI) and Gordon MacDonald (UPEI) gave a joint lecture on *Volume Preserving Neural Networks*.
- **Fields lecture**: James Watmough (UNBF) spoke on *Epidemics, Endemicity and Herd Immunity*.
- **Sedgwick lecture**: Sreejata Chatterjee (Leadsift) spoke on *Big Data and Local Startups*.
The conference included 25 contributed talks from undergraduate and graduate students. Awards were given for the top two undergraduate talks in each of Mathematics & Statistics and Computer Science. The winners in Mathematics & Statistics were:

- **1st prize:** Alexander Clow (StFX): A new approach to finding ideal play in poset games
- **2nd prize:** Amanda Porter (MtA): Hyperopic cops and robber

On Sat., Oct. 31, mathematics problem-solving and programming competitions were held. Approximately 25 students took part in the mathematics competition. To accommodate physical distancing, students participated individually rather than in teams. The winners of the problem-solving competition were:

- **1st place:** Xiaoyu Jia (Dalhousie)
- **2nd place:** Vaughan Menchions (Dalhousie)
- **3rd place (tie):** Ellen Doria (UNBF), Cameron Nickerson (MtA)

The 2021 conference will be hosted by StFX. Determination of whether this event will be in-person or online will be made at a later date.

Committee Business

- **Executive membership:**
  - Chair: Andrea Burgess (UNBSJ)
  - Vice-Chair: Caroline Cochran (Acadia)
  - Secretary: Danielle Cox (MSVU)

- **Annual/semi-annual meeting highlights:** The Mathematics and Statistics Committee met on Oct. 31, 2020 and held joint meetings with the Computer Science Committee on May 25, 2020 and Oct. 31, 2020. At the spring meeting, the committees agreed that the 2020 conference would be held online and considered options for the online format. At the fall meetings, the committees discussed adaptations to teaching during COVID-19 as well as the different approaches taken by the various universities (in-person, online, mixed).

Use of Holding Account Funds

The Committee’s Holding Account may be used to subsidise the costs of running the virtual MSCS2020. The conference budget was significantly smaller than usual, due to the online nature of the event and handling of registration and abstract submission by email. The estimated total expenditure is approximately $1,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Burgess, Committee Chair

Nutrition and Foods

Conference

Dates: March 13–14, 2020 (in-person)

Hosted by Faculty of Science, Applied Human Sciences, University of Prince Edward Island.

The conference site was published in both official languages.

Faculty Co-Chairs: Jennifer Taylor, Sarah Finch

Student Co-Chairs: Imene Hank, Julia Heckbert, Katrina Nagge Dietetic Interns, BSc. candidates

Notes: First year to have a pre-conference workshop, Second year for “highlighted” poster talks.
Committee Business

Executive membership

- 2020-2021 Co-Chairs: Shannan Grant (2nd term) and Carole C. Tranchant
- 2021 Conference Chair: Marcia English (date to be selected)

Annual/semi-annual meeting Highlights

We have successfully achieved the goals set by the committee when conference planning commenced.

Goal 1: To Actively Engage in Truth and Reconciliation

- Continue efforts from the Inaugural Conference at Mount Saint Vincent University, where Patrick Small Leggs Nagge, Special Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs and Program Director of the Aboriginal Student Centre welcomed delegates with an opening ceremony (including a smudge and prayer)
- Pre-Conference Workshop: Dr. Shannan Grant, Pdt, MSc, PhD and Chelsey Purdy, BSc-IEP candidate "With two eyes and hearts open: Using person-focused science education to inspire creativity, co-learning and reconciliation"
- Both conference spotlighted science projects completed by Indigenous students and scholars

Goal 2: To Offer a Bilingual Conference

- Work towards offering a completely bilingual conference/program:
  - Year 1: Marketing materials created in English and French
  - Year 2: Abstracts accepted in English and French
  - Year 3: Presentations in both English and French

Goal 3: To Have Balanced Representation of Nutrition and Foods Research

- Invite abstracts/applications from students representing the spectrum of research in our field(s).
- Ensure abstract and presentation review committee has balanced representation of the spectrum of research in our field(s).
- Ensure the committee has a balance of Registered Dietitians and Non-Registered Dietitians (Food and/or Nutrition Specialists).
- Seize opportunities to showcase our field(s) diversity, potential for inter-departmental collaboration, passionate trainees, and excellence in research within and beyond Science Atlantic.

Goal 4: To Create Course-based Opportunities for Students

- Year 1: Directed Study, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) - the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports postsecondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences.
- Year 2: Experiential learning capstone project, FN 4340 Community Nutrition under the direction of Dr. J Taylor students were appointed co-chairs, met weekly and planned, implemented, and evaluated the conference.

Uses of Holding Account

The Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee Account has finished year end with reserve funds. $4,702.98 will be available to St Francis Xavier University for Conference 2021. sponsors of Mount Saint
Vincent University and University of Prince Edward Island funds will be noted on all 2021 marketing materials and conference materials.

**Other activities and projects**

Since the 2020 Conference, there has been one remote meeting of the Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee. At this meeting, the 2020 report and holding account was reviewed and approved.

A tentative meeting has been set for December 2020, to firm up details regarding the 2021 Conference.

Due to the pandemic and the majority of Universities working remotely, student representatives have not yet been secured. This will be discussed at the December 2020 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannan Grant and Carole Trenchant, Co-Chairs

**Physics & Astronomy**

**Conference**

The 39th Annual Atlantic Universities Physics and Astronomy Conference (AUPAC) was held Jan. 31–Feb. 2, 2020 at St. Francis Xavier University. The conference was well-attended, and the student presentations were excellent. Invited speakers were:

- 2018 Nobel Prize winner Donna Strickland;
- NASA engineer and advocate for diversity and inclusion in science, Renee Horton;
- StFX alumnus Allan H. MacDonald, winner of the Wolf Prize and the Herzberg Medal and professor at University of Texas, Austin; and
- Dalhousie University professor Jesse Maassen

Shortly after the conference ended the COVID pandemic hit full swing and no conference report is available at the time of writing. AUPAC 2021 will be hosted virtually by Dalhousie on Feb. 5-7.

Based on discussion at the conference I am under the impression that the conference was also a financial success and a slight surplus is expected. However, the Holding Account will not exceed $7,000.

**Speaker Tour**

**2019-2020 Speaker Tour:**

- Kris Poduska of Memorial was scheduled to give presentations of the talk titled *How physics helps to simulate a search for life on Mars* at MtA, UNB, and UdeM. However, they were cancelled due to COVID-19. Kris instead gave a virtual talk on Wed., Sept. 30, 2020.
- Dr. Gregory R. Sivakoff of University of Alberta gave the talk titled *Winds of Change around Black Holes* at MUN, SMU, Acadia, StFX, and UPEI.

**2020-2021 Speaker Tour:**

There is currently no scheduled Speaker Tour for 2020-21.

**Committee Business**

The Committee met in Antigonish and conducted the necessary business of selecting the site for the next AUPAC. Various other ideas were bandied about but the pandemic more or less short circuited all subsequent activity. Peter Williams has continued as Committee Chair after foolishly agreeing to do it on
the understanding that it would rotate amongst institutions hosting the annual Science Atlantic AGM. The AGM is being hosted (virtually) by UPEI this year and as such, Doug Dahn is now the Committee Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Williams, Committee Chair

Psychology

Conference

The 2020 Science Atlantic Psychology Conference scheduled May 19-20 at Memorial University, Grenfell Campus was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Memorial University, Grenfell Campus has agreed to host the 2021 conference.

Other activities and projects

Stephanie Jones, the Psychology representative for Acadia University, has been working with other members and staff on a community research and outreach project.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre Cormier, Committee Chair