



## **2020 Annual Members Meeting**

Hosted online by University of Prince Edward Island

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

Followed by speakers and workshops 2:00 to 5:00 pm AST

### **Minutes (Draft)**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Christian Lacroix (Chair) and Nola Etkin, Dean of Science, UPEI, welcomed attendees. Nola presented a land acknowledgment.

**2. Establishment of Quorum**

Christian Lacroix confirmed that a quorum of members was met.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2019**

**Moved** (Amanda Cockshutt/Travis Fridgen) that the minutes of the November 15, 2019, 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.

**6. Acceptance of 2021 Committee Reports**

The Committee Chairs submitted written summaries highlighting the main activities of their respective committees. All committee reports are appended to these minutes (Appendix I).

**7. 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Update**

Robert van den Hoogen, Chair Elect, gave an update on strategic planning initiatives. See the presentation slides here: <http://sciatl.org/strategic-planning-slides>.

**8. Financial Report**

Rick Pierrynowski (Treasurer) presented the following items:



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- 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

**Moved** (Rick Pierrynowski/Daniel Belliveau) that the audited financial statements for the Interim Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2019 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

- iii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2021

**Moved** (Rick Pierrynowski/Daniel Belliveau) that Grant Thornton be retained as the financial reviewer for 2020. **Carried.**

- iv) Presentation of 2020-2021 Budget

A brief Q&A followed the budget presentation.

## 9. Membership Report

- i) Election of 2020-21 Board of Directors

Mel Schriver presented the proposed slate of officers for 2020-21. The names of nominated or reoffering Directors are in **bold**.

All positions are for a two-year term unless otherwise noted.

### Executive

Incoming Chair: Robert van den Hoogen, St FX (to November 2022)

Past Chair: Christian Lacroix, UPEI (continuing to November 2021)

Treasurer: Rick Pierrynowski, CBU (continuing to November 2021)

### Directors-at-Large, Institutional Representatives

#### **Reoffering: Travis Fridgen, Memorial (reoffering to November 2022)**

Alain Joseph, NSCC (continuing to November 2021)

Amanda Cockshutt, Mount Allison (continuing to June 30, 2021)

### Directors-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)



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Directors-at-Large, Community Members (two positions available)

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

**Nominated: Kelly Schnare, RAH2050 (offering to November 2022)**

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

On behalf of the Board, Christian and Lois thanked outgoing Board members Mel Schriver and Brent Myron for their participation. Robert van den Hoogen thanked Christian for his contributions as Chair.

## **10. Other Business**

No other business was identified from the floor.

## **11. Adjournment of Business Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

*Following the business meeting, two presentations were given:*

- 1. Michelle McPherson, Science Atlantic Membership and Project Support Officer: 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."*



## Appendix I: Committee Reports

### Aquaculture and 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 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 Lois and Michelle. We have had several meetings over this year.

Respectfully submitted,



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## 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: UPEI (2022); order of next conferences to be determined but possibly UNBSJ (2023), Dalhousie Agriculture (2024), UNBF (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) 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



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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 (MUN) 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, presented her talk titled *Synthesis and manipulation of pyrrole-containing chemical species* at SMU and UNBF. Her talk at MUN was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Dr. Danielle Tokarz, Saint Mary's University, presented her talk titled *Advances in Nonlinear Optical Microscopy* at SMU, MtA, and Acadia.

#### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> year in position) and Aaron Kelly (Dalhousie, currently 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



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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:

Participants	Number
Faculty	42
Graduates	20
Undergraduates	152
Volunteers	10
Total	230
Oral Presentations	43

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.



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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 MSCS2020 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,



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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

## Conference Oversight

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.



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Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Gray

## 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 UNBF 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 UNB presented the talk titled *The future of Arctic sea ice and primary production in a changing climate: insights from the past* at StFX and Dal.

John Jamieson of Memorial 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 SMU, Acadia, 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 UNBF 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



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- o 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 and 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:

Participants	Number
Faculty	42
Graduates	20
Undergraduates	152
Volunteers	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Oral Presentations</b>	<b>43</b>

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*.



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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:

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

On Sat., October 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:

- **1<sup>st</sup> place:** Xiaoyu Jia (Dalhousie)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> place :** Vaughan Menchions (Dalhousie)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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



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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.

Media:

<https://www.upei.ca/communications/news/2020/03/upei-hosted-2020-science-atlantic-nutrition-and-foods-conference>

## Committee Business

Executive membership

- 2020-2021 Co-Chairs: Shannan Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> 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).



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- ✓ 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 and Astronomy

### Conference

The 39<sup>th</sup> 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;



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- 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pierre Cormier, Committee Chair