



**Science | Science
Atlantic | Atlantique**

**Fall 2021 Leadership Meetings
Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26, 2021**

Hosted online by Nova Scotia Community College



Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 25

- 3:00-4:00 pm Annual Members Meeting (all welcome)
- 4:00-5:00 pm Institutional Representatives Session (Deans and IRs only)
- 4:00-5:00 pm Division Chairs Session (Committee Chairs only)
- 5:00-5:30 pm Joint IRs and Chairs Session

Friday, November 26

- 10:00-11:15 am Embedding EDI in Science Atlantic Conferences (Committee Chairs, IRs, organizers)
- 11:15-11:45 am Break
- 11:45-12:30 pm 60th Anniversary Celebration in Gather.town (all welcome)
- 12:30-1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00-2:30 pm Broadening Horizons Workshop: Enhancing the New Faculty Experience (all welcome)



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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2021 Annual Members Meeting Agenda (amended)

November 25, 2021, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm AST
Hosted virtually

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 27, 2020
5. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Directors
6. Report from the Executive Director
7. Acceptance of 2021 Division Committee Reports
8. 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Update
9. Financial Report
 - i) Presentation of Financial Statement for the Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2021
 - ii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2022
 - iii) Presentation of 2021-2022 Budget
10. Governance Report
 - i) Election of 2021-22 Board of Directors
 - ii) By-laws Review Project
11. Other Business
 - i) Host for 2022 Annual Meeting
12. Adjournment of Business Meeting



2020 Annual Members Meeting Minutes

Hosted online by University of Prince Edward Island

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

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:



- 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)

[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



Chair's Report

Even though there was a pandemic, the activities of Science Atlantic (SA) did not slow down; indeed, the activities of SA were enhanced. There was a hubbub of activity on a number of strategic initiatives, including a robust effort to address policy issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We even welcomed a couple of new members to the SA family, the Nova Scotia Community College and Université Sainte-Anne.

As a regional organization with limited resources, SA conducts its business virtually, so when the pandemic essentially shut down inter-provincial travel, it had very little effect on the business side of our organization. Board meetings and Executive meetings continued virtually during the pandemic as they did pre-pandemic. In fact, faculty members used our online communication systems more than they had before the pandemic to interact with colleagues at other institutions. During my first year in the office as Chair, one of my guiding principles has been governance and engagement. Does our current governance structure work for us? On the engagement side of things, how can Science Atlantic better engage with the Institutional Representatives? We have drafted an MOU to initiate a discussion on the values of SA. Further, I have talked to many institutional representatives over this past year informing them of what SA has done recently, and what can we do for them in the foreseeable future. If you have not received your phone call yet, it is coming. As well, we have worked with a human resources volunteer to present, for your approval, revised bylaws to better serve the organization, and we have recently instituted a Finance Committee which is mandated to review the finances of SA and to explore options for other sources of income.

Nothing is accomplished without the dedicated staff in the “virtual” office. Our core staff of Lois and Michelle support all our activities and supervise the plethora of student interns. For all that they do, I formally thank them here.

One area in which the pandemic had a significant effect was on the support we provide for conference organizers. As many disciplines transitioned to online virtual conferences, there were many questions on the logistics of hosting these events. Staff were overwhelmed with the necessary hours required to help faculty and students host the best virtual conferences that they could. Fortunately, during the pandemic, various governmental organizations provided increased funding in support of training opportunities for students. SA took full advantage of these opportunities, hiring a total of nine students for one or more terms.

Thank you for your ongoing support during this period of transformation, a transformation that was on the horizon but sped up by the circumstances of 2020 and 2021. The current strategic plan is coming to an end and it is now time to start the discussions for our next strategic plan. It is you, the Institutional Representatives, who have a tremendous opportunity to direct SA on what we do next. I look forward to mapping the course with you.

Robert van den Hoogen
Chair, Science Atlantic



Executive Director's Report

2020-21 has been a productive, albeit unusual, year. When half of our regular student conferences were cancelled due to the pandemic, we used the time to interview faculty not currently served by Science Atlantic. We wanted to understand what leads to educator role satisfaction, how these experiences can be improved, and why faculty volunteer and take part in associations. Led by Program and Membership Support Officer Michelle McPherson, analysis of the data has led to new activities in 2021, including webinars for faculty, a series on young faculty in the region, and the release of our first research report in 20 years, "Broadening Horizons: Understanding the Faculty Experience in Atlantic Canada" (<https://sciatl.org/broadening-horizons-final-report>).

As a companion to this project, the Broadening Horizons Info Hub (<https://sciatl.org/BHInfoHub>) was launched in 2021 to announce upcoming events, publicize ways to get involved, and communicate actions and findings from the Broadening Horizons research project, with more activities planned for 2022.

Thanks to an engaged Board and a large cohort of student employees, we have been able to make the past year a period of growth. With the support of a record 11 students, members and staff have worked together to increase engagement across most areas of the organization: establishing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Committee, supporting the newly active Division Chairs Committee, and assisting virtual conference organizers. English, psychology, and entrepreneurship students helped a master's student with an important organizational change project and coordinated discussions on the value of Science Atlantic, and a human resources student led the Board through the evaluation of the position of Executive Director and a full review of Science Atlantic's by-laws. Our redesigned accessible website, revitalized social media, and rebranding were carried out by business, public relations, graphic design, and science students.

We also developed a new Division committee member onboarding and renewal process and new Board orientation materials and the Board Chair and I contacted all new and returning Institutional Representatives to discuss how Science Atlantic can better support them. And all this was in addition to supporting a full complement of online student conferences in 2020-21!

Thank you to the many people who have taken part in these activities, and thank you in particular to student employees Emma Cole (Acadia), Taylor Conrad (NSCC), Rita Dolzan (Concordia), Ben Dornan (Dal), Maria Hamilton (York), Richard Inkpen (SMU), Paula Nalbaru (MSVU), Valerie Schagen (UGuelph), Shruti Sharma (SMU), Taylor Van Stiphout (Dal), and Shanley Weston (SMU) who were supported by approximately \$80,000 in employment subsidies (approximately one-third of our total budget) and partnered with educators across Canada to provide work integrated learning opportunities. Thanks to our funding and partner organizations: Employment and Social Development Canada, NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Riipen, Technation, Venture for Canada, and the co-op offices at Acadia University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Saint Mary's University.

I look forward to building on these activities in 2022!



Division Committee Reports

Aquaculture and Fisheries

Conference

Cape Breton University hosted the virtual 2021 Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology (AFB) Conference 12-14 March 2021.

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 2020-21. 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
 - Because the conference was virtual, 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 A&F holding account funds this fiscal year; funds remain the same as 2020. The A&F holding account typically is used to support the AFB conference if/when the AFB conference requires more funding. This year, the AFB holding account took in sponsor funds and registration fees about equal to what was spent at the conference. Therefore, only a small decrease in holding account funds was realized.
- Recently Jillian Westcott stepped down as the Memorial/Marine Institute representative and executive committee secretary. A replacement will be sought.

Other activities and projects

- Trevor has been involved with the SA Customer Discovery Project ("Broadening Horizons") headed by Lois and Michelle. We have had several meetings over this year and finalized some reports and materials for distribution.
- Trevor has also been asked to serve as the Chair of the Conference Oversight Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Trevor Avery
Committee Chair



Biology

Conference

Cape Breton University hosted the 2021 Science Atlantic Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology (SA AFB) March 12 to March 14. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the conference was delivered completely online using the Whova conference platform (<https://whova.com/>) with Zoom and MS Teams integration. A registration fee of \$25 was charged to cover costs associated with the Whova platform in addition to costs related to tech support (provided by Science Atlantic staff) for the preparation and running of the online conference.

A total of 122 participants registered for and attended (virtually) the conference. These included 20 faculty and 102 students. Two plenary speakers (Dr. Yolanda Wiersma and Dr. Jeff Clements) and 80 students presented at the 2021 SA AFB conference. Eighteen students did live oral presentations in the Biology session and 19 students presented live in the concurrent Aquaculture & Fisheries session. Videos of all presentations were posted after the students presented to allow people to watch presentations outside of live session time. Forty-four students presented posters in the Biology poster session hosted in live interactive MS Teams sessions that were embedded into the Whova conference website. Eighteen of the posters were entered as judged and 26 were non-judged. Cash awards were given for the top three undergraduate oral presentations in Biology and in Aquaculture & Fisheries. Awards were also given for top three Aquaculture & Fisheries graduate student oral presentations. The top three undergraduate Biology posters were also awarded cash prizes. A total of \$3000 was given out in prize money.

Several informal networking events were also hosted on the Whova conference platform during the 2021 SA AFB conference. These included an online trivia night for students and an informal online discussion/mixer for faculty and students that took place after the Aquaculture plenary session on the first night of the conference.

The Abstract Book for the conference is posted on the Science Atlantic website (<https://scienceatlantic.ca/wp-content/uploads/SAFB-2021-ABSTRACT-BOOK.pdf>).

Committee Business

The Biology Committee's regular fall business meeting was held virtually on November 19, 2021. The meeting was attended by 12 individuals from Atlantic Canada universities. Russell Easy (Acadia) is serving in his third year as Chair of the Committee. New representatives are Tamara Rodela (StFX), Craig Purchase (Memorial), Anne-Marie Dion (Universite de Moncton), Niconar Gonzalez (Dalhousie-Halifax) and Lori Borgal (MSVU).

The meeting began with an introduction of new members followed by a discussion of how we are moving forward with the 2022 conference given the necessary COVID-19 restrictions. Stevan Springer of UPEI is the lead for Science Atlantic 2022. Discussions are ongoing whether we will hold an in person or virtual conference. The general consensus is that an in-person conference is preferable but of course reality speaking we will have to do what public health guidelines recommend. Thus, we are currently exploring all options and virtual conference platforms that we can use should we need to stage a digital event. Similar to last year several ideas were presented including online activities to engage students with a thought to what worked for the digital



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conference hosted by CBU in March 2021. Activities would include ice breaking events and quizzes to make the conference interesting and perhaps challenging for participants.

We discussed Academics in the time of COVID and strategies that we have all used to teach during a pandemic. It was not surprising to note that we all have similar challenges; however, how we coped with these challenges was very interesting to explore. Any of the lessons learned through COVID will not be forgotten though we did agree that not all lessons were negative. As a group we agreed that it is important to learn from the adaptations we have had to make through COVID.

Our second topic of discussion explored experiential learning at Atlantic universities. Several faculty members shared their experiences of offering courses to students that would provide a hands-on approach to learning. We also recalled field courses that have either been limited in enrollment or have been cancelled over the years including courses that were once offered at Huntsman Marine in St. Andrews, NB. Certainly, there have been many 'adjustments' made in regard to COVID; however, the general consensus is that field courses provide an exceedingly positive experience to university students and efforts should be made to re-introduce those field courses that have been eliminated and perhaps develop new field courses.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Easy
Committee Chair

Chemistry

Conference

CHEMCON 2021 at Mount Allison University proceeded virtually due to COVID-19. The conference was hosted on Whova and was well attended (see table below). The conference included student oral and poster presentations, keynote speakers, panels and a virtual trivia event. StFX will host CHEMCON 2022.

Attendee Type	Number
Undergraduates giving talks	20
Undergraduates giving posters	18
Graduate students giving talks	18
Graduate students giving posters	5
Faculty	34
Faculty/students - out of region	13
Other: instructors	2
Other Industry	6
Total Number of Attendees:	165



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Speaker Tour

2020-21 Speakers:

There was no scheduled Speaker Tour for 2020-21.

2021-22 Speakers:

Dr. Cherif Matta of Mount Saint Vincent University will present his talk at MtA, STFX, and MUN. Dr. Christina Bottaro of MUN will present her talk. Details are currently being worked out.

Committee Business

The executive of the Chemistry Committee consists of Dr. Danielle Tokarz (SMU, currently in first year in position) as Chair, Dr. Brian J. MacLean (StFX, currently in first year in position) as Vice-Chair and Dr. Glen Briand (MtA, currently in first year in position) as Tour Coordinator. We thank Dr. Mel Schriver (Crandall University) for his extended term as Chair and Dr. Aaron Kelly for his term as Tour Coordinator.

The Committee has an annual meeting held in conjunction with the Science Atlantic Chemistry Conference typically held in the late spring with an optional autumn meeting held at the request of the Committee. This year the annual meeting was held May 21, 2021 via Zoom with representatives of 13 member institutions attending. The Committee meeting was dominated by discussions regarding the impact of the pandemic on the scheduling and format of the student Chemistry conference. With the guidance of the Science Atlantic staff, Whova was chosen to host the online conference. The efforts of the Mount Allison Chemistry Department faculty and students in organizing and preparing for ChemCon2020 (cancelled due to the pandemic) and ChemCon2021 were appreciated and recognized. At the time of the meeting there were 165 registrations for ChemCon 2021 with 64 student presenters. Sponsors included Biovectra, Agilent, CIC Maritimes, CIC NL, Science Atlantic Chemistry Committee and MtA. Grad booths included the following universities: McGill, Dal, MUN, UNB, Victoria, and Saskatchewan. The award sponsors included CIC Inorganic, CIC Organic, CIC Analytical, CIC Materials, CATC, and Science Atlantic.

The Chemistry Holding Account was about ~\$2700.00 over the maximum amount at the end of the fiscal year. This amount has been transferred to Science Atlantic. StFX, the host institution of ChemCon2022, is currently deliberating applying to Science Atlantic for a portion of this money to enhance ChemCon by hosting a diversity panel.

The Chair encouraged a discussion around creating a rotation of host departments for ChemCon and eliminating the current process of selecting the next two hosts by vote at the Conference banquet. There seemed to be a consensus that the most egalitarian option of a ten-host rotation might be the only fair option for all the hosts; however, this still needs further discussion which is planned for the next committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Tokarz
Committee Chair



Computer Science

Conference

MSCS 20121 was held October 22-24, 2021 virtually/online at St. Francis Xavier University.

Undergraduate registrations	87
Graduate Registrations	3
Faculty Registrations	141
Plenary Speakers	4
Total registrations	231
Abstracts Submitted/Accepted	22
Math Teams:	19 (26 competitors)
CS Teams:	12 (34 competitors)

The Sedgwick Lecture (CS) was given by Dr. Benjamin Haibe-Kains “The Hard Path to Transparency and Reproducibility in Cancer Bioinformatics ”. The Blundon Lecture (Math) was given by Dr. Caroline Colijn “COVID-19 modelling and applications in the pandemic”. The Fields Lecture (Statistics) was given by Dr. Luke Bornn, and the Industry Lecture was given by Dr. Nithum Thain “Machine Learning Fairness”.

Committee Business

The Chair position was held by Owen Kaser (UNB-SJ), who informed us that he was unable to continue in this position as he expects to retire before the end of the next term. Owen Kaser chaired the meeting. Cezar Câmpeanu offered to take over the Chair position and was elected by acclamation. Liam Keliher (MtA) offered to continue to be secretary of the CS Committee and was elected by acclamation.

At the joint CS/Math/Stats meeting, MtA accepted being host for the 2022 conference. It was suggested to avoid a scheduling conflict with IEEEExtreme.

The programming competition, held as part of MSCS, is no longer part of the ICPC programming competition. The MSCS contest provides an excellent opportunity to practice and prepare our teams for the first round of the ICPC NENA competition.

Liam Keliher suggested getting another plaque for the top Atlantic Canadian team at NENA; the cost would be less than \$100.

Respectfully submitted,
Cezar Câmpeanu
Committee Chair



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Earth Science

Conference

AUGC 2021 was held at SMU on November 6th. It was a hybrid conference with presentations and posters done remotely. Social events, including remote viewing of the presentations, were done at the SMU student union building. The winner of the Science Atlantic Best Paper Award was Kathleen Clark of Dalhousie University. To date, no report from the organizing committee has been received.

Speaker Tour

Organized by Atlantic Geoscience Society. Currently finding a speaker for this coming year.

Committee Business

Due to the pandemic, a committee meeting has not been held in 18 months. The chair is presently getting in touch with each individual member of the committee.

Other Activities and Projects

AUGC will be held at Acadia next year. The AGS Colloquium, which hosts many papers from our student body, will be held in person in February in Fredericton.

Respectfully submitted,
Lexi Arnott
Committee Chair

Environment

Conference

Cape Breton University and the University of New Brunswick-Fredericton co-hosted the 2021 SAEC Conference event (13 March, 2021). It was held virtually using MS Teams for delivery and FourWaves for the registration and landing page for the conference, with over 60 participants.

- 35 abstracts submitted
- 22 regular student talks; 16 undergraduate/6 graduate
- 6 Pecha Kucha presentations; 1 undergraduate/6 graduate
- 7 posters; 5 undergraduate/2 graduate

Committee business

The SAEC has not met as a committee in 2021. The focus was on delivering a successful 2021 conference.

Other activities and projects

Discussions will begin with the full committee in early December around the 2022 SAEC conference and how the committee can help support Dalhousie University when they host it.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Gray
Committee Chair



Mathematics and Statistics

Conference

The MSCS conference was held virtually, October 22-24, 2021. The conference was hosted by St. Francis Xavier University and organized by Stephen Finbow, Milton King, Darien DeWolf and Derrick Lee. There were 231 total registrants.

The conference featured four plenary talks:

- Blundon Lecture: Dr. Caroline Colijn (Simon Fraser University), COVID-19 modelling and applications in the pandemic.
- Sedgwick Lecture: Dr. Benjamin Haibe-Kains (Princess Margaret Cancer Centre), The hard path to transparency and reproducibility in cancer bioinformatics.
- Fields Lecture: Dr. Luke Bornn (Zelus Analytics)
- Industry Lecture: Dr. Nithum Thain (Google), Machine Learning Fairness

The student talks were of high quality. There were 18 undergraduate student talks (nine in mathematics, two in statistics and seven in computer science) and four contributed talks (three graduate students and one faculty).

As usual, the conference featured problem-solving (mathematics) and programming (computer science) competitions. There were 19 teams (comprising 26 competitors) in the problem-solving competition; students wrote the competition at their home campus. The programming competition included 12 teams (comprising 34 competitors).

The 2022 MSCS conference will be hosted by Mount Allison University.

Committee business

- Executive membership
 - Chair: Andrea Burgess (University of New Brunswick, Saint John)
 - Vice-chair: Caroline Cochran (Acadia University)
 - Secretary: Scott Rodney (Cape Breton University)
- Annual/semi-annual meeting highlights
 - The Mathematics & Statistics and Computer Science committees held joint meetings on June 2, 2021 and October 22, 2021. The focus of the June meeting was to decide on the format of the 2021 MSCS conference, while the October meeting featured reports from the 2020 and 2021 MSCS organizers and discussion of future conference scheduling.

The Mathematics and Statistics committee met on October 22, 2021. The committee shared news from the various departments represented and discussed ideas for use of the W.J. Blundon fund. The committee is interested in exploring the possibility of holding a second problem-solving competition.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Burgess
Committee Chair



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Nutrition and Foods

Conference

Dates: April 26–27, 2021 (virtual)

Hosted by St. Francis Xavier University, Department of Human Nutrition

Faculty Chair: Marcia English

Student Co-Chairs: BSc Candidates: Megan Kis, Cayla Olynyk, and Chantel Yakimets; MSc

Candidate: Kristen Stevens

Student Volunteers: Fiona Amos, StFX, Hannah Donaldson, StFX, Megan Kis, StFX, Brigid McKay, StFX, Cayla Olynyk, StFX, Marley Sampson, StFX, Kristen Stevens, StFX, Chantel Yakimets, StFX, Louis-Espérance Bene, Université de Moncton

Note: This was the first year hosting the conference virtually via Zoom, and the event was well received with high student engagement from most of the participating institutions. The conference website was set up using the platform Fourwaves, which allowed for a smooth registration and abstract submission process. Total number of attendees: 56.

Committee Business

Executive and committee membership 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, except where indicated

- Edward Barre, Cape Breton University
- Sukhinder Cheema, Memorial University
- Marcia English, Saint Francis Xavier University
- Sarah Finch, University of Prince Edward Island (2020-2021)
- Shannan Grant, Mount Saint Vincent University
- Matthew McSweeney, Acadia University
- Shyamchand Mayengbam, Memorial University (2021-2022)
- Vasantha Rupasinghe, Dalhousie University
- Jennifer Taylor, University of Prince Edward Island
- Carole C. Tranchant, Université de Moncton

2021-2022 Co-Chairs: Carole C. Tranchant (2nd term) and Shyamchand Mayengbam (first term)

2020-2021 Co-Chairs: Shannan Grant (2nd term) and Carole C. Tranchant (first term)

2022 Conference Chair: Matthew McSweeney, Acadia University (tentative)

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 2019 Inaugural Conference at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), 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).



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- ✓ 2020 UPEI 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”.
- ✓ The 2019, 2020 and 2021 conferences spotlighted science projects completed by Indigenous students and scholars.
- ✓ At the 2021 Conference, hosted virtually by StFX under the leadership of Dr. Marcia English, three keynote speakers, Dr. Ann Fox, Kara Pictou, B.Sc.N., and Renée Bujold, P.Dt., M.A. candidate, presented the Land2Lab Project, “Can traditional knowledge and technology come together to engage Mi’kmaq youth in land-based learning?”
- ✓ The 2022 Conference will build on our previous accomplishments.

Goal 2: To Offer a Bilingual Conference

- ✓ Work towards offering a completely bilingual conference/program:
 - Year 1 – 2019 MSVU: Marketing materials created in English and French; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including Université de Moncton (francophone university); Bilingual logo for the Nutrition and Foods Division created by students.
 - Year 2 – 2020 UPEI: Marketing materials, including conference website, available in both official languages; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including Université de Moncton; Abstracts accepted in English and French; Francophone keynote speaker.
 - Year 3 – 2021 StFX: Marketing materials, including conference website, available in both official languages; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including Université de Moncton; Abstracts accepted in English and French; Presentations in both English and French; Francophone keynote speaker; Moderation package developed in English and French; Bilingual logo for the SANF Conference created with the assistance of Lois Whitehead, representing Science Atlantic.
 - Year 4 – 2022: Build on our previous accomplishments.

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), both in food sciences and nutritional sciences.
- ✓ 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 – 2019: 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.



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- ✓ Year 2 – 2020: Experiential learning capstone project, FN 4340 Community Nutrition at UPEI: under the direction of Dr. J Taylor, students were appointed co-chairs, met weekly and planned, implemented, and evaluated the conference.
- ✓ Year 4 – 2022: The committee will explore possibilities of creating course-based opportunities for students.

Goal 5: To Actively Support and Promote Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Through Our Activities, Including the Student Conference

- ✓ Since our inaugural conference in 2019, the SANF division has fared quite well in terms of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We will build on our past accomplishments to advance the EDI vision of Science Atlantic.

Uses of Holding Account Funds

The Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee account has finished the year end (August 2021) with reserve funds (Table 1, page 4).

A total of \$3,515.36 will be available to Acadia University for the 2022 SANF Conference. Sponsors of St Francis Xavier University and Acadia University funds will be acknowledged on all 2022 marketing materials and conference materials.

Other Activities and Projects

Since the 2021 Conference, there has been one remote meeting of the Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee. At this meeting, the 2021 report and holding account were reviewed and subsequently approved.

A tentative meeting has been set for December 2021 to firm up details regarding the 2022 Conference.

Student representatives have not yet been secured. This will be discussed at the December 2021 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Tranchant
Committee Chair

Physics and Astronomy

Conference

The 40th annual Atlantic Undergraduate Physics and Astronomy Conference was held virtually February 5 – 7, 2021, very ably hosted by Dalhousie University. The conference was well-attended, with a little over 100 registrations, roughly the same number who typically attended when it was held in person. Eighteen students gave oral presentations and there were nine posters. The quality of the student presentations was excellent, but the number was down relative to the last few years. It is not clear if this was due to the online format, or if COVID restrictions had made it more



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difficult for undergraduates to participate in research, so that fewer students had results they could talk about.

There was a Graduate School Fair, social events and networking opportunities, and panel discussions on “What to do with a physics degree beyond research?” and “Who belongs in physics and who doesn’t? A discussion about inclusion, outreach and teaching practice”.

Invited speakers were Jocelyn Bell Burnell (Oxford) who discovered pulsars in 1967, Jeff Dahn (NSERC/Tesla Canada Industrial Research Chair at Dalhousie) and John Dutcher (Canada Research Chair in Soft Matter and Biological Physics at the University of Guelph.) A fourth invited speaker failed to appear for some reason. This was the only significant hitch in the entire conference.

The Committee thanks the conference organizers for a very difficult job well done!

After the conference there was an email discussion about the name of the conference, which has occasionally also been referred to as the Atlantic Universities Physics and Astronomy Conference. It was confirmed that the correct name is Atlantic Undergraduate Physics and Astronomy Conference, and the new Science Atlantic conference logos include this correct name.

AUPAC 2022 will be hosted by U. de Moncton. The usual date is the first weekend in February, but this has not yet been confirmed.

Speaker Tour

Our lecture tour coordinator this year is Carl Adams (St FX). Many thanks to outgoing tour coordinator Ted Monchesky (Dal).

For many years, our committee has partnered with the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) in the organization of the Atlantic portion of the CAP national lecture tour. The lectures are generally held in February to April. The main target audience is undergraduates in Physics, but the talks are also of interest to graduate students and faculty, as a way to keep informed about interesting developments outside of their own specialties.

2020-2021 Speaker Tour:

The 2021 CAP Lecture Tour was held virtually because of the pandemic. The talks were accessible to audiences all across Canada. Andrew Rutenberg (Dal) represented the Atlantic region with a talk entitled “The Physics of Aging and Death”. For more information on the 2021 tour see <https://www.cap.ca/programs/cap-lecture-tour/2021-lecture-tour/>.

2021-2022 Speaker Tour:

According to the CAP web site “the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) Undergraduate Lectures will be offered in a hybrid format from the end of January (2022) to the end of March (about one talk per week). Following a selection process based on input from undergraduate students from CAP member departments, six physicists from across the country will be chosen to present their lecture at one host institution within each of the six CAP regions. The talks will be streamed live to CAP’s YouTube channel (CAPHys) in order to ensure easy access to all.” As of



early November, the CAP has received several speaker nominations, including at least two from our region. The speakers, host institutions, and dates have not yet been chosen.

Committee business

- The Committee met virtually during AUPAC 2021 and conducted the necessary business of selecting the site for AUPAC 2022.
- To reduce the need for the Committee Chair to travel to the Science Atlantic Annual Members' Meeting, the Committee had previously decided to try having a rotating Chair, the Chair for a given year being the member from the university hosting the Annual Meeting that year. The 2020 meeting was scheduled to be at UPEI, although because of the pandemic it was held virtually. This made Doug Dahn the Chair that year. The 2021 Annual Meeting is also virtual with no host institution, so Doug agreed to stay on for this year. He will be retiring in 2022, so it is hoped a new Chair can be selected at the February 2022 Committee meeting held in conjunction with AUPAC.
- Possible uses for funds accumulating in the Committee holding account were discussed, including new AUPAC awards and funding for student travel, especially to and from Newfoundland. A subcommittee was formed to develop a proposal to bring back to the Committee.
- A discussion on what Science Atlantic could do to be more effective and engaging led to a suggestion of regional workshops or conferences on topics related to science teaching, for example, best practices for online labs and exams. Another idea was to help coordinate sharing online courses. It was agreed, however, that AUPAC and the other undergraduate conferences should continue to be job #1.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Dahn
Committee Chair

Psychology

Conference

Dr. Kelly Warren of the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University organised the first ever online conference for the Psychology Committee of Science Atlantic. Needless to say this was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event took place on Friday, May 7, 2021 through Whova and Zoom. The attendance was in keeping with previous conferences (n=104). One distinctive feature of the conference was a dedicated attempt to stir student participation through prizes. All committee members participated in the organisation of the conference in one way or another; the conference in the end was more of a team effort than what is usually done to compensate for the lack of student contact during the year.

Committee business

- Several virtual meetings and emails were exchanged throughout the academic year to organize the conference. We held two (both on-line) meetings post conference:
 - An adjudication meeting on May 12th, 2021
 - A feedback meeting on the conference on May 26th, 2021



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- Among the 10 ideas retained for future conferences, there were:
 - Keep stimulating students' participation
 - Keep presentations short
 - Allow virtual presentations, etc.
- The next conferences will be organised by
 - Saint Francis Xavier University in 2022
 - Mount Saint Vincent University in 2023
- The committee extended an invitation to organise the conference to the University of Prince Edward Island in 2024.
- We used the Holding Account funds to cover the conference budget for this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre Cormier
Committee Chair



Action Committee Reports

Division Committee Chairs

Committee business

The Division Committee Chairs committee is intended to facilitate regular meetings of the group of division committee chairs. This committee acts as a venue for the chairs to discuss common issues, and also provides a conduit between the division committee chairs and the Board.

The group met in July and October 2021. During the July meeting, the chairs discussed ideas related to orientation/information material for division committee chairs; this led to the Chair InfoHub project described in the activities and projects section below. As part of this project, the chairs considered questions related to our roles and responsibilities, as well as our position in the broader Science Atlantic organization.

The switch to online conferences due to the pandemic has led to both challenges and opportunities. The chairs group has discussed the impact of virtual conferences, both positive (including increased attendance opportunities, the ability to bring in international speakers, and opportunities for co-hosting) and negative (including less socialization and networking, and additional organizational work). We are interested in exploring what we have learned from the experience of virtual conferences and how we can capitalize on these lessons moving forward.

Activities and projects

With the assistance of student employee Emma Cole, a Chair InfoHub webpage, which will be a reference page for chairs, is under development. This webpage gathers together information and links on topics including the chairs' role and position in Science Atlantic, policies and divisions. A draft page has been shared with the chairs' group for feedback.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Burgess
Committee Chair

Conference Oversight

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 focused their efforts on understanding how to create engaging online events. Research was conducted into various virtual conferencing platforms. A comparison matrix was compiled as well as a list of pros and cons for each service. This matrix was shared with all 2020-2021 organizers to facilitate decision making as it related to selecting a virtual conferencing platform.

In the fall of 2020, it became clear that many conference organizers were looking for additional support in planning their virtual conferences. To accommodate the organizers, Science Atlantic offered optional supplementary support services at an hourly rate. A total of 350 hours of supplementary support was provided by Science Atlantic staff for the 2020-2021 virtual conferences, amounting to approximately \$9500. Income was generated for cost recovery



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purposes; the majority of the funds were used to extend Richard Inkpen's position. Some funds were used to offset Michelle's time spent on conferences outside her part-time hours.

841 faculty, students and professionals attended a virtual Science Atlantic conference in 2020-2021. All together, our 2020-2021 conferences hosted:

- 358 Student Presentations
- 17 Keynote Speakers
- 6 Panel Discussions
- 6 Virtual Social Events
- 2 Grad Fairs

107 awards were given to top students for their scholarly excellence.

In post conference surveys (issued for six of the eight annual conferences), 90% of survey respondents felt their conference was a great learning experience and 80% of respondents thought the conference made them feel like part of a community. The majority of respondents also indicated that virtual conferences were easier to attend and made more effective use of their time when compared to in-person events. Even though many attendees expressed preference for in-person conferences, there are clear benefits to virtual conferences.

Please review our full [conference season report](#) for more details.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle McPherson
Program and Membership Support Officer

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Science Atlantic Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Committee was formed this year following a call for nominations last spring. The committee was formed as part of the Broadening Horizons initiative, in order to address gaps within Science Atlantic and the communities we serve, and includes representatives from several regional universities and other organizations.

The committee has been working on developing its terms of reference and a framework for working with the Divisions to ensure that EDI is considered in all of the work of Science Atlantic. Our work plan includes a review of Science Atlantic policies and procedures and developing resources to support the subject divisions and conference chairs in addressing EDI in their work.

Members of the EDI Action Committee will be hosting a workshop on Embedding EDI in SA Conferences on November 26 as part of the Annual Leadership meeting. We invite everyone who is interested in making the work of Science Atlantic more inclusive to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Nola Etkin
Committee Chair



Strategic Planning Report

Sustainable and Inclusive Governance:

- Welcomed **two new Member Institutions** to Science Atlantic's membership
- Worked with HR volunteer on **Board development project**
- Implemented a **welcome process** for new Institutional Representatives
- Continued developing the "**Member Journey**" to welcome and orient new Science Atlantic members
- Created a **Finance Committee** to discuss finances and alternate sources of funding

Partnerships and Community:

- Launched **Broadening Horizons Info Hub** on the Science Atlantic website
- Launched an **EDI Action Committee** and drafted a Terms of Reference
- Organized two faculty **discussion panels** on the value of service
- **Surveyed** our Institutional Representatives to gauge interest in a number of topics
- Planned 60th anniversary celebrations at Member Institutions

Leadership and Empowerment:

- Revisited the member and alumni **Hall of Fame** program
- Engaged in a **Human Systems Intervention** project with consultant to better understand and motivate our membership
- Held "**Value Proposition**" **discussion sessions** about the value of Science Atlantic
- Updated Holding Account policies and created a process through which members can apply for **Special Projects Funding**
- Recruited additional **Strategic Planning Committee members** to represent faculty and conference issues



2021-2022 Budget

	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Budget
INCOME		
Membership Fees	153,250	163,000
Employment Grants	78,572	13,384
Conference Income	9,707	5,100
Miscellaneous Income	4,070	5,000
Donations	1,280	1,500
Investment Income	3,569	5,400
AFRED`	510	0
TOTAL INCOME	\$250,958	\$193,384
EXPENSES		
Committee Programs	820	3,400
Insurance	805	900
Office and Web	7,144	15,550
Professional Fees	24,133	16,000
Student Awards`	5,200	5,900
Travel and Meetings	174	2,000
Volunteer Recognition	0	1,000
60th Anniversary	0	1,000
Strategic Projects	4,000	2,000
Wages and Benefits	201,930	149,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$244,206	\$196,750
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$6,752	-\$3,366



2021-22 Proposed Slate of Board Directors

** Names in bold identify nominated or reoffering Directors

Executive

- Chair: Robert van den Hoogen, St FX (continuing to November 2022)
- **Nominated - Incoming Chair: Michele Piercey-Normore, MUN-Grenfell (nominated to November 2022)**
- **Nominated - Treasurer: David Gray, Dal-Ag (nominated to November 2023)**

Directors-at-Large, Institutional Representatives

- Travis Fridgen, Memorial (continuing to November 2022)
- **Reoffering - Alain Joseph, NSCC (to November 2023)**
- **Offering - Lori Francis, SMU (to November 2023)**

Directors-at-Large, Division Representatives

- Andrea Burgess, UNB-SJ, Science Atlantic Math & Stats Chair (continuing to November 2022)
- **Nominated - Carole Tranchant, UdeM, Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods co-Chair (to November 2023)**
- 1 vacancy

Directors-at-Large, Community Member

- Edward (Eddie) Francis, PEI Bioalliance (continuing to November 2022)
- Kelly Schnare, Reimagining Atlantic Harbours (continuing to November 2022)