



150 years from *Normal*

Education Insider

April 2008

- Congratulations to **Dr. Roy Lyster** who has been promoted to full professorship.
- We would like to welcome three new additions to the Faculty. **Arwen Fleming** joins us as the Graduate Program Coordinator in DISE; **Sheilah McCulley** as the Program Assistant, FNIE and **Mary Kate Wallbridge**, the Graduate Program Advisor in DISE.
- **Dr. Steve Jordan** and **Dr. Aziz Choudry** of DISE have been part of the research team on the recently concluded project “Learning to Labour in Canada: Rights and Organizing Strategies”. Led by Dr. Eric Shragge of Concordia University, in partnership with the Immigrant Workers Centre (Montreal), this project was part of the CTI-INE SSHRC grant “The Changing Nature of Work and Lifelong Learning in the New Economy: National and Case Study Perspectives”. Fernwood Publishing has accepted a proposal for a book arising from the research, and a co-authored journal article (Baltodano, C., Choudrey, A., Hanley, J., Jordan, S., Shragge, E., and Stiegman, M. “Becoming an Immigrant Worker: Learning in Everyday Life”) is forthcoming in a special issue of the Canadian Journal for the Study of Adult Education.
- **Dr. Claudia Mitchell** is a key player in a major project funded by CIDA. McGill University in partnership with the lead institution, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, will work with its Ethiopian counterpart, Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (JUCAVM), to strengthen its research, training, outreach, and other activities aimed at improving the country’s systems of handling, storing, processing, and marketing agricultural products. The project “Post-harvest management to improve livelihoods” includes creating a network of 30 university, industry, government and community groups with expertise and interest in these issues.

An official announcement was made on behalf of Canada’s Minister of International Cooperation in Truro earlier this year. “In Ethiopia there is as much as a 60 percent loss in vegetables and fruits after harvest,” said Dr. Tessema Astatkie, Professor of Statistics and Director of the project, NSAC. “If we can reduce the loss between harvest and consumption by 50 percent, it will mean more food on the table and more money for the farmers, as well as helping to reduce poverty.” More than 70 per cent of the postharvest work is carried out by women. With a budget of \$4.65

million, the project will contribute to the country's agricultural planning and policy development capabilities. The project includes training, curriculum development, community outreach and policy. Faculty members in FAES at MacDonald College led by Dr. Hosahalli S Ramaswamy will contribute to the various components of the project, along with **Dr. Claudia Mitchell**, a James McGill Professor, who will coordinate cross-cutting themes on gender and HIV and AIDS within the project.

The project is funded by the University Partnerships in Cooperation and Development Program (UPCD) of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Under that Program, Canadian universities work with organizations in developing countries to increase their ability to meet local human resource and development needs.

- **Professor Catherine Guastavino** (School of Information Studies) and colleagues will be receiving the 2008 European Acoustics Association (EAA) award for outstanding scientific results recently published in *Acta Acustica united with Acustica* for their paper "Ecological validity of soundscape reproduction" (2005, v.91). The award ceremony will take place in Paris in July at the Acoustics '08 Conference.

- On March 13, 2008, The Paulo and Nita Freire International Project for Critical Pedagogy was launched in the Project's new offices in 103 and 132 of the Faculty of Education. Flying in from Brazil, Spain, The US, and Canada, were over 50 members of boards for the Freire Project. The Project was conceived by **Dr. Joe Kincheloe**, Canada Research Chair of Critical Pedagogy (DISE), in 2006 and funded by Kincheloe's large grant from the CFI. The project houses state-of-the-art filming, editing, and digitizing equipment for archival preservation and film making by professors and graduate students engaged in the work of critical pedagogy.

Paulo Freire is arguably the greatest educational influence of the past six decades. A grassroots teacher/principal/minister of education, Freire was imprisoned for his socially just ideology and emancipatory curriculum. Known probably best for "The Pedagogy of the Oppressed," Nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, and the recipient of over 30 honorary doctorates, Freire's work continues to influence educators and community workers all over the world. Dr. Nita Freire has dedicated her life to extending the reach and pedagogy of Freire in her work as both a scholar and ambassador of critical pedagogy. At her keynote address to McGill on March 13, Freire donated many papers, books, and personal items of Paulo Freire to the McGill Freire Project. Among the artifacts were Paulo's personal glasses, a journal from 1947, books, an honorary doctoral degree, and letters including a letter from the President of Brazil congratulating Dr. Kincheloe and McGill for the new project.



The Freire Project launch included a luncheon with entertainment by Montreal's Nomadic Massive, a keynote speech by Dr. Nita Freire with responses by Dr. Joe Kincheloe and Dr. Donald Macedo, and then sponsored Dr. Henry Giroux, Global Television Network Chair at McMaster University to kick off the EGSS Conference on March 14th with a keynote address.

- School of Information Studies MLIS student **Jennie Ferris** was chosen as one of the ten winners of McGill's Cut the Red Tape contest. Her entry brought attention to inefficiencies in the process of administering federal student loans at McGill.

For further information, see <http://www.mcgill.ca/redtape>

- **Renovations** will begin in the two buildings allocated to the Faculty at 3661 and 3751 Peel Street, in January 2009, with a completion date of May 2009.
- Under the direction of the Web Advisory Group, the **Faculty Website** will be overhauled in the next couple of months. Last year we began developing a new information architecture, which will be implemented on the new site.

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