



150 years from *Normal*

Education Insider

May 2008

- **Dr. Jamshid Beheshti's** appointment as Interim Dean has been extended to August 31, 2008. As well, **Dr. Spencer Boudreau** and **Dr. Elizabeth Wood's** terms as Associate Deans have also been extended to August 31, 2008. **Dr. Robert Bracewell's** appointment was already up to August 31, 2008.

The Faculty is pleased to announce that **Dr. Steve Jordan** has been re-appointed as Chair of DISE and **Dr. France Bouthillier** re-appointed as Director of SIS, each for another three-year term ending in 2011.

We take this opportunity to wish them all continued success with their portfolios.

- Congratulations to **Dr. Nancy Heath**, Department of Educational & Counselling Psychology, on her tremendous achievement on being promoted to the rank of full Professor, effective June 1, 2008.
 - The Faculty wishes to extend its congratulations to **Professors Kimiz Dalkir, Martin Drapeau, Michael Hoehsmann, Eun Park, and Shaheen Shariff**, who were all recently awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective June 1, 2008. I am sure all colleagues will join them in celebrating this important milestone in their academic career.
 - Colleagues and students will be disappointed (and probably surprised) to learn that **Dr. Ann Beer** is taking early retirement. Ann received a BA and a PhD from Oxford, an MA from the University of Toronto, and a Diploma in Education from McGill. She began to teach in the Faculty in 1985 as a faculty lecturer, secured a tenure-track position in 1988 and was granted tenure in 1995. Among Ann's many contributions to the work of the Faculty, a few stand out: she was Editor of the *MJE* (1999-2005), Faculty representative on the Comité d'agrément des programmes de formation à l'enseignement (CAPFE, 2000-06), and still serves on the Commission Secondaire of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation. Ann was also very active in the local Language Arts community, having been Program Chair of Springboards 2000 (Annual meeting of ATEQ – the Association of Teachers of English of Quebec), and the winner of ATEQ's 2003 John Gaw Award for leadership and service to English Language Arts in Quebec.
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Ann's scholarly interests are broad, and include literacy, literature, gender and education, autobiography, bilingualism, multilingualism, and indigenous studies. She has had regular research funding from SSHRC and other sources, including most recently as Principal Investigator on a

project to study multilingualism and children. She has published books, chapters, and articles on writing, multilingualism, literacy, and gender, and presented at conferences here in Canada and internationally.

Ann's greatest pleasure probably comes from teaching. She is a deeply committed, passionate, and well-loved teacher. In fact, she will continue to teach the Secondary English Methods courses in our B.Ed program for another year, while she moves toward full-time teaching at Champlain College. We express our gratitude to Ann for her rich contribution to McGill, and wish her the best of luck in her future work.

- **Professor Catherine Guastavino** has been appointed Associate Director Science and Technology Research at CIRMMT.
- **Journey's End – Journey's Start** was designed to mark the transition of our approximately 350 fourth year (and graduating) B.Ed students from undergraduate to professional educator. It takes place at the moment in their trajectory where they shed their identities as students and step into the world, eager to take on the personal, professional, and social responsibilities that come with their role as Teacher.

In the past, this transition was not recognized: Students completed their last semester at McGill with a final four weeks of student teaching and then left, with no opportunity to debrief or to mark the end of one journey and the start of another.

Students and faculty members recognized the need to address this, leading to the idea of the symbolically meaningful *Journey's End – Journey's Start*. This initiative brings students back to McGill in the spring for one last important learning experience, allowing them to reconnect as professionals. This initiative creates a space for essential intellectual "wrap-up" work, for professional development, for a shared experience of inspiration, and for the formal celebration of our students' transition.

The day began with a 90 minute debriefing with peers and faculty. Following this, students participated in four professional development workshops. The 2008 themes were:

- Pearls of Wisdom: New and Retired Teachers Speak Out
- You are Not Alone! Tapping into your Networks of Support
- Caring for Yourself: Teacher Well-being
- Your Future, your Union

The day culminated in two notable events. The first was a keynote address, given by Mark Kelley, CBC investigative journalist and author of the 'Seven' series. His perspectives on the relationship between school, society, and personal experience provided a challenging opportunity for students to consider their role and responsibilities from a very different vantage point. The event closed with a reception, where the students, McGill faculty, and the professional supervisors from the schools had an opportunity to celebrate this important transitional moment.

We have already received very positive feedback from our students.

I was at wrap up yesterday, and it was a wonderful experience. The guest speaker told memorable stories and reminded us of lessons and passionate messages that we may have forgotten over the last four years; it was very inspiring!

Our thanks go to Jamshid Beheshti, Spencer Boudreau and Elizabeth Wood for their support and participation.

- **Dr. Shirley Steinberg** has been named the 2008 Noted Scholar in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at The University of British Columbia this summer.
- **The mProject** is a media education initiative of St. George's High School and McGill University's Faculty of Education that explores learning and living in an era of media convergence in an effort to understand the role of new media and its impact on youth culture. This year, 30 high school students from St. George's participated in the project led by Giuliana Cucinelli, Photi Sotiropolous, St. George's Teacher Tammy Edson, and Dr. Michael Hoechsmann.

The mProject is a laboratory for evolving pedagogical practice and an extracurricular activity for the pioneering group of students. The longer term intention of the mProject is to develop curriculum for a core course in media education, whether at St. George's alone or for schools across Montreal. One of the main goals of the mProject is to have students grapple in the classroom with the use of user-friendly and ubiquitous Web 2.0 applications within a critical framework, to produce work, and then be able to critically think about the message, the medium and the experience. Together, the students and team members participate in bi-weekly media activities, which include podcasts, photography, video and film production, radio, media analysis, and much more. St. George's High School and McGill's Faculty of Education are building a unique new media program that will begin its next phase in September 2008. The team hopes to expand the mProject into an outreach program involving other Montreal schools.

For more information, and to see that work that has been produced by the students, please visit <http://www.mProject.ca>.

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