

Great Year in Physics—

StFX's Michael Steinitz named chair of 2005 Canadian committee

His official title may be chair of the Canadian organizing committee for the International Year of Physics, but Michael Steinitz sees himself more as a means to generate enthusiasm about physics.

"It seems to be a wonderful opportunity to encourage young people to go into science, and it's a good chance to get out there and do public relations (on physics)," says Dr. Steinitz, a longtime StFX physics professor who has been asked to lead Canada's celebrations during the World Year of Physics in 2005.

The UN has also endorsed 2005 as the International Year of Physics. Canada, along with other countries around the world, will celebrate with various events.

"The year 2005 was chosen because it's the 100th anniversary of (Albert) Einstein's big year," Dr. Steinitz said. "In 1905 he published three big papers, one of which got him the Nobel Prize.



StFX physics professor Dr. Michael Steinitz (left) is seen here this summer, in his former lab in the old sciences hall, with physics students Ryan Brennan of Antigonish, NS and Dave Hoffman of Lower Sackville, NS.

Obviously, he was one of the most important scientists that ever lived."

Einstein's three famous publications in physics from that year are on the theory of relativity, quantum theory, and the theory of brownian motion.

The Canadian committee has an exciting line-up of events.

Vancouver's Borealis String

Quartet will premiere a quartet that has been commissioned for the occasion. This top quartet will play the piece on June 5, 2005 at the 60th anniversary Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP), to be held at UBC. The piece is being written by a composer who is also a PhD candidate in physics.

Well-known physicist Clifford Will, who specializes in general relativity, will then deliver the congress's Herzberg lecture, entitled "Was Einstein Right?" – the same subject on which he has written a book. Dr. Will, "who gives a blockbuster lecture," will embark on a special tour to deliver this public lecture in 13 major centres across Canada, including Antigonish.

Other leading physicists will also travel Canada in 2005 on the CAP's annual lecture series.

Meanwhile, every physics department across the country is encouraged to have one of its members give a lecture on Einstein's legacy.

Dr. Steinitz, a former CAP president, says the Canadian organizers have also sent a demonstration kit to every physics department in Canada, encouraging them to take it into local schools to demonstrate the importance and fun of physics.

Wellspring Celebrates 10th Anniversary



Shown here enjoying time at Wellspring Centre are, l-r, Leanne Chisholm, Jen Abell and John Roderick.

Wellspring Centre will celebrate 10 years of service to the StFX community with an open house Friday, January 21, from 2-5 p.m. Located on the second level of the former St. Martha's Convent, Morrison Hall, StFX campus, Wellspring has served as a "home away from home" for students, staff and faculty from its inception in September 1994. The centre opened as a means for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha to maintain a presence on the StFX campus after the closure of the convent in August of the same year.

Wellspring's mission has been to offer a welcoming Martha presence on the StFX campus, one that is conducive to the development of persons and one that enhances the life of the university community. The centre is a comfortable, peaceful place for all members of the university community to spend time in the midst of a bustling,

hectic campus. The facilities provide a place for quiet reflection, for study, or to relax with friends over a cup of tea. As one student remarked "everyone benefits in their own way."

In addition to providing a quiet space and a place "to get away from it all," Wellspring regularly hosts events such as Taize Ecumenical Prayer, Shambhala Meditation in the Buddhist tradition, and Christian dialogue in the Catholic tradition. Cultural events such as Kwanzaa and Chinese New Year are also regularly celebrated.

Wellspring Centre staff and the Sisters of St. Martha invite all members of the StFX community to join them in celebration on Friday, January 21 as they mark the 10th anniversary of the facility and the service it has brought to the university campus. For anyone yet to visit, the open house is an excellent opportunity to see the facilities and discover what Wellspring has to offer.

StFX Student Semi-Finalist in CIBC Student Entrepreneur Competition

Jonathan DeYoung, a third-year StFX student, was named in December an Atlantic region semi-finalist in the 2005 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award competition. He was selected from 41 nominees from Atlantic Canada for starting and operating a successful business while attending college or university full-time.

Jonathan's company, LollygaggerU.com, provides university and college students the ability to exchange, buy and sell new and used textbooks either on campus or through the mail. The website also features textbook reviews, and the ability for browsers to scan through textbook pages online.

Jonathan is one of three semi-finalists who will compete at the regional level of the 2005 CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award competition, presented by Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE). The award celebrates and showcases the accomplishments of Canadian student entrepreneurs, and is open to full-time Canadian university and college students. He competes in Moncton, NB in March to represent the region as a finalist at the ACE National Exposition in Toronto in May 2005, where the CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year will be selected.

Book launch for Celtic Professor



StFX Celtic Studies professor Effie Rankin (left) celebrated her new book "As a' Bhraighne: Beyond the Braes"—The Gaelic Songs of Allan the Ridge MacDonald (1794-1868), with a launch in December. The collection, published by UCCB Press, provides the reader with the original Gaelic works of Allan the Ridge, one of Nova Scotia's pioneer Gaelic bards, and also with English translations.

StFX honorary degree recipient wins top science prize in Canada

Dr. John Smol, who was awarded an honorary degree by StFX at the Special Convocation in June 2003 at the time of the International Botany Conference, has been awarded the Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering, the top science prize in Canada. Dr. Smol, a Canada Research Chair at Queen's University and pioneer in the reconstruction of past environments, is one of the world's foremost ecologists. The award comes with a guarantee of \$1 million in research funding over the next five years from Science and Engineering Research Canada (more commonly known as NSERC).

Sports

X Basketball

- Sat Jan 15 vs DAL 1 pm (W) 3 pm (M)
- Wed Jan 19 @ ACA 6 pm (W) 8 pm (M)
- Sat Jan 22 vs UCCB 6 pm (W) 8 pm (M)
- Sun Jan 23 vs UNB 2 pm (W) 4 pm (M)
- Sun Jan 30 @ UPEI 2 pm (W) 4 pm (M)

X-Men Hockey

- Sat Jan 15 vs STU 7pm
- Fri Jan 21 @ UNB 7pm
- Sat Jan 22 @ UPEI 7pm
- Wed Jan 26 @ SMU 7pm
- Fri Jan 28 vs UNB 7pm
- Sat Jan 29 vs UPEI 7pm

X-Women Hockey

- Sat Jan 15 @ UNB 3pm
- Sun Jan 16 @ UdeM 3pm
- Fri Jan 28 @ SMU 6pm

X Volleyball

- Sat Jan 15 @ UdeM 3pm
- Sun Jan 16 @ UNB 2pm
- Sat Jan 22 vs UCCB 3pm
- Sun Jan 23 @ UCCB 3pm
- Sat Jan 29 @ DAL 2pm

Indoor Track & Field

- Sat Jan 15 @ UdeM

Please be advised that Communications Writer Shelley Cameron-McCarron will be starting maternity leave this month. For the current time, please direct story ideas to Melissa Foley at mfoley@sfx.ca, 867-5035.

In Sports

Accountability is key to X-Women's perfect record

Not to jinx them, but the #3 nationally-ranked ice X-Women are enjoying a perfect 13-0 record going into the second half of the season. Although the competition is more competitive every year, it has been nothing but victories so far for X, including six exhibition wins versus last year's AUS champs, Saint Mary's, and Ontario and Quebec conference teams.

This year's squad leaders include fifth year forward Tracy Sullivan, who is tied for 1st place in conference scoring leaders and 3rd place nationally, while senior goaltender, Chelsea MacKenzie, leads the conference in the goals against category. "I think this is one of the strongest teams we have had since I have been with StFX hockey," commented head coach David Synishin. "I am very pleased with how they came together so quickly and have been accountable to themselves and each other, which I feel has been the key to our success so far," noted Synishin.

While Saint Mary's has been X's strongest opponent in previous years, St. Thomas, Mount Allison and Dalhousie are sneaking up closer than ever before, making the games even more exciting and fun to watch. "There has been marked improvement in much of the competition, which is keeping us on our toes and helping us prepare for a shot at a playoff title," explained coach Synishin. The majority of games remaining on X's schedule are against the other top teams from this conference as well as Ontario and Quebec, which should prove to be exciting hockey action for the fans.



The caliber of women's hockey has come a long way in the last number of years and is proving to be one of the fastest growing sports in Canadian schools and universities. "You can see the player and coaching levels developing sharply as the minor programs are getting more serious about female sports and producing elite athletes," explained coach Synishin. "Our team's assistant coaches deserve a lot of credit; they take on a lot of responsibility and each of them offers their own invaluable expertise, which has a big impact on our recent success," commented Synishin.

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