

Speaker Biographies – Atlantic Connections Conference

Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick
June 4-5, 2015

Welcome Message

The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, O.N.B.

Lieutenant Governor, Province of New Brunswick

Jocelyne Roy Vienneau is an executive whose career and community engagement have focused on economic development and the promotion and advancement of education. Until her nomination she was Vice-President at the Université de Moncton's Shippagan Campus. She holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Engineering from the Université de Moncton, as well as a teaching certificate from the province of New Brunswick.



Throughout her career she has sought to promote and advance research and innovation. Ms. Roy Vienneau served as Assistant Deputy Minister for Post-Secondary Education in the Government of New Brunswick's Department of Education. She also worked at the New Brunswick Community College in Bathurst for 23 years as dean, department head, professor, and manager, including six years as the College's Director General. She began her career as a project engineer at the Esso Imperial Oil Limited refinery in Montreal.

Ms. Roy Vienneau was the first woman to occupy a secular position as Vice-President of a campus at the Université de Moncton, the first woman to direct a francophone community college in New Brunswick, and one of the first women to graduate from the Université de Moncton's Faculty of Engineering. In 2003, she was named Alumni of the Year from the Université de Moncton's engineering faculty. In 2001, during her time as Director General of New Brunswick Community College in Bathurst, the school became one of the first two colleges in the country to be eligible for research grants with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada.

Ms. Roy Vienneau also served as chairperson of the board of directors of Coastal Zones Research Institute Incorporated as well as board member for many organizations such as the Vitalité Health Network, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Community Foundation of the Acadian Peninsula, the Comité Avenir Jeunesse de la Péninsule acadienne, the Collectivité ingénieuse de la Péninsule acadienne, etc. Until her nomination Ms. Roy Vienneau resided in Haut-Shippagan, New Brunswick, with her husband Ronald Vienneau. She is the mother to two grown children, Isabelle and Cédric.



Dr. Tamara Franz-Ondendaal

*Associate Professor of Biology, Mount Saint Vincent University
NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, Atlantic Region*

Dr. Tamara Franz-Ondendaal graduated from the University of Cape Town, South Africa with a PhD in Zoology with a focus in paleontology and completed her post-doctoral studies at Dalhousie University in Evolutionary-Developmental Biology. Dr. Franz-Ondendaal joined the Mount in 2006 as a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) University Faculty award recipient (2006-2011) and has since launched an active productive research program as a morphologist and developmental biologist in the field of skeletal biology. She was the 2013 recipient of the Young Investigators Award in Morphological Sciences by the American Association of Anatomists.



In 2011, Dr. Franz-Ondendaal was awarded the NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the Atlantic Region (WISEatlantic). She is one of five chair holders across Canada that are working to increase the participation of women in science and engineering and to provide role models for women considering careers in these fields. The aim of the WISEatlantic program is to provide junior and senior high school girls access to role models active in the sciences and engineering fields through mentorships, webinars, Girls Get WISE Science Retreats and Summer Camps. Through WISEatlantic, she also supports women in STEM careers through professional development opportunities, such as the WinSETT Leadership Program workshops. Her network has reached about 11,000 students, teachers, academics, professionals etc., and has directly engaged 495 girls with 105 female role models in STEM.

In 2015, she received the Mount's Research Excellence Award for her outstanding contributions to the research community and research climate at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Speakers

Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour

Associate Dean of Science, Diversity at University Alberta

Born in Scotland and educated at Edinburgh University (BSc, MSc), and the University of Alberta (PhD), Margaret-Ann Armour joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Alberta in 1979 and since 2005 has been Associate Dean of Science, Diversity. She has been active in encouraging women to consider careers in the sciences and engineering as a founding member of WISEST (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology) at the University of Alberta in 1981 and currently as President of the Board of the Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology, the WinSETT Centre. Dr. Armour has received a number of awards for her research, teaching and outreach activities including a Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case, the Montreal Medal of the Chemical Institute of Canada, a 3M teaching fellowship, being twice named one of the top 100 most powerful women in Canada by the Women's Executive Network and being inducted as a member of the Order of Canada in 2006. She has five honorary degree, including one just received from Memorial University of Newfoundland.



Nan Armour

Former Executive Director, Hypatia Association, Halifax, NS

Nan Armour has worked most of her professional life supporting the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in SETT. She is the former Executive Director of the Hypatia Association, former president and current Board member of CCWESTT, a member of the Board of Directors of WinSETT and a member of the Board of Directors of Women Unlimited. She was awarded an honorary Diploma in Trades and Technology by the Nova Scotia Community College and feels very privileged to be included in the Riva Spatz Women's Wall of Honour at Mount Saint Vincent University.



Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie

Associate Professor, Chemistry, Cape Breton University

In 1996 Dr. MacQuarrie started her academic career at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. She completed three years of undergraduate research and published 8 research papers during this time. She completed her PhD in organic chemistry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. While completing her PhD she discovered a real passion for two things; chemistry and teaching. She decided early on that she would pursue the academic route and become a Chemistry professor. After receiving her PhD in 2005 she accepted a post-doctoral position at Queen's University in Kingston, ON and in 2009 accepted a position at Cape Breton University as Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry. Dr. MacQuarrie has a very active research group funded through a 5-year National Science and Engineering Research Council Discovery Grant and multiple industrial research grants (NSERC Engage, Mitacs). Currently, Dr. MacQuarrie has 5 undergraduate students and two post-doctoral researcher working on a variety of projects in her lab.



Dr. MacQuarrie enjoys many avenues of service, but her personal focus is Science outreach and promotion. For the last five springs she has organized and hosted a Women in Science event that was open to women of all ages in the community; this event has been very well received with over 100 participants each year.

Kirsten Tomilson

President/CEO Fourth Monkey Media

Kirsten began her media career 14 years ago as a freelance production assistant on hectic live action television and movie sets. She eventually made the move to become a production coordinator at Collideascope Digital Productions in Halifax. In the animation world she had the opportunity to work on numerous award winning and critically acclaimed series as she scaled the monkey bars upwards earning more responsibility as an associate producer, and eventually as a producer. Always up for a new challenge, Kirsten decided to leave the industry she loved to take on a new role as a video game Producer for HB Studios in Lunenburg. She accepted the challenge of learning an entirely different production model in a new technology sector, quickly rising to the role of Senior Project Manager. After experiencing work-life in a large gaming facility, Kirsten decided to make a sideways swing into a smaller boutique gaming and e-learning environment, acting as Senior Production Manager for Raised Media.



Kirsten's in depth and rounded work experience in media, television, feature films and games gives her a stunning array of skills and attributes any client will find indispensable. She has evolved her career towards serving the interests of her clients and her craft, and she represents the missing link between left-brain artistic creatives and goal-focused executives. Kirsten's professional, positive attitude and her infectious humour make her a joy to work with, and we are proud and fortunate to have her as Fourth Monkey's top banana.

Dr. Sherry Niven

Assistant Director of Science, Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)

Dr. Sherry Niven is the Assistant Director of Science for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) in Dartmouth. Dr. Niven has been employed with the Science Sector of DFO since finishing her PhD in Chemical Oceanography (from Dalhousie) in 1990. For the first 12 years, she worked as a Research Scientist at BIO studying the biogeochemical processes that control the distribution and fate of contaminants in the marine environment. From 2000-2004, she took an assignment with DFO Headquarters in Ottawa where she became involved in a number of government-wide initiatives to enhance the federal research environment. Since 2005, Dr. Niven has been back at BIO as the Assistant Director of Science in the Maritimes Region of DFO where her responsibilities include the oversight of HR. Dr. Niven has a passion for science and an understanding and belief in the value of diversity that guide her work and as a volunteer in science outreach and the promotion of women in SETT.



Dhirendra Shukla, Ph.D., P.Eng.

Chair, Associate Professor

Dr. Dhirendra Shukla has been the Dr. J. Herbert Smith ACOA Chair since September 2009. He did his BEng and MSc in Chemical Engineering and Computing and Performance Engineering from the University of Bradford (UK). Dhirendra worked for several years in the Telecom Sector for Nortel Networks (Canada) in various roles and prior to joining Nortel Networks he worked for Croda International (UK). Dhirendra obtained his MBA from the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa (Canada) and completed his PhD in Entrepreneurial Finance from the University of London in the UK (King's College London). His current research interests are in Venture Capital, Syndication, Entrepreneurship, Corporate Finance, Performance and Governance, and Boards of Directors.



Dhirendra currently teaches Entrepreneurial Finance, Business Planning and Strategy in an Entrepreneurial Environment, Global Engineering, Managing in the Creative Economy, Experiential Learning in Technology Management and Entrepreneurship, Product Design and Development as well as Leadership in an Era of Deep Change.



Doreen Parsons

Manager of Women Unlimited Association

Doreen Parsons is currently the Manager of the Women Unlimited Association. Through her leadership, this organization has supported more than 550 women to explore opportunities and build careers in the trades and technology sectors in Nova Scotia. Doreen has spent much of her lifetime working within women-centred development by building innovative partnerships, programs, enterprises and organizations. Through the Women's Economic Equality Society, she created and led more than 50 community based programs and initiatives, thus supporting more than 7000 women to improve their economic well-being. And, as General Manager of HRDA Enterprises Ltd., she led one of the oldest CED organizations in North America, operating seven social purpose enterprises, which provided employment and training for more than 6500 local citizens.



Doreen is a Director of the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, an Advisory Committee member of the Canadian Centre for Women's Economic Development, a Steering Committee member of the Irving Shipbuilding Centre of Excellence, past council member of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and one of the founding members of the Canadian Women's CED Council.

Shari Graydon

Founder, Informed Opinions

An award-winning author, educator and advocate, Shari Graydon founded and leads [Informed Opinions](#), amplifying women's voices to bridge the gender gap in public discourse. Previously, she taught communications at SFU, wrote regular commentary for the *Vancouver Sun* and CBC, served as press secretary to a premier, and as president of MediaWatch. Shari was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by WXN in 2006 and received the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons' Case for her advocacy work on behalf of women the following year.





June 3rd Workshop

Donna F. Clark, Facilitator

Leadership Partner, Courage Group International

Donna Clark, CMC, ACC, Leadership Partner, Courage Group International is committed to developing the capacity of individuals to lead with courage and compassion and create life nurturing, high performing organizations. Donna brings a combination of executive experience and 19 years of private practice in leadership and organizational development, executive coaching and conflict transformation. Donna supports clients in discerning and creating the future they desire for their lives and their organizations and developing their leadership and strategic actions to get there. She has degrees in science, education and business and is certified from the Newfield Network Coach Training Program, WEL-Systems® Institute and is a Registered Practitioner in Alternative Dispute Resolution.



Clients say she works with enthusiasm, high energy, an engaging and innovative style, and authentic presence in her facilitation. She has an ability to create conversational space that inspires learning and supports a group in achieving results beyond their expectations.

Donna is the Maritimes facilitator for the WinSETT Centre Women in SETT Leadership Program. Since 1991 Donna has worked significantly on workplace culture change to increase the participation of women in SETT, including the 2012 CCWESTT conference and policy forum in Halifax, NS, and several Atlantic NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering initiatives.

Michael Hanrahan, Guest Speaker

President, petroforma laboratories

Michael Hanrahan is the President and founder of **petroforma laboratories** in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. After an acquisition in early 2014 **petroforma laboratories** became the largest commercial lab in the province serving the energy, food, fisheries, mining and environmental sectors. **petroforma** has a gender balanced and ethnically diverse workplace providing fulfilling career opportunities to men and women from five continents – thereby, delivering on one of the Company's core human resource values.



Michael has held leadership roles in both the public and private sector and been part of the management team on two of the largest energy projects in Atlantic Canada. Michael sits as a Director of the Norwegian-headquartered Glamox and Singapore-owned Swire Pacific Offshore Canada Limited. He has advised the Senate Committee on Energy, Bank of Canada, and the National Energy Board.

In May 2015, Michael was named as one of Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada.

Michael has pursued studies and executive development courses at Memorial University of Newfoundland, McGill University, York University, Rutgers University and Babson College.