

THE GREEN APPLE

A Newsletter from the School of Education



Living the Not Yet in the Now Allyson Jule, Ph.D.

To begin the 2020 academic year, former Dean, Kimberly Franklin, spoke to the School of Education faculty about living the “not yet” in the “now” -- focusing on what’s to come so we gain courage to bear what is now.

In the School Of Education's Tuesday devotionals, Laurie Matthias' book *The Cry of the Teacher's Soul* echoes this concept. Laurie labels it the, “shalom-not-yet” experience where we gain glimpses of life as we would like it to be, even though it is not yet.

COVID-19 has changed the School of Education. We miss our students: the conversation, and casual collaboration. We scroll through the news on our phones and things are not as we would like them to be. And yet we have courage, not just because of what’s to come, but because of the glimpses we see of the “not yet” in the now.

Unity: Our faculty joined with others in the University to help us all learn to teach online: offering knowledge in methodologies, technical equipment and assessment practices. Staff and faculty worked together to re-recruit our students to a university experience unlike the one they left. The synergy created new partnerships across campus and a renewed appreciation of one another.

Empathy: This foundational Christian value has come to the forefront this year. Our world needs empathy more than ever, and we are able to lead the way as we model it and encourage our teacher candidates to apply it in their practicums.

We are in this strange COVID-19 season together. So many things are “not yet” while we wait for better days. This newsletter celebrates some of the good faculty work in the School of Education. Celebrate with us!



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June Smith: 25 years

In many ways, June is the face of the School of Education. For 14 years, she has capably handled everything from phone calls to student advising, and this August the University celebrated her 25 years of service. June's career began in Conferences on Apr. 1, 1995 in a little room in Fraser Hall that doubled as the coffee station. In September 2006 she moved to the School of Education. "I always wanted to be a teacher, so working in the SOE was the next best thing," says June.

June has had three deans: Harro Van Brummelen, Kimberly Franklin and Allyson Jule, and she's seen many changes. For example, June recalls,

"The lounge behind my office was a lab with eight Apple computers. After two break-ins when we lost all the computers both times, we decided to use the room for something else."

June remembers the SOE's 10th anniversary. "We planned a big event in North West and invited Nel Noddings. The day of the event, a snowstorm knocked out all the power on campus. We quickly moved to Block Hall (which has a generator), but in moving, Sodexo spilled all of the punch."

Although she wasn't in the SOE at the time, June also remembers the court case. "It affected so many of us at TWU. Clients would tell me they were praying for the University."

"When I started at TWU, I only planned to stay for a couple of years, but the Lord had other ideas," says June. "I do love working with our awesome faculty and staff and the students. I am truly blessed to be part of this amazing group of people!"

MA TESOL Professor Provides Hope in a Pandemic

How can an MA program support alumni during the upheaval and uncertainty of a pandemic?

Walter Kim, President of the National Association of Evangelicals, emphasizes "the value of praying 'specifically and imaginatively' for those experiencing distress, including emotional, academic, economic, and spiritual distress" (Eagleson & Trube, 2020).

While Kim was referring to students, when the pandemic arrived in Canada, MA TESOL faculty realized that there were also program graduates who suddenly found themselves in difficult situations, in need not only of prayer, but also "specific and imaginative" support.

With this in mind, at the end of March, MA TESOL alumni were invited to an online reunion. The response was tremendous. Despite living all around the world, in varying time zones, 50 alumni attended the reunion. From there, they were invited to an eight-week alumni coaching program. This included a combination of online group coaching and four complimentary individual coaching sessions from the middle of April to early June 2020.

The initiative was organized by MA TESOL faculty member, Dr. Carolyn Kristjansson, also a certified executive coach, and implemented with the assistance of several in-house coaches, themselves MA TESOL graduates. Alumni expressed gratitude for the care and investment in them.

The Provost Innovative Teaching Award

Nina Pak Lui



Nina didn't expect anything out of the ordinary when she sat down in her home office to watch TWU's Fall 2020 Graduation. But when she heard Laurie Matthias, Associate Provost at TWU, describe the recipient of the Provost Innovative Teaching Award, she wondered if it might be her. To the faculty and students who were watching, Nina was a natural choice. The award is intended to recognize and encourage experimentation and innovation and to acknowledge a faculty member who is researching and adapting new methods to improve student learning. That's certainly Nina.

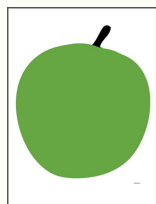
Creative. Action-oriented. Deep, reflective practitioner. Growth mindset. These words all describe the contributions Nina has made since coming to TWU, first as a part time instructor in 2015 and then as an assistant professor in 2019. Lui caught the attention of the wider University community when she helped re-design Foundations 101 and supported instructional designers and faculty in co-creating a multi-course bundle aimed to make cross-curricular connections and embed human-centric assessment practices for incoming undergraduate students.

According to Jenn Skelding, Professional Year Program coordinator, secondary stream, "Nina listens deeply to students and creates a safe learning place that is built on trust." Nina actively engages her students as partners in learning, and helps develop self-efficacy. For example, "Nina encouraged two undergraduate students to attend WestCAST and challenged one to present his work – a critical analysis of BC's renewed K-12 curriculum," relates Skelding.

Dr. Allyson Jule, Dean of the School of Education, comments, "Nina is passionate about connecting theory and practice. She has been an active and emerging scholar in the field of assessment. She connects with other experts in the field through an active social media presence and networking with partner schools and teachers. She has a broad sense of the education community in BC and Canada."

"The School of Education has enjoyed an excellent reputation for many years," continues Dr. Jule. "Nina falls into the category of what makes and sustains Trinity's Teacher Education Program: fresh ideas, passion for and commitment to excellence, and deep and genuine care for students."

"Winning this award was humbling," says Nina. "Making the decision to work in the School of Education was one of the best things I could have ever done."



Faculty Research

Despite the challenges of the last six months, School of Education professors have continued their scholarly endeavors. Some key accomplishments are highlighted:

Matthew Etherington published *Embrace Outdoor Learning: Eco-friendly homeschooling advice for parents and caregivers* in the *Eco Parent* magazine (Sept.). Matthew also published *10 Home Learning Success Tips for Parents and Caregivers* in *BC Parent*. Matthew presented a workshop for homeschool educators about Indigenizing education, using a 50 percent Indigenous, 50 percent non-Indigenous inclusion model.

In addition, Matthew was granted Honorary Research Associate at Morling College in Sydney, Australia. Congratulations, Matthew!

Jaqueline Buitelaar was chosen to be part of a Program Assessment Team Pool for a three-year term. In this position, she will help evaluate other Teacher Education Programs in the province.

Allyson Jule co-authored an article with Adrienne Castellon in the *ICCTE Journal: The Grace to Grow Deeper: A Case Study of Environmentalism in a Canadian Christian School* (Nov. 2020). Allyson & Adrienne shared two presentations at the InspiEd online conference on Nov. 12, *Christian Schools Do Amazing Things*. Watch this video to learn more about their research.

Lara Ragpot wrote two chapters in the book *Glimpses Into Primary School Teacher Education in South Africa: Executive Functions in the South African Early Grade Learner, and Film as a Teacher Education Genre*.

Lara also wrote a peer referred journal article in the *South African Journal of Childhood Education: Preservice Teachers' Perception of Longitudinal Child Development Field Coursework at a University-Affiliated Teaching School*.

Gordon Moulden presented *Where does Action Research Fit in the Teaching Process?* at the 2020 Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages Annual Conference in October. Gordon also presented at Trinity Western's Research and Creativity Symposium in August: *Planning for Learning*.

Jenn Skelding presented *Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogies* at the InspiEd online conference on Nov. 12.

Nina Lui and Jenn Skelding co-wrote a book chapter, *An Emergent Course Design Framework for Imaginative Pedagogy and Assessment in Higher Education. In Teaching in the Post COVID-19 Era*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Springer Publishing.

New Faculty in the School of Education



Jenn Skelding, former director of the TWU Learning Commons, joined the SOE as assistant professor and Professional Year Coordinator, Secondary Stream. We are thrilled to have Jenn's expertise and enthusiasm in the SOE.



Kevin Mirchandani is a TWU alum with an interest in Christian education in BC, faith-informed educational practices and educational change. Kevin teaches EDUC 233.



Derrick Mohamed has taught for 30 years, across three Canadian provinces. He currently teaches in the BA/MA in Leadership programs, as well as EDUC 365 and 400.



Moira Fricke is an MAES-SPED graduate and is advising students with a Special Education minor as well as teaching EDUC 310.



Cynthia McCarthy is a TWU alum who teaches high school French and Leadership. She also teaches in the MA Lead program and joins the SOE to teach EDUC 222.