

A message from Melanie Spence-Ariemma

Provost and Vice President, Academic



Reasons to Celebrate

August 27, 2020

Dear colleagues,

Across Sheridan, professors, staff and students continue to celebrate successes, share best practices and innovations, and demonstrate resilience. I am tremendously proud to share stories that exemplify the best of Sheridan.

Continuing and Professional Studies

While Ludavi Fuenmayor, a Supply Chain Management student, was not initially enthusiastic about the switch to virtual learning, she credits her professor, Hanan Barakat, with making the transition easier than expected. Professor Barakat used a variety of techniques to emulate the classroom environment, like using Excel to demonstrate calculations that she would normally lay out on a whiteboard, and engaging with students over video. “She always greeted us with a smile, and asked how our day was going,” says Fuenmayor. “I also enjoyed saving time on my commute to school, and spending more time with my family. I look forward to my upcoming courses in September.” From Professor Barakat’s perspective, the transition to remote teaching and learning elicited more gratitude and appreciation than anticipated. “Many students showed up consistently, and found the online educational experience was relevant and engaging – they were also thankful to continue their courses.”

Faculty of Applied Health and Community Studies

Beginning in July, the Practical Nursing program offered 4th semester students the opportunity to complete their final semester, with two weeks on campus to practice their skills and consolidate their theoretical knowledge through simulations and workshops, followed by their placements in clinical settings. “Our students were excited to take on the responsibility of using PPE in the classroom as well as following the safety protocols to ensure a safe environment for students and staff,” says part-time faculty Emily Piesz. “Overall, my experience of the pilot was extremely positive. I look forward to welcoming students back in the Fall, knowing that we have a strong plan in place to not only protect students and staff, but also provide students with the hands-on skills required as future health care providers.”

Pilon School of Business

Our business programs made a highly successful transition to remote learning at the onset of the pandemic, as feedback from our students attest. Please [click here](#) to learn more.

Faculty of Animation, Arts and Design

Our FAAD students have had some amazing successes. Our Bachelor of Game Design students excelled at the Ubisoft Toronto’s [NEXT challenge](#), while a trio of third-year Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance students won the [inaugural Canadian Families Got Talent competition](#) including the opportunity to appear on the next season of America’s Got Talent. Additionally, a team of third-year Animation students won a prestigious [Annecy Festival award](#), in addition to their Annie Award earlier this year.

Faculty of Applied Science and Technology

Dr. Andy Alubaidy (Professor, Faculty of Applied Science and Technology) quickly pivoted to create a meaningful and interactive online learning experience for students in Electromechanical Engineering Technology. Please [click here](#) to learn more.

Centre for Teaching and Learning

As the pandemic prompted the move to remote teaching and learning in March, the Centre for Teaching and Learning in partnership with the Faculties established the Online Learning and Teaching Collective, comprised of 20 diverse, cross-disciplinary faculty champions committed to fostering equitable, accessible, inclusive and quality online learning communities and experiences. The Collective sought to build greater capacity for, and an enhanced culture of, online teaching and learning excellence through the sharing of exemplars as well as group ideation and discussions. Please [click here](#) to access online teaching and learning resources.

Research

Sheridan received three [NSERC Applied Research Rapid Response to COVID-19 grants](#). This funding was designed to help support the transfer and application of knowledge and expertise on topics of immediate relevance to the pandemic. The projects awarded funding include:

- Dr. Edward Sykes (Director of the Centre for Mobile Innovation) and Dr. Tarek El Salti (Professor in the Faculty of Applied Science and Technology) working with industry partner Tech4Life will develop a point-of-care self-assessment and monitoring system for COVID-19.
- Drs. Nathaniel Barr and Michael McNamara (Professors in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) together with partners MediaSmarts, BEworks, and some of the world’s foremost misinformation researchers, will design, test and disseminate creative interventions aimed at combating the online spread of misinformation about COVID-19.
- Dr. Leigh Hayden and her colleagues from the Centre for Elder Research will help support community agency Food for Life to safely and efficiently meet the nutritional and health needs of older adults in Halton region during the pandemic.

Sheridan’s vision and mission provide us with a shared sense of purpose to cultivate resourceful, highly skilled, creative people and communities that flourish in the face of change and relentlessly incubate new ideas. Continuing to focus on character, quality and accountability, we will together foster community, advance quality teaching and learning, promote and support creative activities and research, fuel the academic and career success of our students, enhance the student experience and continue to build a culture of planning, accountability and continuous improvement.

What we have accomplished over the past six months has given us tremendous momentum to continue to create learning environments where faculty, staff and students push boundaries in teaching, learning, creative activities and research.

My best wishes as we begin the 2020-2021 academic year.

Dr. Melanie Spence-Ariemma
Provost and Vice President, Academic

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