



STUDENT NEWSLETTER

2019/20 NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER



My Service Learning Experience



This past reading week I was fortunate enough to have the amazing opportunity of travelling to Ecuador on an Immersion Service Learning experience. There were seven students total along with our faculty advisor, Dr. Burnett. The focus of our trip was to learn about environmental conservation, community development and ecotourism to promote sustainability and sustainable living.

While in the cloud forest community, we were given the opportunity to learn and participate in the reforestation efforts that the community were undertaking. Our group was able to pick seeds and replant them in the dirt and nutrients bags that we mixed ourselves. We were also able to plant seeds in the forest in an effort to reduce the effects of deforestation in the community.

While visiting the Intillacta Cloudforest Reserve, we learned about the positive movement of ecotourism and how it can benefit sustainability efforts while engaging others to become aware.

For me, being a mechanical engineering student, I have always been interested in sustainability and looking for ways to improve sustainability within my communities. This experience gave me a new perspective on what sustainability means to various communities around the world and I plan to incorporate this learning experience into my career. It also showed me that no matter how similar everyone's experience is, we all take a unique perspective away and it is the collection of these perspectives that can create real change in the world.

Our experience in Ecuador can only be described as eye opening and life changing. I believe that everyone on our trip took something unique away from our shared experience and will reflect on this in the years to come.

Dylan Heino



SERVICE LEARNING AWARD WINNERS



Emma Boudreau

Community Engaged Scholar Award, Spring Convocation 2020

This prize recognizes a student who has completed one or more Service Learning experiences and has demonstrated a personal commitment to community development.

This year's 2019-2020 recipients of the Excellence as Community Engaged Scholar prize are **Emma Boudreau** and **Rebecca Mesay**.

Emma has been actively engaged in the community throughout her time at StFX. Emma did placements with various community agencies including, Antigonish Parkinson's Support Group, Fit 4 Tots, StFX MAX Program, Best Buddies, Fit 4 Men, St. Martha's Regional Hospital, SAMHI (Student Athlete Mental Health Initiative through StFX), StFX SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Council Member); Antigonish Challenger Baseball; Special Olympics Track & Field; Family Literacy Day with AEC; Antigonish Town and County Crime Prevention Association, Antigonish Minor Hockey (AMHA), Mental Health Addictions Institute; CBI Health Center. Along with the Stan Cassidy Centre and Chalmers's Hospital in New Brunswick.

Emma has this to say about her experience with Service Learning

My Service Learning experiences have had a positive impact on me as a student, and I am appreciative of the participants and their families who have been willing to connect with StFX on a regular basis to make them happen. Throughout my placements, I have always tried to find ways to increase the quality of life of any child, teen or adult I have had the opportunity to work with in terms of their physical, mental and emotional health. The idea of providing care for others with the ultimate goal of enhancing their quality of life is something I consider of deep importance as a characteristic of my future career in Occupational Therapy. This may be as simple as being the person to give my exercise partner with Parkinson's an extra push on a day he seems to be doing very well, or it could mean talking more and doing less if I felt that's what he needed. It could also mean asking a mother if she wants a break from holding her baby at Fit 4 Tots, making castles for the kids who love to tear them down, or making a child feel more included if they seem socially excluded. Being involved in service learning has taught me how to manage my time effectively, has enlightened my leadership skills, allowed me to make countless memories and the lessons I have learned will carry on with me for the rest of my life.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stfxservicelearning/>

SERVICE LEARNING AWARD WINNERS



Rebecca Mesay

Community Engaged Scholar Award, Spring Convocation 2020

Rebecca has been actively engaged in the community throughout her time at StFX.

Rebecca did placements with various community agencies including, Black Educators Association, Office of African Descent Student Affairs (ADSA), McKenna Leadership Centre, McKenna Centre Student Leadership Exchange in Haiti, Yeneta Amharic Immersion School, StFX Athletics, Student Advocacy Group, StFX Student Society - X-Project, StFX University - Equity Advisory Committee, Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, CABSS (Committee for Aboriginal and Black Student Success).

Rebecca has this to say about her experience with Service Learning

When I first arrived at StFX, I was intrigued and a bit skeptical of the Service Learning Program offered by the university. I had grown up in a diverse community and attended high school in the inner city. For this reason, I doubted that university students could significantly contribute to organizations that assisted vulnerable populations. The first class I took that offered a Service Learning component was Women's and Gender Studies 100 (WMGS 100). This course combined with my Service Learning component at the Black Educators' Association (BEA), completely changed how I would experience the rest of my undergraduate degree. In WMGS 100, we read about how systemic racism continued to be perpetuated against Black and Indigenous peoples. During my placement with the BEA, I was introduced to people who were fighting against how systemic racism was affecting their communities. From the time that I entered that course and participated in the placement, I understood that my time at StFX should not only be used to gain an undergraduate degree but also to advocate for change in the larger community.



<https://www2.mystfx.ca/service-learning/>

Did You Know that Service Learning has TWO awards?

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLAR AWARD

This prize recognizes a student who has completed one or more Service Learning experiences and has demonstrated a personal commitment to community development.

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH AWARD MARCH 2021

This prize is awarded annually to the best community-engaged research project presented at Student Research Day.



StFX students in Anthropology 492:

Museums, helped plan and host a event called “A Dutch Heritage Night and Pop up Museum” in collaboration with with the local Legion as a course-based service learning project. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Holland during World War II, and the Legion is hosting a series of commemorative events. Over 150 people were in attendance at the pop-up museum, and Pier 21, Canada’s immigration museum, also participated in the event.

Students in the course have been exploring the important role that objects, stories, and heritage play in shaping personal identity, sense of community, and sense of place and belonging. “I wanted students to see first-hand the power of objects and stories in bringing people together,” explains Dr. Jack. “Planning and facilitating the pop-up museum also helped students have a better sense of the work that goes into exhibit curation, from project planning to marketing to set-up to engaging with visitors,” she explained.

“A pop-up museum is created and experienced by those who show up to participate,” explains Dr. Meghann Jack, who is teaching the museums course as a special topics offering this semester in the Anthropology Department. “It brings people together in conversation through stories, memories, history, and especially objects. We can think of a pop-up museum as kind of like a potluck, but instead of everyone bringing a

dish of food, everyone brings an object or story to share with others.”

Nazi-occupied Holland was liberated by Canadian soldiers in the Spring of 1945. Following the war, thousands of Dutch immigrants, largely agriculturalists, came to Canada seeking better opportunities. Many settled in the Antigonish area with the support of the Catholic church, and went on to establish successful farms and make other important contributions to the community. “The story of postwar Dutch immigration to Antigonish is a really important one,” says Dr. Jack. “The intent of the pop-up museum was to be an opportunity for the local Dutch community to reminisce and share, to come together and remember, to feel rooted in both Canada and The Netherlands,” she says.

“It was amazing to see how close the Dutch community is, and I learned a lot about their role in Canadian history,” says StFX anthropology student Melissa Quintero-Lazo.

“We had excellent corporation from StFX students helping to host this event,” says James Matheson, Legion branch president. “Many people from the Dutch community have thanked us for putting on this event. This was the first year that we have ever tackled anything like this so we had no idea of what to expect. We were thrilled with the turnout of the public and their enthusiasm.”



Anth 492: Museum also teamed up with Shebrooke Village and helped with a Re-Organization project!

IMMERSION SERVICE LEARNING

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A NEW CULTURE, WHILE LEARNING ABOUT HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT, AND CURRENT ISSUES.

- social justice • human rights • politics • community health
- fair trade • education • Mayan communities • herbal medicine
- women's issues • organic farming • sustainable development
- eco-tourism • environmental conservation • food security



- **Interested in SOCIAL JUSTICE?**

ISL partners in **GUATEMALA** work to support political, social, and economic justice in post genocide Mayan communities.

- **Have a passion for ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION?**

ISL partners in **ECUADORIAN** cloud forest communities work on and teach about agro ecological production and habitat restoration at an ecological reserve.

- **Enrolled in BUSINESS, HEALTH or DEVELOPMENT STUDIES?**

ISL partners in **PERU** work collaboratively on sustainable development initiatives in rural and impoverished communities.

- **Studying HISTORY or POLITICS?**

ISL partners in **GERMANY** and **POLAND**, promote awareness and education about the Holocaust.

- **Are you a BIOLOGY or EDUCATION student?**

ISL partners in **BELIZE** teach about preservation of natural resources and the experiences of the Mayan people.

- **Do you want to work in COMMUNITY HEALTH?**

ISL partners in the **L'Arche OTTAWA** community, support the creative human potential of all people with an intellectual disability.

How can ISL benefit you?

Visit the Service Learning program office for more info, or check out our website:

<https://www.stfx.ca/academics/service-learning>

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ISL COMMUNITY PARTNERS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE

NEW ISL OPPORTUNITY IN 2021

Participating in an ISL experience is an excellent way to complement studies in any discipline, participate in reciprocal community service and, develop leadership and networking skills.

IDS 305 Immersion Service Learning, is a winter 3 credit elective (2021).

This class incorporates a virtual immersion experience with community partners in Peru. Students will have the opportunity to support and engage with a Peruvian non-profit civil association in partnership with the isolated communities they serve, to explore innovative adaptation strategies being used to mitigate inequity and create sustainable solutions.

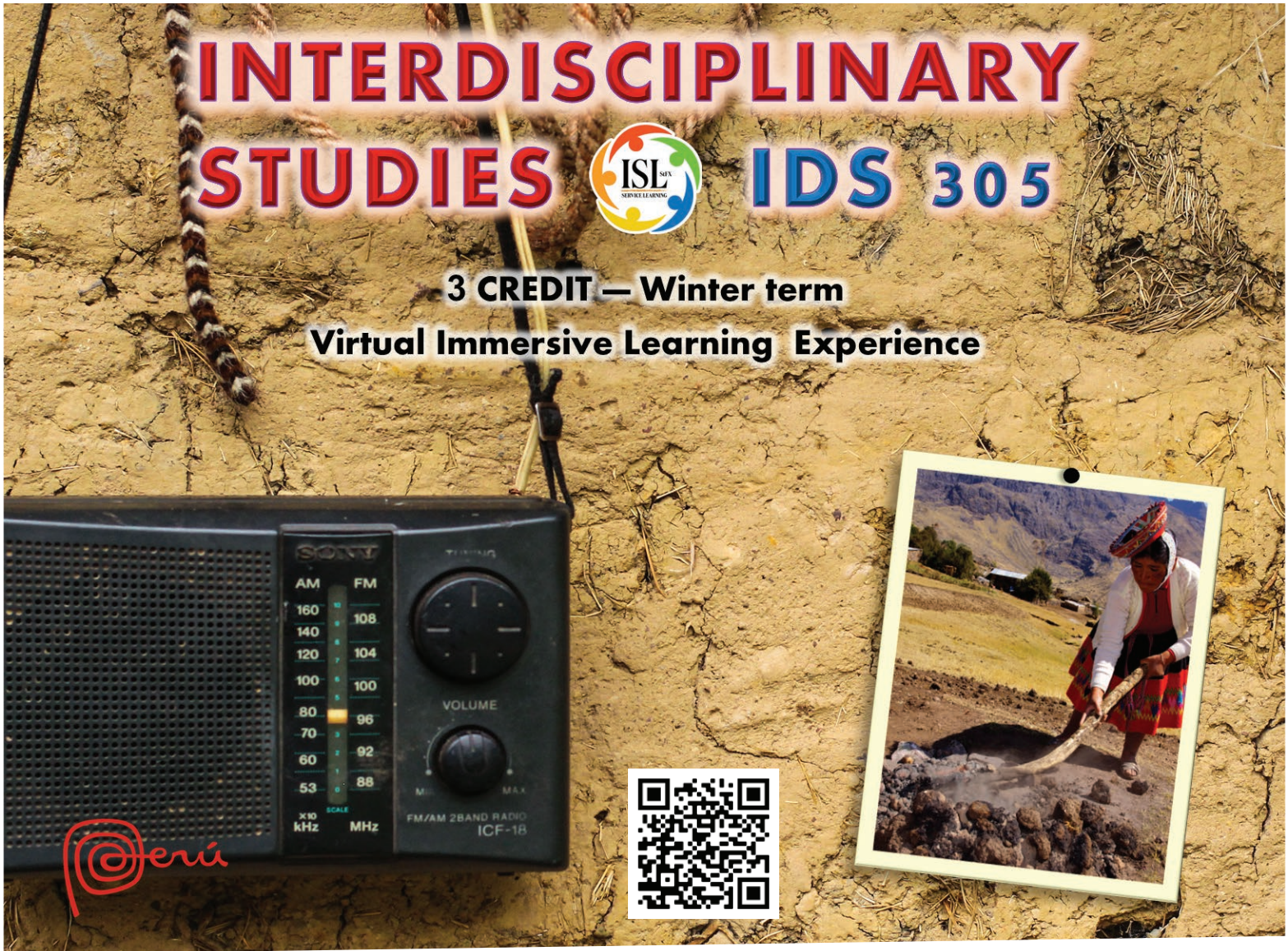
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



IDS 305

3 CREDIT — Winter term

Virtual Immersive Learning Experience



STUDENT LEADERS



Sydney Van De Wiel is a Women's and Gender Studies student from St. John's Newfoundland in her final year at StFX. During Sydney's time at university, Sydney has done placements at Kids First and Tearmann Society for Abused Women, as well as participated in an Immersion trip to Guatemala. Sydney is also the President of the Women's and Gender Studies Society, which runs events throughout the school year and publishes an annual Zine. Sydney is returning to Service Learning; Sydney was a Student Leader in 2017-2018.



Victoria Miles is from Winnipeg, Manitoba and began her StFX career in the Social Justice Colloquium. Victoria is now entering her fourth year of university pursuing a joint major in Development Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. Within the StFX community, Victoria has been a Resident Assistant and Community Advisor in McKinnon Hall and Mount Saint Bernard respectively. Victoria partnered with the Youth Activism Conferences and the International Institute for Child Rights and Development through the Service Learning Department. Victoria currently holds a position with StFX library, volunteers for the Peer Support Program on campus and is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters within the Antigonish Community. Victoria is returning to Service Learning; Victoria was a Student Leader in 2019-2020.

CONTACT US

Mary Oxner
Faculty Coordinator
902-867- 5373
mmoxner@stfx.ca

Megan Turner
Service Learning
Program Manager
902-867-2563
mpturner@stfx.ca

Jodi Van Dompeler
Immersion Program
Assistant
902-867-2583
jvandomp@stfx.ca

Michelle Hirschfeld
Course Based
Program Assistant
902-867-5049
mhirschf@stfx.ca

**Service Learning Student
Leaders**
902-867-5049



FIND US HERE! Coady Building, 3rd Floor.

