

YEAR IN REVIEW 2022-2023

# Frank McKenna School

— of PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS —



DR. STEPHEN LAW

## FROM NEW BRUNSWICK TO THE WORLD

### A message from the McKenna School Convenor

It was my great pleasure to be this year's McKenna School convenor. This was a wonderful opportunity to create greater synergies with my colleagues in philosophy and political science and international relations and together provide important learning opportunities to our students and community.

This past year, we continued to offer students prestigious research opportunities, scholarships, internships, and chances to study abroad. We hosted a significant workshop on Indigenous rights and welcomed to campus our McKenna Distinguished Speaker and our McKenna Fellow. The School's friends and donors make many of these opportunities possible, and we are very grateful for their leadership and generosity.

The world is a complicated place. I am a great believer that challenges faced locally and globally are best addressed when individuals come together and examine issues from various perspectives. This is the powerful promise of a liberal arts education, and it is what the Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) is all about.

In the words of second-year student Oliver Batchilder, "I chose the PPE program at Mount Allison because it allows me to focus on a variety of different topics, and not just one. This interdisciplinary method of learning is personally much more engaging as it allows me to analyze the same topic from a philosophical, political, and economic perspective." Oliver is the inaugural recipient of the Ivan Duvar Scholarship for PPE students, among other impressive scholarships. He is one example of our outstanding McKenna School students — you will meet others in this newsletter.

The McKenna School recognizes that our province, country, and world need culturally sensitive, global citizens with experience in applying theory to practice in real-world settings. We are proud to be providing an exemplary education that supports the passions and ambitions of these young leaders.

Thank you for joining us.

**DR. STEPHEN LAW**, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS  
Convenor, Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

## WHAT IS THE MCKENNA SCHOOL?

The Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) provides students insights into the meaning of citizenship, how government works, the nature of justice, and the outcomes of economic systems and policies. It is one of Canada's only PPE programs.



"THE WORLD WE LIVE IN TODAY NEEDS MORE COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS. OUR SOCIETY NEEDS MORE WORLD-CLASS 'GENERALISTS'; PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOME BACKGROUND IN ECONOMICS, A PHILOSOPHICAL BASE, AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS AT LARGE."

— FRANK MCKENNA (LLD '91)

25TH ANNIVERSARY  
**ROUGH WATERS**  
THE LEGACY OF THE MARSHALL DECISIONS



## ROUGH WATERS WORKSHOP

In April, the politics and international relations department hosted the workshop Rough Waters: The Legacy of the Marshall Decisions, which brought special guests to campus to critically reflect on the legacy of the Supreme Court of Canada Marshall Decisions, which affirmed First Nations' treaty rights to fish, hunt, and gather in pursuit of a moderate livelihood. The workshop brought together Indigenous leaders, academics, policy-makers, and students. Research papers were presented as part of the workshop, including those authored by our PPE students.



DR. ROB GILLEZEAU

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

This year's speaker was Dr. Rob Gillezeau, assistant professor at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto and a fellow at the Broadbent Institute. His talk, The Determinants and Impacts of Historical Treaty-Making in Canada, was delivered as part of the Marshall Decisions workshop.



MICHAEL NOLAN ('22)

## MEET MCKENNA SCHOOL GRADUATE MICHAEL NOLAN

As a new political science master's student, Michael Nolan attended a session designed to introduce graduate students to the process of qualitative social science research, such as conducting interviews and filing ethics research applications. At the session, Nolan was reminded of a Mount Allison advantage.

"I realized my peers were not aware of the ethics research process, while as an undergrad, I had already done six ethics applications and conducted roughly 50 interviews for various research projects," says Nolan.

Nolan attributes his head start as a researcher to Mount Allison's small class sizes and the accessibility of professors.

"It's easier to approach your professors, build relationships with them, and get invited to participate in research they are doing," says Nolan.

Nolan received research funding and a scholarship from the McKenna Scholars Program. He worked on four research projects while a student at the McKenna School. He researched public policy as it relates to managing deer populations and instances of Lyme disease, examined outcomes from the Marshall Decisions on First Nations fishing rights, examined voting irregularities in the 2020 NB provincial election, and researched the inclusion of disability studies in social work education. Nolan's four research projects led to conference presentations, publications, and media interest.

Nolan is now putting his Mount Allison experiences and skills to good use in working on his graduate-level research on fiscal federalism and equalization.

## CANADA'S #1 UNIVERSITY

*Maclean's* University Rankings named Mount Allison the best undergraduate university in Canada for a record 23rd time, since the rankings began in 1991. This year, Mount Allison was also ranked first for reputation, scholarships and bursaries, operating budget, and library expenses.

## McKENNA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The McKenna Scholars program offers scholarships for entering and returning PPE students, research assistantships for senior students, and Convocation prizes for top graduating students. Nine students were named McKenna Scholars in 2022-23. "These are some of our brightest students, filled with ambitions to have positive impacts on the world," says Dr. Vicki St. Pierre, dean of Arts and acting dean of Social Sciences and Business. "Recognizing the achievements of these students and being able to offer them meaningful beyond-the-classroom research opportunities is a great motivator for them." The McKenna Scholars Program is funded through an endowment created by the School's inaugural donors. New gifts of any size can be made to the endowment.



DR. JOSEPH JUNG

## McKENNA FELLOW

The 2022-23 McKenna Fellow was Dr. Joseph Jung, who studies inequality, macro-labour economics, and political economy. Jung taught two upper-year econometrics courses and mentored students. He also delivered two special seminars:

- Sectoral Dynamics of Industrial Policy in a Two-sector Economy: Capacity Utilization and Distributional Implications of Korean Industrialization
- The Effect of Pro-competitive Reforms on Market Power and Labour Share of Firms' Value Added: Evidence from Korean Firms



SADIE SHELLY ('26)

## MEET McKENNA SCHOOL STUDENT SADIE SHELLY

While in high school, Sadie Shelly spent a lot of time researching universities online.

"I'm from a rural part of Ontario and didn't know very many people who had gone to university or college," says Shelly. "I made charts comparing various programs at various universities."

When Shelly discovered the McKenna School she was excited at the opportunity to be part of a program that combined many of her interests and that is modelled after the renowned PPE degree at the University of Oxford. She also saw it as an opportunity to leave her home province for the first time and see new horizons.

Shelly's journey to Mount Allison was confirmed when she received a \$25,000 McKenna School Scholarship, part of the McKenna Scholars Program. This scholarship awards \$10,000 to entering students and is renewable for three years (\$5,000/year).



**"Being awarded a scholarship like this, especially in first year, is phenomenal,"** says Shelly. **"I can't express enough gratitude.**

**The McKenna Scholarship really changed whether I could come to university or not."**

Shelly is interested in becoming a lawyer, an aspiration she has had since Grade 6, and in the meantime is looking forward to taking advantage of all Mount Allison has to offer.

"I have met so many nice people since coming here and have quickly become part of the university and Sackville communities," says Shelly.



LIAM CLARK-BLACK ('26)

## MEET McKENNA SCHOOL STUDENT LIAM CLARK-BLACK

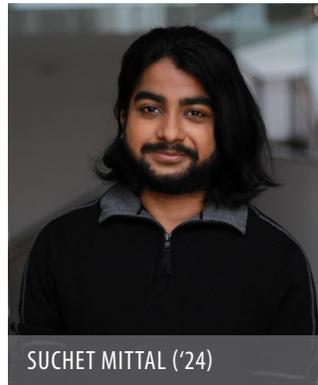
While Liam Clark-Black considered which university to attend, a friend told him about the Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He says he was immediately interested because it combined his academic interests and is one of the only programs of its kind in Canada.

"Philosophy was my favourite course in high school, and I've always liked the discussion and debate of politics, how you have to talk issues out," says Clark-Black. "One year later, Mount Allison has been the ideal place for me to learn and grow as a person."

In his first year of study, Clark-Black took classes in history, politics, Spanish, philosophy, and economics.

**"PPE has been great," he says. "I've liked every single course and the professors all know your name and are available for one-on-one support. I don't think that would happen at other schools."**

Clark-Black is also the recipient of a Bell Scholarship, one of the University's largest entrance awards, and is an accomplished athlete and musician. He is a member of the Mounties Men's Soccer team.



SUCHET MITTAL ('24)



KAITLYN KELEHER ('23)

## L.R. WILSON PPE INTERNSHIPS

The L.R. Wilson PPE Internships provide students with opportunities to spend their summers gaining practical experience working in public policy and public service. Kaitlyn Keleher spent summer 2022 working on Parliament Hill and in Fredericton in the office of MP Jenica Atwin.

"The internship experience overall gave me a better understanding of what I am good at and what I want out of life," says Keleher. "And the connections that I made on Parliament Hill and within our constituency office will be so helpful in my career and as I navigate the next steps in my education after my time at Mount Allison."

Three students have received L.R. Wilson PPE Internships for summer 2023 and plan to work for organizations in Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa.

Earning a L.R. Wilson PPE Internship had been a goal for third-year student Suchet Mittal since entering Mount Allison, and he just began a placement with Policy Horizons Canada. Only 10 days into the internship, Mittal says the opportunity has been amazing and one he is confident will set him up for a career in the policy sector.

Mittal, an international student from India, says one of the deciding factors in choosing Mount Allison was the PPE program.

"Mount A provided a close-knit community that also had academic rigour and the opportunities I was looking for in terms of career development and experiential learning," he says. "And specifically with the PPE program it was a very unique opportunity for me because I hadn't heard of it as a major very often, especially in North America."

**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE DONORS AND FRIENDS THAT HELPED CREATE THE McKENNA SCHOOL AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ITS PROGRAMMING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE.**

## UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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