

**Maple League of Universities Quarterly Report**  
**April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022**



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### Executive Director's Note:

This quarter we have done a lot of learning and also a great deal of unlearning.

We've sat with the discomfort of marking the 30 month anniversary of a global pandemic. We have tackled the books *Ungrading*, which asks us to rethink the foundations of assessment at the heart of our work as educators

We've had to adapt to unstable external funding streams for our OLTC program.

We experienced the impact of covid on international exchanges and travel.

In our approach to inter-institutional collaborations, we place more value on getting it right rather than being right; thanks to this mindset we've gleaned tremendous insights and advanced the vision of quality undergraduate education within our institutions and beyond.

Indeed, Adam Grant, in his new book *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know*, argues that the ability to rethink and unlearn might matter even more than intelligence or knowledge mastery.

In this book, Grant references Canadian-American writer and professor Phil Tetlock, famous for his leadership model of "thinking like a preacher, a prosecutor, and a politician." In this influential leadership theory, a preacher already knows the truth, a prosecutor is trying to win an argument, and a politician will just tell you what you want to hear.

Instead, Grant suggested thinking like a scientist. Grant defines the "scientist" role in the following way:

"you don't let your ideas become your identity. You value humility over pride, curiosity over conviction, and when you have an opinion, you realize that is just a hunch. It's a hypothesis waiting to be tested."

[NB. he could have well used the phrase a humanist, social scientist, or any member of the academy.]

One of my favourite examples of this humility and curiosity is from Positive Psychologist Martin Seligman: after building an entire career on behavioural psychology, he had to chuck out 30+ years of work when advancements in neurobiology revealed startling mechanisms were hitherto unimagined.

He thought that helplessness was learned. But he was wrong.

In his original theory, when an organism is subjected to stimuli that are painful or unpleasant, combined with the realization they have no control over the situation, they become unable or unwilling to avoid subsequent encounters with those stimuli, even if they are “escapable.”

A few years ago, though, “Seligman and his original collaborator Steve Maier realized that their original theory of learned helplessness was actually backwards. The passivity and the feeling of lack of control experienced in their learned helplessness experiments was actually the default response, an automatic, unlearned reaction to prolonged adversity, and what must actually be learned is hope-- the perception that one can control and harness the unpredictability in one's environment” for better future outcomes.

In 2018 Seligman outlines his brand-new findings of a “hope circuit” where higher-order beings (like humans) can re-wire our brains as we move from helplessness (the default) to hope (learned).

This was a revelation because it means WE CAN re-wire our brains from nope to hope.

Furthermore, if brains are the most complex systems – with pathways, connectors, and routes – can we use this concept to help us rewire other systems like our classrooms, our universities, our social institutions?

What are the tools we need re-wire ourselves and our systems in order to see new pathways to action and to social change? This is where the Maple League comes in: we have been learning and unlearning together for the past quarter (and for the past four years) as we move into new, future-facing spaces as leaders in high quality undergraduate education. Indeed, the consortium functions as a hope circuit for higher education in Canada and beyond, and we continue to build those pathways, connections, and hubs so that we continue to challenge the actual in the name of the possible.

*~ Dr. Jessica Riddell, Executive Director, Maple League of Universities*

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## I. Extraordinary Student Experiences

### *Maple League Signature Initiatives:*

#### **Four Maple League Students are 2022 Recipients of the 3M National Student Fellow Award**

All the Maple League universities were represented in the 2022 3M National Student Fellow competition. **One student from each of the four universities** was awarded this prestigious fellowship, the highest national recognition of student educational leadership in Canada.

While ~13,400 students are shared amongst our four universities - in the pool of the 1.1 million students enrolled in Canadian PSE - we carved out 40% of the spots for student leadership. Only 10 fellows are recognized each year.

This year we identified 48 students in our cultivation cycle and successfully steered 21 students through to submission. They were given one-on-one mentorship, live info sessions, handbooks, email templates, support for nominators, videos, editing help, financial support for transcripts, help for VPs of Student Affairs with student letters, and other resources designed and delivered through the Maple League.

All four recipients this year went through the Maple League mentorship program. This program has an established record of excellence:

- In the first year of the ML 3M support program, we had four out of ten students from three of the Maple League universities (2020).
- In 2021 we had three of the 10 spots go to Maple League students.
- In 2022 we have four students from all four universities.

This is a consistent metric that reflects the work of our institutional champions and consortium approach to this award. Congratulations to the winners who are extraordinary students and models of a 21st-century liberal education:

[Olivia Stevenson \(Acadia\)](#) as a certified 200-hour yoga instructor, has lived the impact that mindfulness can have on mental and physical wellbeing, and through the development of yoga and mindfulness classes that she hosts on campus, she has had the opportunity to share this with fellow peers, faculty, and community members.

Sufia Langevin (BU) recognizing the unique position that students occupy in a university, she has dedicated her time to student advocacy, serving as the Vice President of Academic Affairs of the Students' Representative Council this past year as well the co-chair of the Joint Senate and Board Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the past two years.

Oorja Gonepavaram (Mt A) is a fourth-year International Student at Mount Allison University from India, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Commerce and minoring in Economics and Japanese Studies. She believes in utilizing the academic platform to create space for marginalized groups that she is a part of.

Ben Boudreau (StFX) has developed an extensive network of student and community connections through his involvement in the Human Kinetics/Sport Management Program and the Schwartz School of Business. This includes but is not limited to his own business "St. FX Boxes" where he created a "Pay it Forward" bursary, and being an OLTC Student Champion.

We were able to celebrate these awards in Ottawa at a Awards gala during the STLHE (The STLHE (Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education) Annual Conference in Ottawa offered a unique opportunity to bring together multiple cohorts of 3M Student Fellows, four 2022 Fellows were celebrated (one from each ML campus) and 2021 Fellow Georges-Philippe got a long-awaited opportunity to connect with his cohort.



The 2022 3M Student Fellows planning their closing plenary (not pictured here, Oorja Gonepavaram)

**3M National Student Fellows 2022**

<p>Olivia Grace Stevenson</p>  <p>Acadia University</p>	<p>Sufia Langevin</p>  <p>Bishop's University</p>
<p>Oorja Gonepavaram</p>  <p>Mount Allison University</p>	<p>Ben Tyler Boudreau</p>  <p>St. Francis Xavier University</p>




**The Convergence of Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall Shared Courses**

While there were few classes in session for most of the quarter, the final quarter of the year was a busy one for Maple League Share Courses, the Faculty Excellence Lead, and the Registrars. As final marks came in for Shared Courses, systems built over the past two years made it (relatively) quick and easy to ensure that marks and credits moved from one institution to another before convocation.

At the same time, Spring and Summer courses were launching at all four campuses. And while these courses aren't covered under the Shared Courses MOU, the systems in place for the fall & winter terms expedited the sharing of student information. The Maple League also helped to promote the courses which were available to students through an opt-in promotion form that was shared with Deans across campus. We built a [dedicated page on the website](#) to promote all the spring and summer offerings across the Maple League (and clarify processes for interested students), and we created [a virtual booklet](#) with all the information on the courses we were asked to highlight. Finally, we launched a social media campaign over the Month of April, where four times per week we [highlighted exciting courses](#).

Finally, the final touches were put on the Shared courses for the Fall 22 and Winter 23 terms, and these courses appeared on all four course calendars. For the first time, thanks to the new Shared Course Timeline developed this year, Maple League Shared Courses were able to be added to the calendars *before* student registration opened.

**ML Spring & Summer 2022**



**FRE 122: Atelier de conversation multiniveau 1**

**Instructor:** Caroline Dault  
**Dates:** May 9 to 27 (M,Tu,W,Th 9am-12pm)  
**Format:** In Person (Sherbrooke)  
**Host:** Bishop's

[mapleleague.ca/spring-summer](http://mapleleague.ca/spring-summer)



**ML Spring & Summer 2022**




**ART 259: Introductory Filmmaking**

**Instructor:** Antoinette Karuna  
**Dates:** May 2 to June 28  
**Format:** Synchronous, Online  
**Host:** St. Francis Xavier

[mapleleague.ca/spring-summer](http://mapleleague.ca/spring-summer)




**ML Spring & Summer 2022**



**DRAM1001: Introduction to Screen Studies**

**Instructor:** Sarah Fanning  
**Dates:** May 2 to June 17  
**Format:** Asynchronous, Online  
**Host:** Mount Allison

[mapleleague.ca/spring-summer](http://mapleleague.ca/spring-summer)



### Students Engage in Micro Work-Integrated Learning

55 students attended Micro-WIL Workshops as part of our Pedagogy, Edu-Technology, & Learning (PETAL) series. With 35 of these students gaining badges or records of completion for their work.

The Micro-WIL experiences contain two parts:

1) a short workshop/training session on a given topic, and 2) a challenge/project. First students are introduced and trained on a given topic/area and then they use their new training and experience as students to complete their challenge.



When students complete four or more workshops (of their choice) they received a PETAL Record of Completion. Running every Thursday at 9:00 am ET / 10:00 am AT from March 17<sup>th</sup> — May 26<sup>th</sup> 2022, these free workshops gave students an introduction to the following topics:

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Learning Objectives and Bloom's Taxonomy
- Critical Reflective Practice
- Learner-Centered Syllabi
- Alternative Assessment
- Formative and Summative Assessment
- Critical Empathy and Hope University
- Understanding Your Privilege (and What To Do With It)
- Visual Syllabi
- Educational Technologies and Learning Management Systems
- Accessibility



**Maple League 3M National Student Fellows Gather at the STLHE Conference**



2021 3M Student Fellow Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon is (finally) celebrated at the STLHE Awards Gala

The STLHE conference in Ottawa offered a unique opportunity to bring together multiple cohorts of 3M Student Fellows, four 2022 Fellows were celebrated (one from each ML campus) and 2021 Fellow Georges-Philippe got a long-awaited opportunity to connect with his cohort. Also, Theo Soucy, a 2018 Fellow, attended through a Jarislawsky Travel grant, and was able to connect with many of the students they have mentored over the past four years.



The 2022 3M Student Fellows planning their closing plenary (not pictured here, Oorja Gonepavaram)



Mount Allison 3M Fellow Oorja Gonepavaram speaks at the STLHE closing plenary



The 2022 3M Student Fellows (including four from the Maple League) at the STLHE Awards Gala



3M Student Fellow Theo Soucy (2018) with her mentor Jessica Riddell

***Maple League Supported Initiatives:***

**Maple League Supported Initiative Completes First Belize Field School in May**

The Maple League Supported Global Skills Opportunity funded project is called the Belize Field School – Nation to Nation: Building Indigenous Knowledge Across International Borders. Here is the [website](#) to learn more about the program. There were 11 student participants from across the four Maple League universities plus a faculty member (Dr. Genner Llanes-Ortiz from Bishop’s University) and an Indigenous support person (Teresa Francis from St. Francis Xavier University) that traveled to Belize in May 2022 for the inaugural jointly developed field school.



After a series of virtual pre-departure orientation sessions in March and April, the group came together for an in-person pre-departure gathering at Mount Allison University from May 4-6 just prior to departure for Belize. During the three-day gathering, participants joined many cultural activities that included a welcome prayer, a rattle-making workshop, discussions on sharing Indigenous perspectives and a sweat lodge ceremony. Additional sessions included a virtual conversation with the Governor General of

Canada, Her Excellency Mary Simon as well as several pre-departure sessions that focused on risk management and safety briefings.

In addition to the participants that attended, staff from the International Offices of the four Maple League universities (Mount Allison, St. Francis Xavier, Acadia and Bishop’s) also joined the pre-departure gathering from May 4-6. It was an incredible opportunity to come together in-person to learn and share with one another and see how transformative this field school program was for the participants. This program was also featured in Universities Canada which can be read [here](#).



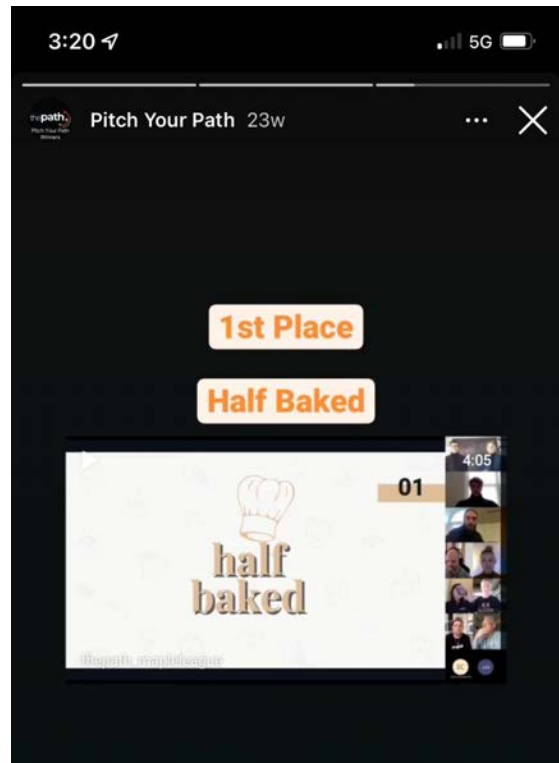
### The Path Pilot Supports 200 Maple League Entrepreneurs

The Path, a new startup incubator shared across Maple League universities, has helped over 200 students build their entrepreneurship skills this year, with courses from Acadia, Bishop’s, and Mount Allison universities participating in the pilot. 50 startups were created: 15 successfully achieved traction and five generated revenue. One startup from Mount A will enter PropelICT, Atlantic Canada’s virtual tech accelerator, through a strategic partnership with The Path.

Students participating in the program through seven entrepreneurship courses received \$300,000 in external funding to work on their startup, funded through Canada’s CEWIL I-Hub. This covered start-up expenses and a work-integrated-learning stipend for students, and additional funding for The Path program costs.

Offering 30 workshops, panels, and networking events to students as well as a dozen possible Alumni Mentor pairings, The Path created a novel academic program this year. Leveraging the strengths of the sister universities, inter-disciplinary and industry collaboration supported students to become successful entrepreneurs alongside their studies.

‘Pitch Your Path’ a pitch competition hosted by The Path in April put nine top startups in front of investors and startup coaches to complete their training and enter the market. \$1,500 in prizes was awarded and winners were featured on The Path’s Instagram page.



Following the success of its pilot launch, The Path is seeking sustainable funding and a strategic governance model in order to way find a ‘path’ for students to become entrepreneurs in Eastern Canada. The Path’s next cohort begins in September 2022 and is open to any student across the Maple League. Signup through The Path website or by enrolling in an entrepreneurship course. For more information and to see The Path entrepreneurs, go to [thepath.mapleleague.ca](https://thepath.mapleleague.ca) or follow [@thepath\\_mapleleague](https://www.instagram.com/thepath_mapleleague).

### **Maple League Supports the Edu-Portal Project Launched by Dr. Lana Radloff**

The Maple League and the Jarislowsky Foundation provided grants to EduPortal, a digital educational teaching tool and public education cultural portal that creates community engagement and discourse about the diversity of cultural heritage. It connects past and present, by examining the notion of the Greco-Roman world as the "foundation of Western civilizations" and pairing these narratives with non-Western epistemologies.



An interdisciplinary and multicultural group of students worked collaboratively to produce a multilingual, educational cultural portal and public-facing course website that examines the intersection of new and old word identities and nation building, and the implications of our shared culture and memory for understanding and incorporating the diverse modern identities that characterize Canada and the world today.

Initiating generativity and mobilizing the knowledge of undergraduate students, EduPortal uses a balance of Western and non-Western approaches to education to offer well-informed materials and resources for educators, parents, communities, and regions across the globe that may otherwise not have access to such materials. It aims to encourage reflection on the past and present and the examination of the origins of accepted epistemologies within the Western world, by interrogating their origins and transformation within contemporary society.

The EduPortal platform demonstrates the strengths of non-traditional experiential learning and the benefits of a liberal education model that emphasizes multi- and interdisciplinary frameworks and local and global citizenship.

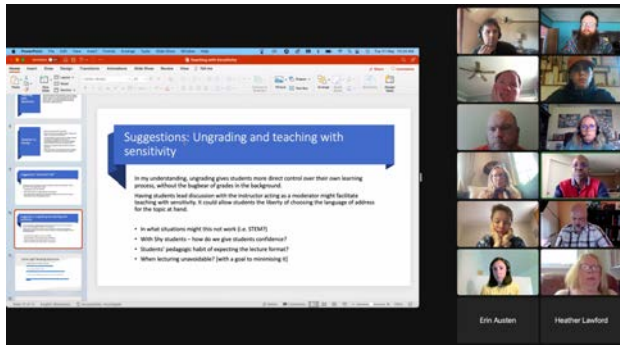
Through independent research and collaboration, the students involved in the project develop numerous skills, such as cultural sensitivity, research, public outreach, project management, lesson plan development, marketing, and critical thinking.

The courses within EduPortal are meant to start larger conversations and illuminate cross-cultural connections throughout the world. EduPortal draws parallels between the past and the present and invites a critical analysis of the interplay between these influences. Our materials confront traditional notions of the ancient world and reflect the diversity of cultures and communities that characterized it.

The Maple League is a proud supporter of this innovative knowledge mobilization and will continue to share these student opportunities for undergraduate research across the four campuses.

## II. Faculty and Staff Engagement

### Micro-Certificate in Teaching and Learning Wraps with a Week-Long Intensive



With the teaching term finishing, participants in the Maple League Micro-Certificate in Teaching and Learning turned their attention more fully to completing the micro certificate. This last quarter of the year saw a flurry of writing, and several capstone projects making it over the finish line. The culmination of the program came during the week of May 30th to June 3rd, where the cohort of participants,

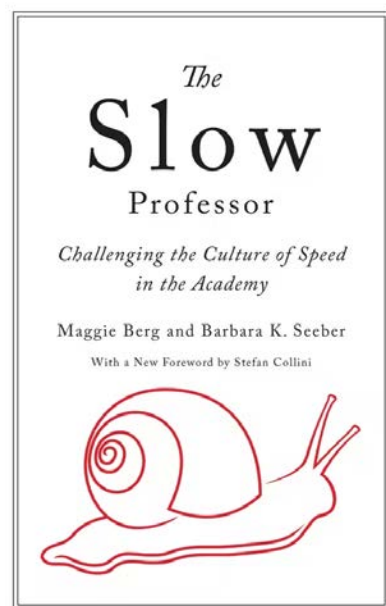
along with the MLTLC, attended a week-long intensive on Zoom.

With eight sessions over five days (as well as some less-structured social time online and in-person) the week was full of deep, meaningful discussions which got to the heart of big challenges. The intensive was very well received, and served as a fitting finish to nine months of reading, reflecting, and conversing.

### *The Slow Professor Serves as a Guide Toward Success of Universities*

The very first Summer Book Club launched this quarter, with a reading of Maggie Berg & Barbara K. Seeber's *The Slow Professor*. Over three-dozen participants took part in the book club from across the Maple League and from five outside institutions.

The book club was a great success, with honest and vulnerable conversations about the challenges of working in the university system as it stands in 2022. Alongside discussion of the difficulty of their work, faculty and staff were enthusiastic about their passion for their work, care for their students, and respect for their colleagues. Ultimately, discussions pointed toward the need for change in order to ensure the long-term success of our institutions, and a commitment to compassion and care for one-another as a part of that change.



**One Better Together Season Ends, and Another Begins!**



Our fourth quarter bridged two Better Together seasons, and saw dozens of faculty join in discussion with leaders in teaching and learning.

April saw the end of a very successful Winter Better Together season, with two great sessions, “Slowly but Surely: Inclusiveness in STEM and beyond” with Acadia’s Juan Carlos López and “Maple League Pedagogy Panel: Award Winning Educators from Across the ML” which featured six celebrated teachers from all four schools.



In the last days of June we launched the 2022 Summer Better Together season with a special Maple League Hosts session featuring the Dalhousie Centre for Learning and Teaching’s Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Le-May Sheffield, titled “The Value of Informal Conversational Partners to Teaching and Learning.” This session was a perfect compliment to our Summer Book Club reading of *The Slow Professor*.

**DHSI-East (Digital Humanities Summer Institute-East) Public Keynote**

2022 marks the second year of DHSI-East (Digital Humanities Summer Institute-East), a four-day workshop hosted by the StFX Digital Humanities Centre where participants, including faculty, staff, and students, come together to learn about digital humanities. This year’s DHSI-East workshop was led by Dr. Constance Crompton (University of Ottawa) and Dr. Emily Murphy (University of British Columbia Okanagan). This year’s workshop is about the Text Encoding Initiative, which is a standard for building digital editions. The keynote for this year’s talk was delivered by Dr. Ken Penner (St Francis Xavier University). His public, free, and virtual talk titled “A Toolkit for Humanities Research and Editing Ancient Documents” took place on May 2nd. For more on DHSI-East, visit [their website](#).

### **III. External Engagement**

#### **Award Winning OLTC Program Featured at STLHE Conference**

The Maple League was represented in multiple platforms on a national stage June 7-11 in Ottawa at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference. This is the largest national organization for teaching and learning in higher education and attracts 400 - 700 delegates (both hybrid and in-person) to the conference.

#### **A Research Presentation on the OLTC**

Matthew Dunleavy, Dr. Jessica Riddell, and Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon presented “Pandemic Pedagogy in Practice: Emergency Remote Teaching with Students as Co-designers.” in a bilingual paper panel.



#### **OLTC’s D2L Award Win Celebrated**

Concurrently with “Pandemic Pedagogy in Practice,” Cécilia Alain, Toni Roberts, and Scott Stoddard accepted the D2L Award on behalf of the OLTC, and shared details of the program with their fellow award-winners and delivered a presentation on the innovation of the project to a large audience.

#### **OLTC Poster Presentation**

The OLTC team also shared research findings through an STLHE poster presentation. Their poster “Working with Students to Co-Design 21st-Century Classrooms: The Online Learning & Technology Consultants (OLTC) Program” enabled face-to-face, one-on-one knowledge mobilization with Educational Developers and Faculty from across the country.





**Maple League Executive Director Gives Keynote Speech at National Conferences**

Dr. Jessica Riddell gave two keynote speeches this month at both the STLHE conference in Ottawa and EuroSoTL in Manchester, UK. Her keynotes were centered around Hope University and showcasing how Hope University is a concept without borders, built around fostering community locally, nationally, and internationally. The Maple League featured heavily in both international talks as a model of what Hope University looks like in rewiring and renewing systems and structures in higher education.



**OLTC Program Awarded Top Innovation Prize at STLHE Gala Banquet**

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education awarded Matthew Dunleavy, Georges-Philippe Gadoury-Sansfaçon, Dr. Jessica Riddell, Toni Roberts, and Scott Stoddard the prestigious D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning for the creation and expansion on the OLTC program from 2020-22.

The D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning recognizes and celebrates excellence in collaborative teaching and learning in post-secondary education.



While educators are encouraged to cultivate collaborative approaches to student learning, they must also be encouraged and supported to engage in collaborative teaching.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, Cécilia Alain, Matthew Dunleavy, and Toni Roberts represented the team with other winners at a full-day retreat in Ottawa to share innovative practices.

### **OLTC Champions Meet In-Person for the First Time at Rideau Street Luncheon**



After the multiple successes of the OLTC were recognized and celebrated at the STLHE conference, the principle architects and executors of the program met to celebrate their success and imagine what the next steps may be for the OLTC. On the agenda: how to foster more spaces of belonging and flourishing for both faculty and students as we move into a post-pandemic world.

### **Maple League Executive Director Meets with External Funders in Ottawa in June**

Jessica had a chance to meet with leads at Business Higher Education Round Table (BHER), a federally-funded higher education and business sector think tank based in Ottawa. Steve Higham and Maria Giammarco, research leads at BHER, attended the keynote Jessica delivered June 8, and then they met for lunch on Parliament Hill to discuss the future of higher education and the partnerships with business sectors, particularly in relation to upskilling and re-skilling.



**Dr. Riddell Meets with CEWIL Partners in Ottawa at STLHE**

CEWIL Director Charlene Marion and Atlantic Canada lead Krista Steeves were at STLHE in Ottawa and hosted the opening reception for delegates. Jessica met with them and highlighted the importance of external funding and partnerships that enable innovation at universities that experience funding challenges. CEWIL (Cooperative Experiential and Work Integrated Learning) has been a key partner for projects across the Maple League, and Jessica explored future projects with the CEWIL leaders.



**Byward Market Reception Brings Together Dozens of Maple League Faculty, Staff, and Students**

Following the first day of the conference, a cinq-à-sept was hosted by the Maple League at the Heart & Crown in the Byward Market. A beautiful June evening facilitated hours of old friends catching up, online collaborators meeting face-to-face for the first time, and new colleagues connecting.

**BHER Final Report Submitted**

The OLTC Program Director and Project Manager submitted a final report to our external funders—Business + Higher Educational Roundtable (BHER). This report illustrated the innovative pathways created to support work-integrated learning through the OLTC Program and highlighted which students were able to take part in these WIL experiences, amongst other successes. An unsolicited testimonial provided to us this month about the OLTC program can be seen below:

My name is Morgan Quinn and I am a contract faculty prof in both Sports Studies and Sociology. This note is to support the funding of OLTC as a valued program. Since the inception of the pandemic, I have been fortunate enough to benefit from the excellent expertise and professionalism from those students of OLTC assigned to me. Being a technological dinosaur, their very thorough knowledge has allowed me to prepare properly to teach online. Specifically, they contribute to the setting up of my Moodle page (considerable), as well as creating group channels on Teams. Their assistance has been invaluable and I trust I am one of many that speak highly of the OLTC incentive. Therefore, please do add my name to those in support of the program and trust it will continue as a needed element to properly prepare for our students.

*~ Morgan W. Quinn, Bishop's University*

### Executive Director Returns to *The Garden* to Talk About Shakespeare and Love

Dr. Jessica Riddell presented her talk titled “Does love get better with age?” at [The Garden](#) on April 27th. The Garden is a Netflix-style streaming platform that engages internationally- recognized scholars about their research and puts them in conversation with a “community of the curious” across the globe. Dr. Riddell shared her research on how love gets better with age in Shakespeare’s works: the star-crossed lovers are cautionary tales that expose the disastrous disease of toxic love, but that there are pro-aging antidotes in that educate us on enduring and deep (distinctly middle-aged) love. Her talk is available [on-demand](#).



### Maple League Research on High Impact Practices Featured at National Symposium Series

A lot has changed in our understanding of and approach to teaching and learning in higher education since the 2010 publication of *Taking Stock: Research on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*. And yet, much has stayed the same (despite the current pandemic). We have “taken stock” once again – of what we know now, what has changed and what further change is needed in support of deep and essential learning in our ever-changing world. These are among the issues to be covered in our new book *Taking Stock 2.0: Transforming Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*. Due to be published in time for the 2022 STLHE annual conference, chapter authors Dr. Jessica Riddell and Tiffany McLennan showcased their contribution in advance on May 24, 2022.

