

Maple League of Universities Monthly Report
September 30, 2021



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Executive Director's Note:

September is always an exciting month across the four schools; with the start of a new academic year students return to campus, faculty are engaged in innovative course design, and staff deliver inclusive student support programs. The energy of the citizen towns within which we are located is buzzing with energy and excitement.

September was also a month of launches for signature consortium-led initiatives: we announced the fall season of the Maple League Book Club, the Fall Better Together professional development series, the new curricular course for the OLTC (Online Learning and Technology Consultants) program, the four innovative Maple League courses, and upwards of 18 CEWIL funded projects that focus on direct student benefit.

This month we also saw a flurry of activity as communities of practice that were dormant over the summer months began to meet again, while other groups who met frequently over the summer months have started to announce new joint projects, successfully funded grants, and other shared initiatives.

In the midst of this disruption we've also returned this September to the fundamentals: we have come to appreciate, now more than ever, the value of face-to-face and immersive learning environments, the importance of peer-to-peer interactions amongst students, and the necessity of community-building and strong relationships to the citizen towns within which we are situated.

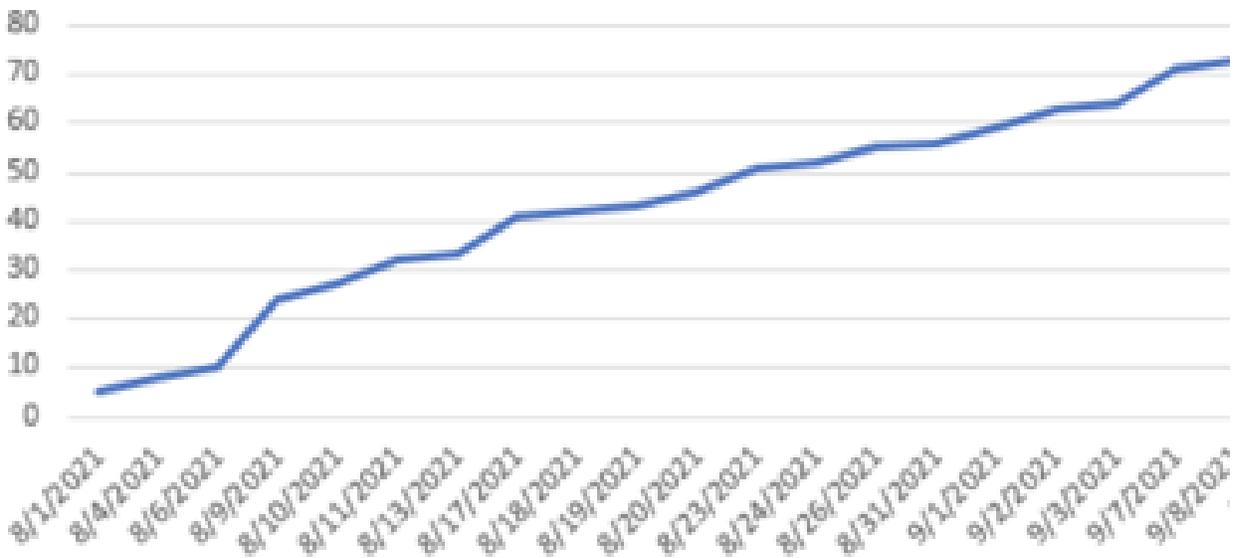
We've had a stark reminder to value our time together because we know this time is precious. Here is to celebrating - with caution and critical empathy - a return to campus that brings with it renewal, hope, and new lessons to learn.

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

I. Extraordinary Student Experiences

OLTCs Support Over 100 Fall Courses this month

As the semester began, more course instructors signed up to work with OLTCs for their Fall 2021 courses. Considering each course instructor and each course has different needs, this is an incredible accomplishment and shows how dedicated our OLTCs are at supporting more learner-centered courses. OLTCs have supported and continue to work with **70 course instructors** to support **123 courses**.



This Fall 29 Students Across the Maple League Engage in Curricular Work-Integrated Learning

29 students are now enrolled in *Teaching, Pedagogy, and Technology in Courses* with Dr. Toni Roberts. Supported by a CEWIL iHub grant, these students are delving into a curricular version of our OLTC Program. We look forward to seeing how these students expand the scope of the OLTC Program and offer new avenues for student collaboration with faculty. Students will be trained on a number of inclusive pedagogical and technological practices and then work in small groups on an applied research project where they engage faculty in the design of a course for Winter 2022.

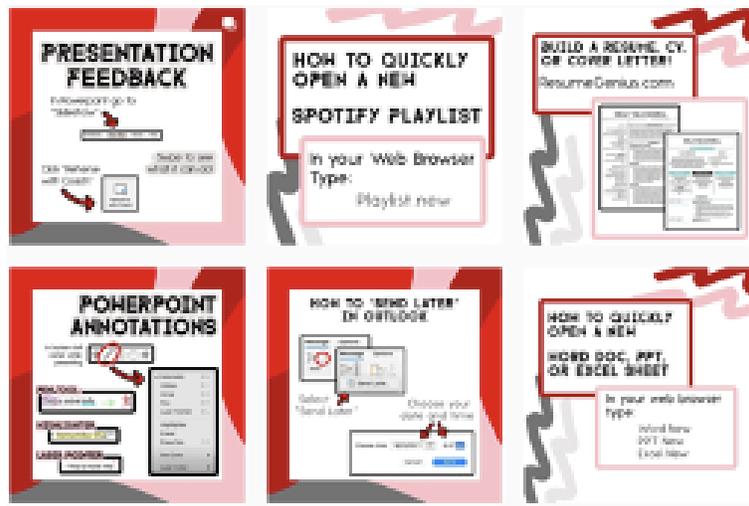
OLTC Student Champions Submit Article To Hybrid Pedagogy

Hybrid Pedagogy

Following a [Call For Papers](#) for “Student Voices,” our three OLTC Student Champions—Cécilia Alain, Ben Boudreau, and Denise Roy-Loar—have submitted a paper to *Hybrid Pedagogy* about their role in the OLTC Orientation. As the call argues, “it is all too rare that we center (or even hear) the voices of students talking of their experiences; in classrooms, on campus, online, in Zoom, these stories are barely a whisper.” We are happy to be part of the process of centering student voices and providing Cécilia, Ben, and Denise the space to imagine successful student-centered virtual gatherings and reflect upon their vital role in building community in our cross-institutional program.

OLTC Instagram Campaign Targets Student Success

Our Communications Fellow—Emma Trumble—continues to publish student-focused posts on [social media](#) to offer tips and tricks to help student success. Ranging from PowerPoint annotation tools to practicing typing skills, these posts give quick, digestible information to help students as the new semester begins.



The PATH Has Successful Fall Launch with 175 Students

The Path has launched this month with 150 students enrolled through entrepreneurship courses across the Maple League, and an anticipated 25 more students across degree programs.

The deadline to apply is September 24th and students can join by enrolling in an entrepreneurship course at their university or by signing up on our [website](#). Support for student entrepreneurs has been enabled through funding by the Maple League and CEWIL Canada.

A kickoff event was hosted on September 15th featuring alumni entrepreneurs and can be viewed [here](#). Programming for student entrepreneurs begins this month with an ideation workshop and social event on September 24th.

Student Entrepreneurs In Residence, Mika Rohac (BBA-Finance, Bishops), Hunter Gibbons (BBA, Mt. A), and Brogan O'Brian (BBA-Entrepreneurship, Acadia), have begun working on their campuses to promote The Path and plan programming for the semester.

The Path has also finalized its key partnerships with the Dobson-Lagasse-Entrepreneurship Centre (Bishops), Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre (Acadia), and Discoverbox (St. FX). These key partners will provide programming and additional supports for student entrepreneurs. Lastly, The Path has partnered with PropellICT to provide students the opportunity to participate in a larger accelerator program upon graduation from university.



Providing students The Path to launching sustainable pitch ready startups with global potential.



Grow your network,
build your potential,
find your path

ABOUT US

The Path runs 12-week cohorts starting at the beginning of each semester. Designed to be accessible to any student while in university, our incubator operates entirely virtually and can take entrepreneurs at any stage of development. Students have the opportunity to collaborate, get paired with a mentor, receive seed funding, pitch to investors, and build teams of interested students.

II. Faculty and Staff Engagement

Maple League Research Committee Builds Capacities for Research Across the Four Schools

ML is the 1st Consortium Member of Research Impact Canada (RIC)

The Maple League is set to become the first consortium for membership with Canada's knowledge mobilization network, Research Impact Canada. Consortium status will provide significant savings on annual RIC membership fees. The membership submission packages are extensive and will be prepared and submitted in the coming weeks.

RIC is a pan-Canadian network of universities with a mandate to maximize the impact of university research on society by



supporting knowledge brokers and by demonstrating to relevant stakeholders and the public the positive impacts of mobilizing knowledge. RIC aims to develop institutional capacities to support knowledge mobilization by developing and sharing knowledge mobilization best practices, services and tools for public engagement. These services benefit grant applications, research partnerships, and fosters engaged teaching and learning (i.e., community service learning, work enabled learning, internships).

Maple League membership in the RIC will allow all four universities to participate more fully in the federal government's inclusive innovation agenda which increasingly requires knowledge mobilization plans and associated impact statements in preparing federal research funding proposals.

“Through ResearchImpact, universities are using knowledge mobilization to generate socially useful research and to provide it to decision-makers, policy-makers, and practitioners, in collaboration with community, industry, and government partners.”
Beyond Citations, Conference Board of Canada (2016)

MLPRC applies for Joint Membership with the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (GAGS)

All four Maple League universities are coming together in applying for a cost-reduced joint membership with the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS), commencing January 2022. CAGS was founded in 1962 to promote graduate education and university research through webinars and meetings, publications, conferences, mentorship, dissertation awards and advocacy. The Association brings together Canadian universities with graduate programs and the

three federal research-granting agencies, as well as other institutions and organizations having an interest in graduate studies. The CAGS mission is to provide leadership, foster community, and promote collaboration to advance excellence in graduate education, research and scholarship.

MLRC sets goals to Nominate Researchers for the Royal Society of Canada

The Research Committee continues to make progress towards the nominations of outstanding researchers and scholars for membership (Fellow and College) with the Royal Society of Canada, with submissions due by 1 December.

Maple League 3M Fellowship Mentorship Network Gears Up for 2021-2022 Award Cycle

This month we relaunched our robust mentorship networks for both the 3M National Teaching Fellowship and the 3M National Student Fellowship. This program has yielded an unprecedented number of submissions and successful fellows since its inception in 2019-2020 and we are looking to build on this success into the 2021-2022 award cycle.

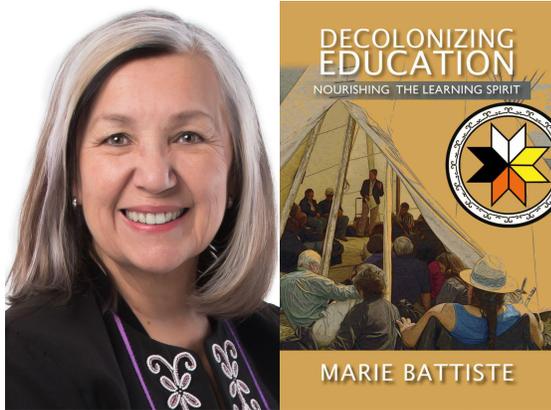
Maple League 3M Support includes:

- **‘How To’ Handbooks** for the 3M National Student Fellowship and the 3M National Faculty Fellowship: these handbooks will be available to both nominees and nominators within the Maple League with the aim of improving the number and quality of applications from Maple League universities. These handbooks include excerpts from successful dossiers, tips and advice, and guidance on structure and critical reflective practice that constitutes a successful dossier
- A network of **institutional champions** to help identify and support nominations (both faculty and student) including: Dr. Jeff Banks (Acadia), Dr. Jessica Riddell (Bishop’s), Dr. Andrew Nurse (Mount Allison) & Dr. Angie Kolen (St. FX); Katie Bibbs (Bishop’s); Matt Lukeman (Acadia); and Adam Christie (Mount Allison)



- **3M mentorship network:** 3M faculty and 3M students from Maple League universities who have volunteered to work with nominators and nominees in the compilation of dossiers
- **Administrative support** in compiling dossiers, collecting reference letters, and copy-editing
- **Webinars** and on-demand **digital resources** (such as [Teaching Dossiers Q&A with a 3M Teaching Fellow](#))

The Maple League Book Club Launches with 61 Participants



Faculty, staff, and students from across the Maple League and beyond gathered virtually to start reading Marie Battiste’s *Decolonizing Education: Nourishing the Learning Spirit*. Divided into five sections of 10-14 participants each, these groups will meet bi-weekly to support and challenge one another, and to imagine new, better ways to teach our students.

The Maple League Micro-Certificate in Teaching and Learning Welcomes an Impressive First Cohort

After almost a year in development, the Maple League Teaching and Learning Committee launched its call for participants for the Micro-Certificate in Teaching and Learning in the early days of September. Two weeks later we had gathered a diverse, dynamic group of educators from across the Maple League.

Participants teach Nursing, English, Development Studies, Music, Candida Studies, and more. They include full professors, first-time university teachers, and every step in between. This wide range of experience and expertise will help foster challenging fruitful conversation, and innovative new ideas and strategies. We’re confident these teachers will be champions for the Maple League far into the future.



The Fall Season of Better Together Builds on the Successes of the Summer

“These sessions show the vast variety of people, interests and experiences of the Maple League, and give hope for the things we can do and where we can go in the future.”

~ Anonymous Better Together Feedback

Feedback from the summer Better Together season was terrific, and the fall season will continue this work, with six invigorating, hopeful sessions:

- September 23rd - *Educating for Compassionate Communities of Interdependence* (Mary Sweatman, Gabrielle Donnelly, and John Colton – Acadia)
- October 7th - *Goofball Pedagogy: Authentic Teaching for Authentic Learning* (Courtney Plante – Bishop’s)
- October 21st - *EDID in Teaching and Learning* (Toni Roberts – MTA)
- November 4th - *Innovative Engagement: 21st Century Lecturing Tools & Strategies* (Donna Trembinski & Russell Wyeth – StFX)
- November 18th - *Maple League Hosts: Socially-Just Pedagogy & the Future of Universities* (David Horsnby – Carleton’s VP Teaching & Learning)
- December 2nd - *Accessibility as Collaborative Practice* (Katie Aubrecht & Erin Austen – StFX, Mary Ellen Donnan – Bishop’s, Jane Dryden – MTA, and Cynthia Bruce – formerly of Acadia)

These sessions will once again prove that we really are better together - as another summer attendee said:

“[Better Together is] the perfect antidote to this long pandemic!”

~ Anonymous Better Together Feedback

BETTER TOGETHER		
 Sep. 23 EDUCATING FOR COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES OF INTERDEPENDENCE	 Oct. 7 GOOFBALL PEDAGOGY: AUTHENTIC TEACHING FOR AUTHENTIC LEARNING	 Oct. 21 E.D.I.D. IN TEACHING & LEARNING
 Nov. 4 INNOVATIVE ENGAGEMENT: 21ST CENTURY LECTURING TOOLS & STRATEGIES	 Nov. 18 MAPLE LEAGUE HOSTS: SOCIALLY-JUST PEDAGOGY & THE FUTURE OF UNIVERSITIES	 Dec. 2 ACCESSIBILITY AS COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

III. External Engagement

RIIPEN & RBC Extends Funding to Support Student-Centred Experiential Learning

The Riipen team met with Dr. Jessica Riddell and the OLTC team to share the news that Riipen was able to secure extended funding through RBC for the Maple League. This funding extension will allow the consortium continued access to the Riipen platform until September 2022. Riipen is the largest marketplace in North America for experiential learning and Post-Secondary Institutions. This will mark the third year of funding for access to the platform: to date the Maple League has benefitted from \$240,000 (monetary value of grants) to support students and faculty engage in experiential and work-integrated learning through local and national networks.

The Riipen team is eager to continue meeting with Dr. Riddell and OLTC team members to explore how RIIPEN might support the transformative work-integrated learning initiatives offered across the Maple League.



CityStudio Seeks Out Partnership with the Maple League About Community Engagement

On September 20, Dr. Jessica Riddell and the Maple League team had an introductory meeting with CityStudio. CityStudio is a locally adaptive partnership model that enables municipalities and academic institutions to collaborate effectively and efficiently to make local communities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It is a collaboration kick-starter that links a municipality's needs with the expertise and creativity of driven students, faculty experts, and local researchers. [CityStudio Global](#) licenses the CityStudio model around the world, operating much like a social franchise. Duane Elverum, co-founder of CityStudio, believes that the Maple League is at the forefront of innovation in higher education and is interested in working with the Maple League to explore strategic opportunities for collaboration. CityStudio and the Maple

League are interested in hosting a webinar/workshop about ways to engage post-secondary students through hands-on learning and civic engagement, in collaboration with local government and community. The Maple League's value of community engagement and global citizenship is closely aligned with the CityStudio model as it is a unique hands-on learning experience for students and uses collaboration as a way to work towards a more just and civil society. We look forward to future talks with Duane and the rest of the CityStudio team.



Save the Date: Maple League to Host Renown Scholar David Hornsby



Headlining our fall season of Better Together is a Maple League Hosts lecture from Carleton University’s Associate Vice President (Teaching and Learning), Dr. David Hornsby. Drawing on his illustrious, intercontinental career, including the University of Cambridge (UK) and the University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Dr. Hornsby will share a lecture and Q&A on *Socially-Just Pedagogy & the Future of Universities*.

The lecture will take place on Thursday, November 18th at 11am (ET)/ Noon (AT) – registration will open in the coming days, but if you’d like to pre-register, please email Neil Silcox at nsilcox@ubishops.ca.

OLTC Team helps with Impact Evaluation in partnership with Blueprint

Maple League Executive Director Jessica Riddell, Program Director Matthew Dunleavy, and Project Manager Lauren Boulton met with [Blueprint](#) this month, which has been engaged by BHER to conduct an

impact evaluation of their WIL program. We had the opportunity to share the successes of our program and outline the ways financial support from BHER has allowed this program to grow and continue our Student-as-Partners model of collaboration.

Blueprint collaborates with leaders across Canada using evidence to bring clarity to complexity.

Dr. Riddell Gives International Talk About Shakespeare and Wicked Problems

As a Fellow of a new UK-based start-up called the Garden, Dr. Jessica Riddell gave a talk on September 30 about Shakespeare and how he can be a guide to solving today's wicked problems. The talk was 30 minutes with a lively 15 minute Q&A session after that truly was a community of curious and inquisitive minds.



Rethinking Shakespeare
with Dr. Jessica Riddell
How can Shakespeare be a guide for today's wicked problems?
Thu, Sep 30, 2021 • 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM GMT-4
Your seat is saved