



UPDATE



February 2000

McDowell Foundation Award for Contributions to Educational Research



The McDowell Foundation Award is intended to celebrate and publicize a variety of outstanding contributions to the field of teacher-centred educational research.

In 1999, the recipient selected was Lillian Forsythe, a primary teacher and McDowell Foundation researcher who has long provided an excellent illustration of how teacher research can be an important, integral part of teaching and learning in the classroom.

Lillian Forsythe is recognized as a master teacher in Regina, where she has taught Grades 1-4 at Marion McVeety School for 26 years. She has received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics, the Saskatchewan Mathematics Teachers' Society Master Teacher Award, and a MSTE Royal Bank Fellowship to

Queen's University. She has contributed her experience and knowledge generously to the development of curriculum and instruction at the school, school division, provincial and national levels. She has sat on numerous committees, piloted programs, written units, developed assessment tools, reviewed materials, provided workshops, and mentored other teachers. While many of her activities have focussed on science and mathematics, she has also made significant contributions to teaching practice with respect to portfolios, student assessment, reporting and conferencing, and problem-solving.

When the McDowell Foundation began sponsoring research projects in 1994, Lillian Forsythe and Vi Maers, a University of Regina faculty member, were among the very first applicants for a research grant. Their work, which was titled *Collaborative Manipulative Mathematics Research: Teacher Role*, is Project #1 on the Foundation's records and has influenced mathematics education as far away as Oman, where it was used in developing a primary mathematics program. From the start, Lillian has been a staunch supporter of the McDowell Foundation, not only as a researcher but also as a promoter, a speaker and a mentor.

The 1999 McDowell Foundation Award recognizes Lillian Forsythe for her outstanding contributions to educational research as an exemplary model of the teacher-researcher.

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Fourth Annual Learning from Practice Conference

Some 150 participants attended the fourth annual Learning from Practice: An Exchange of Teacher Knowledge and Research conference held in Saskatoon on November 19-20, 1999. The conference symbolized the growth of McDowell Foundation research in that 24 projects were presented. The conference continues to generate tremendous enthusiasm and demonstrates the outstanding work being done by researchers. Those involved in conducting research provide enthusiastic feedback about the value of the experience as an opportunity for teachers to grow professionally.

Build It and They Will Come

Verna Gallén, Coordinator, in her keynote address to the Fourth Annual Learning from Practice Conference

Gallén briefly reviewed the historical events that led to the establishment of the McDowell Foundation in 1991. The Foundation was one in a long series of efforts by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to meet its members' research needs. To some extent, it was an act of faith, resting on two beliefs: 1) people would donate money to a charitable organization that funds teacher research, and 2) teachers would come forward to carry out research projects. After five years in which 56 research pro-

jects have been funded from a fund that now stands at \$1.1 million, it appears that the faith was justified.

The Foundation now faces the challenge of living up to its promise of improving teaching and learning in the schools. Its effects will likely be documented through formal research in the future, but for the moment, the Foundation appears to be having an impact through its organizational culture, its opportunities for professional development, and its contributions to educational knowledge.



Verna Gallén, McDowell Foundation Coordinator, gave the keynote address at the 1999 Learning from Practice seminar.



McDowell Foundation researchers Louise Humbert and Patti Avery relax after providing the keynote address at the 1998 Learning from Practice seminar.

New Research Projects Awarded

In 1999 the McDowell Foundation provided another \$63,518 for research projects focussed on teaching and learning. Nine new projects received funding, among the one entitled *Creating a Safe Place: One School's Experience* which received a grant of \$7,947 to study the serious consequences of schoolyard bullying at Queen Elizabeth School in Saskatoon. Long before the tragic shootings in Colorado and Alberta galvanized public awareness, teachers at Queen Elizabeth were well into the development of a research project on how to make schools safer.

It was also a year for northern schools to attract significant research with a \$10,000 grant going to a project dealing with *Cross-Cultural Science Technology Units for Northern Saskatchewan Schools*.

This is an undertaking that brings together seven teachers from across northern Saskatchewan with a facilitator from the College of Education at the U of S. The aim is to develop ways to make science more accessible to Aboriginal students without expecting them to set aside their own cultural identities.

Meanwhile, Jackie Semchuk, principal at Queen Elizabeth, said she's convinced the worrisome bullying situation can be improved through a concerted, overt effort by students and teachers, with the support of parents.

"As teachers we have always been teaching values in our curriculum, and we are going to be working very hard to raise the level of awareness of bullying. And, we hope to do much more by teaching the children some preventive skills and strategies. By teaching the children these skills, and by looking very specifically at the issues, hopefully it can help prevent these situations from escalating.

"I think there is more bullying happening than we are aware of, and sometimes it can be very subtle," Semchuk added.

Semchuk said members of the research team will be doing data collection throughout the project and will also be engaging in workshops. She conceded it will be a challenge to see if the work is able to have long-range implications.

Meanwhile, other projects receiving grants for 1999-2000 are:

- \$6,406 for *Teaching and Learning Math 10: An Enhanced Approach* by a group from Saskatchewan Rivers School Division near Prince Albert.
- \$4,763 for *Connecting Wanuskewin and Saskatchewan Schools* by Doug Smith, who will be working with a group of Saskatoon teachers.
- \$3,950 for *Exploring Identity and Social Justice through Drama in Schools* by a group from Regina.
- \$3,900 for *Teaching and Assessing Middle Years Students Speaking and Learning Skills* by teachers at Montgomery School in Saskatoon.

- \$3,650 for *An Inquiry into the Changing Role of Grade One, Two and Three Teachers* as an innovative computer project is implemented by a group of primary teachers from Saskatoon.
- \$3,096 for *Facilitating the Integration of Technology into Subject Areas* by Sharon Mayall from Swift Current.
- \$3,580 for *A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words* by a group of Warman teachers.

In addition to these awards, there's another \$14,199 earmarked for the second phase of two research projects begun last year: *Implementing Traditional Dene Methods, Content and Values in the Classroom* (\$6,294) and *Project X (Excellence) Phase 2* (\$7,905).

Two applicants also received a \$1,000 developmental grant to develop their proposals more fully for the next round of applications.



Father Porte Memorial Dene School,
Black Lake



McDowell Foundation researchers Joyce
Mercredi, Ann Alphonse and Sheena Koops

Fundraising

The McDowell Foundation continues to make steady progress. One of the key messages for all donors is that the Foundation is producing results. Your donations are being translated into tangible projects that are making a difference for students at the classroom level. It can be safely estimated that several thousand students have been involved directly with the McDowell Foundation research projects.

The fund for research is growing, however, the goal of \$1.5 million still needs to be achieved. The demand for more research projects is growing and it is unfortunate that some requests must be denied.

I trust that you will find this newsletter informative and if you have any questions or concerns, please call.

Best wishes to all of you and thanks for your continuing moral and financial support.

Direct Mail Campaign

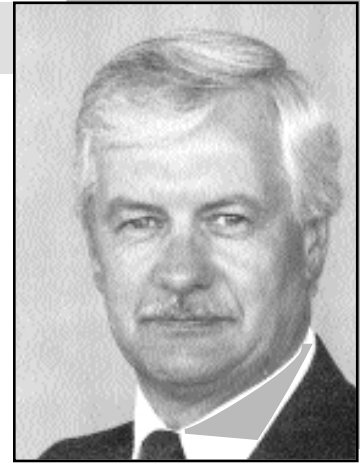
We are pleased that Greystone Capital Management, one of the McDowell Foundation's original corporate donors, has seen fit to underwrite a Direct Mail financial appeal. This is an opportunity to place information in the hands of all educators, both active and retired. So watch for your letter in the mail for retired teachers in the Spring and active teachers in the Fall!

Memorial and Honourary Gifts

The McDowell Foundation provides the opportunity to make memorial and honorary gifts in recognition of a colleague or friend. The Foundation office maintains a special book which records the names of people that are recognized.

Donations to the McDowell Foundation 1989-91 to 1998-99

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1989-1991 | \$202,111 |
| 1991-1992 | 28,130 |
| 1992-1993 | 231,422 |
| 1993-1994 | 175,019 |
| 1994-1995 | 127,426 |
| 1995-1996 | 129,829 |
| 1996-1997 | 92,737 |
| 1997-1998 | 77,272 |
| 1998-1999 | 79,707 |
| TOTAL | \$1,143,653 |



Harold Schultz
Coordinator of Public Relations and Fundraising

| Donor Group | One-Time Gifts | Pledges | Total Gifts & Pledges | No. of Donations |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Corporations/Foundations | 60,620 | 490,000 | 550,620 | 31 |
| Educational Organizations | 99,945 | 31,500 | 131,445 | 46 |
| Small Businesses/Organizations | 610 | 0 | 610 | 6 |
| Educational Partners | 87,430 | 175,482 | 262,912 | 193 |
| Superannuates | 107,051 | 81,841 | 188,892 | 740 |
| Teachers | 27,694 | 81,042 | 108,736 | 719 |
| No Information | 2,090 | 12 | 2,102 | 37 |
| TOTAL | \$385,441 | \$859,877 | \$1,245,318 | 1,772 |

McDowell Foundation Video Release

A 17 minute video entitled *Learning From Practice* has been released. It features the work of a number of McDowell Foundation researchers and is available for conventions and meetings. If you would like to view it or have it as part of a program, copies are available at the office. Also, arrangements can be made to have a Foundation representative accompany the video with an opportunity for discussion.

Donor Recognition – 1999

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Adam, Shirley | Ferguson, David B | Haukeness, Constance R | Loy, Gary D | Read, Joan | Teachers Credit Union |
| Allbright, Dorothy R | Ferguson, Gary Allen | Heffron, Kathleen E | MacDougall, Barry Donald | Reineke, Mark | Tenaski, Connie M |
| Allen, Anthony James | Foley, Laura J | Helmerson, Shirley L | Macleod, Jane Catherine | Richmond Nychuk, General Accountant | Tenold-Phillips, Brenda L |
| Anderson, Iva | Forbes, David G | Herron, Fred and Joan | Manley, Terence D | Ritter, Doris K | Tracey, Ann |
| Archibald, Kim | Fowler, Phyllis J J | Hesketh-Boles, Iris | May-Melin, Ethel Gail | Robinson, Beryl D | Tweddell, Linda Gail |
| Armstrong, Shannon R | Francis, Gillian R | Hudson, Jayne L | McCormick, Patricia A | Romanekewicz, Loretta | Tymchak, Michael |
| Avery, Wayne | Freed, Elizabeth Ann | Hughton, Basil W | McDowell, Stirling and Kathleen | Rongve, Donald G | Tysowski, Lynda Jean |
| Baby, Sharon Elizabeth | Frey, Richard W | Humboldt Branch STF | McGinnis, Kimberly Ann | Ronning, Pearl E | U of R Employees' Charitable F |
| Bacon, Jean Ellen | Friksen, David | James, Lynn Dawn | McLean-Woodward, Lynda | Ruo, Leslie Ling-Chin | Ulrich, Maureen Leslie |
| Badham, Mike (Frederick M.) | Gabert, Ingrid D | Jamison, Patricia Maureen | Meehan, L Joseph (Joe) | STF Social Committee | University of Regina, (SIDRU) |
| Baldo, Elisabeth Helene | Gallays, Marcel L | Jayson, Belinda M | McNab, Sharon Irene | Sask. Teachers' Federation | Unverricht, Brian L |
| Barker, Wendy Judith Anne | Gallén, Verna | Jeffrey, Noreen A | Meadow Lake STF Local | Sawitsky, Jennifer T | Ursuline Sisters of Bruno |
| Barrett, Susan E | Gauley and Co. | Jeske, James B (Jim) | Mehhan, L Joseph (Joe) | Schultz, Harold | Voitka-Seager, Susan L |
| Bassingthwaite, Carmen C | Gauthier, Alain Leo | Jeske, Valerie E | Meyers, Gilbert B | Schultz, Liane Kendra | Wakeman, Lois Carol |
| Bates, Susan | Gauthier, Liliane Solange | Johnson, Arnold Sirvoy | Mitchell, Robin Alexander | Scott, Edith M. | Wall, Murray Dale |
| Battlefords Branch STF | Georget, George J | Kennett, Kim | Molina, Luisa Ester | Scott, G Patricia | Wall, Shelley |
| Bell, Thomas | Gilmour, Douglas Lloyd | Kent, Bernadette Edwina | Mugford, Kevin Charles | Scott, Jana L | Ward, Carol J |
| Bender, Sylvia Marie Ann | Ginther, Nora A. | Kevill, Elizabeth Ellen | Newlove, Kim Elaine | Shepherd, Lauree E | Weyburn Teachers Association |
| Benson, Judith Ann | Glauser, Stacey | Kindersley Branch STF | Newton, Earle | Shiplett, Arlene Dawn | Whitby, Kathryn E |
| Berntson, Ronald N | Gordon, Albert L (Bert) | Klassen, Renata E | Pacholko, Julie | Sikorski, Chrisa D | Whittles, Avon J |
| Best, Debra Gaye | Government of Saskatchewan | Knipfel, Linda M | Partridge, John Albert | Simon, Joann Elizabeth | Wickenberg, Jill |
| Bezanson, Maureen F | Graham, Florence M | LEADS | Partridge, John Des | Sloman, Lorraine R | Widdifield-Konkin, Leslie |
| Bouvier, Rita | Graves, Linda M | LaPlante, Bernard | Pasquia District Health Board | Sorestad, Sonia D | Wihak, Reginald Ernest |
| Bowers, Kelly W | Grevna, Brenda | Lloyd, Doreen A V | Petrie, Carol Ann M | Stephanson, Lorraine M | Wilke, Anne-Marie |
| Brander, Anne Frances | Greystone Capital Management | Lockhart, Isabelle M | Petry, Verda L | Sullivan, Marilyn | Willard, Douglas E |
| Brent, John A | Grimsen, Marie E | Loeffler, Shelly | Porteous, Douglas H | Superannuated Teachers of Sask | Wilson, Phyllis A |
| Brooks, Susan A | Haines, Charlotte F | Loewen, Kathleen Dawn | Probert, Kathryn H | Swityk, Michael J | Worster, Josephine R |
| Broste, Suzanne M | Hall, Wendy Roberta Ann | Loewen, Kenneth D | Prowse, Patricia | Tamblyn, Gordon S | Yeomans, Elaine J |
| Brown, Albert Arthur | Halyk, Velmarie Chaney | Lohela, Terri N | Quayle, Kathleen Audrey | Teachers College Reunion 57-58 | Zuk, Ruth E |
| Brown, Peter E | Hansen, Max Arthur | Longstaff, James Alexander | Rawlake, Gordon | | van der Wal, K Ann |
| Browne, Anne Marie | Hauglian, Tim M P | Louko, Margaret R | | | |
| Bruce, Joy | | Lowick, Maxine L | | | |
| Bryski, Alma J | | | | | |
| Campbell, Karen D | | | | | |
| Capes, Trudy Louise | | | | | |
| Carle, Lynn Irene | | | | | |
| Ciona, Gail Jeanette | | | | | |
| Colleaux, Marc L | | | | | |
| Compton, Sharon Marie | | | | | |
| Connor, Clark and Lunn | | | | | |
| Cook, Lesley M L | | | | | |
| Crozier-Smith, Derwyn | | | | | |
| Dahlem, Harry | | | | | |
| Daniels, Brenda M | | | | | |
| Davidson, Leonard E | | | | | |
| Delorme, Annabeth | | | | | |
| Devitt, Janet E | | | | | |
| Dyck, Wayne Francis | | | | | |
| Dyer, John A. | | | | | |
| Eamer, Arlene | | | | | |
| Edworthy, Betty | | | | | |
| Egnatoff, John G. | | | | | |
| Elliott, Joan | | | | | |
| English, Beryl Esther | | | | | |
| Fahlman, Irene S | | | | | |



Children and a student teacher at St. Matthew School in Regina plan an activity as part of a school naturalization project partially funded by the McDowell Foundation, called *Welcoming Back the Wilderness*.

Organizational Structure

The McDowell Foundation is an independent organization with its own Board of Directors appointed by the provincial Executive of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF). The Board of Directors oversees the finances, policies and operations of the Foundation, and is assisted in its role by an Advisory Committee of representatives from the educational and business communities. The selection and evaluation of projects funded by the Foundation is carried out by a teacher-led Project Review Committee appointed by the Board of Directors. Working with these three governing bodies are two part-time coordinators.

1. Coordinators of the McDowell Foundation
 - **Verna Gallén**, Research
 - **Harold Schultz**, Public Relations and Fund-raising
2. Secretarial and Administrative Support
 - **Stacey Glauser**
3. Board of Directors for 1999-2000
 - **Derwyn Crozier-Smith**, STF General Secretary President of the McDowell Foundation and Chairperson of the Board of Directors
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 - **Gwen Dueck**, STF Administrative Staff
 - Teacher Representatives:
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 - Ingrid Gabert**
 - Earle Robertson**
 - Joan G. Smith**
 - Gordon Tamblyn**
 - **Doreen Lloyd**, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
 - Foundational Donors:
 - Rex Beaton**, Gauley and Co.

Fred Herron, Greystone Capital Management
Boyd Taylor, Teachers' Credit Union

4. Advisory Committee for 1999-2000
 - **Tim Yee**, STF Administrative Staff and Committee Chairperson
 - **Shirleen Vollet**, STF Executive
 - Teacher Representatives:
 - Lynn Brisebois**
 - David Forbes**
 - Noreen Jeffreys**
 - Mel McCorriston**
 - Patricia Scott**
 - Organizational Representatives:
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 - Marilyn Braun**, Canadian Federation of Independent Business
 - Dr. Ralph Fram**, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
 - Evelyn Jones**, Saskatchewan Association of School Councils
 - Dr. Margaret Lipp**, Department of Education
 - Larry Lozinski**, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
 - Lee Cummins**, League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents
 - Bonnie O'Grady**, Saskatchewan School Trustees Association

5. Project Review Committee for 1999-2000
 - **Sharon Compton**, Director, Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit
 - **Gary Ferguson**, STF Administrative Staff
 - **Joan G. Smith**, Board of Directors
 - Teacher Representatives
 - Beryl Robinson**
 - Gordon Martell**
 - Ted Green**
 - Sonja Susut**
 - Gail Wall**
 - University Representatives:
 - Dr. Pauline Leonard**, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan
 - Wanda Hurren**, Faculty of Education, University of Regina
 - Researcher Outside Education
 - Dr. Terry Wotherspoon**, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Saskatchewan



President's Message



I have spent my career with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation advocating for a greater voice, more autonomy and even greater control in determining the conditions within which we teach. I have done so because of my commitment to the concept of teacher as professional. An important element of making that claim is the ability to point to a definable body of knowledge about teaching and learning.

I came away from the Learning from Practice conference in November feeling both proud and excited. I was proud to see that our view of the teacher as a knowledge-based professional was being substantiated in session after session as teachers and their co-researchers explained the knowledge they were creating through their research. I participated with them in sharing that knowledge with colleagues in recognition that our understanding of teaching and learning was a collective understanding rather than something to be hoarded by individuals. And I came away excited about the enthusiasm with which I

saw teachers embracing both the research process and the application of its results in ways which will benefit the children we serve.

Our work in building and disseminating the knowledge base about teaching and learning is all the more rewarding because we are part of a community that supports the Foundation in so many ways. The moral support and the financial commitments of teachers, superannuates and partners in the educational, corporate and government spheres is essential to the success of the Foundation's goals. On behalf of the Board of Directors I thank each one of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Crozier-Smith'.

Derwyn Crozier-Smith
President, MF Board of Directors

visit our web page . . .

<http://www.stf.sk.ca/kiosk/>

**. . . to find out about the latest projects, research reports
and the latest news regarding the
Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation
for Research into Teaching.**

INTERNET

Planned Giving...

For more information contact:

Harold Schultz
Public Relations/
Fund-raising Coordinator
McDowell Foundation
2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

Tel: (306) 373-1660
Fax: (306) 374-1122

E-mail: mcdowell@stf.sk.ca
Internet address:
www.stf.sk.ca/kiosk



is your opportunity to leave a lasting legacy to the improvement of teaching and learning.

The McDowell Foundation was established in 1991 to meet the expressed needs of teachers for research that is relevant to successful instruction in today's classrooms.

Our future depends on the generous support and vision of teachers, superannuates and friends who plan ahead.

Gifts can be made by using:

- Wills and Bequests
- Life Insurance
- Gifts of Property
- Memorial Gifts

GIFT CARD

Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation For Research Into Teaching Inc.

2317 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon SK, Canada, S7J 2H8 Phone: (306) 373-1660 Fax: 374-1122 BN 13363 8734 RR0001



My total gift to support research into teaching/learning is \$ _____

- Enclosed is a payment of \$ _____.
- I authorize my school division to deduct \$ _____ per month, beginning on _____ (month), _____ (year) and ending on _____ (month), _____ (year).
(A three-part form is available at the school division office.)
- Start pre-authorized payments of \$ _____ per month on the 1st of _____ (month), _____ (year) and ending _____ (month), _____ (year).
(Please enclose a blank cheque marked VOID. Make cheques payable to McDowell Foundation.)
- Post dated cheques are enclosed for the total amount of my pledge.

I hereby direct that my gift to the McDowell Foundation be held for a period of not less than ten years from the date of the donation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Special Instructions:

- I wish my donation to remain anonymous.
- I wish only the amount to remain anonymous.
- This is a joint donation with _____ (Name)

Donor's Name _____

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- Superannuate
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