

On Stream

January 2025

Selkirk College Faculty Association

Padding Upstream

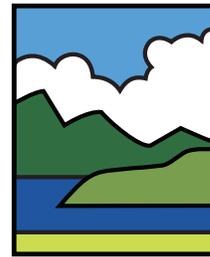
Takaia Larsen
SCFA President

I'd like to begin by sending my gratitude to every SCFA member for the work you do every day. I want to recognize how grateful I am to have the privilege to work with all of you. The way you continue to show up with energy and enthusiasm each day for your students and co-workers despite so many challenges and tensions in the world and your own lives is inspiring.

“The way you continue to show up with energy and enthusiasm each day for your students and co-workers despite so many challenges is inspiring.”

The first few weeks of 2025 have been tough and we are continuing to navigate the impact of declining International student enrollments and resulting workload reductions. Here at Selkirk we are nearing the end of the canvass period in targeted areas and this is another reminder that if you are considering responding to the canvass, please reach out with your questions and make sure to respond by January 29th. There have been many, many questions from members about their options and your SCFA Executive has been working hard to find out the answers you seek. Please keep them coming and send us a reminder if you are still waiting for answers (there has been a high volume of questions and we don't want to miss anything!). Once the canvass has closed, the college will consider all responses but management is not obligated to accept all of them – this process is intended to minimize workforce deductions. It is our understanding that the results of the canvass will be forthcoming early in February. After that, employees will begin to be notified of official layoffs. Once that process begins, again, please reach out to the SCFA if you need support – whether that is to attend a meeting with your Dean or Chair, to help you plan ahead and consider your options, or just to chat. We are here for you and we are all navigating this together.

(see *Collective Voices* on page 2)



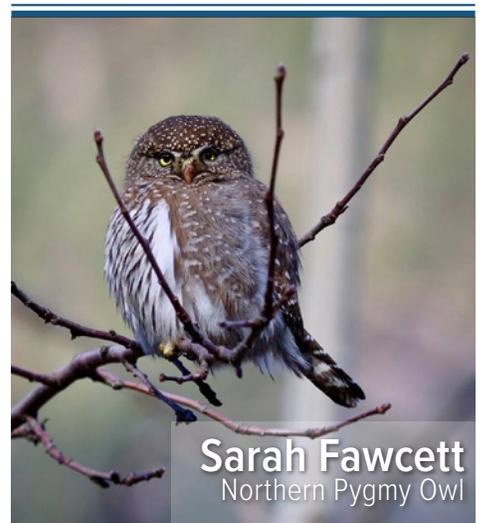
SCFA
FPSE LOCAL 10

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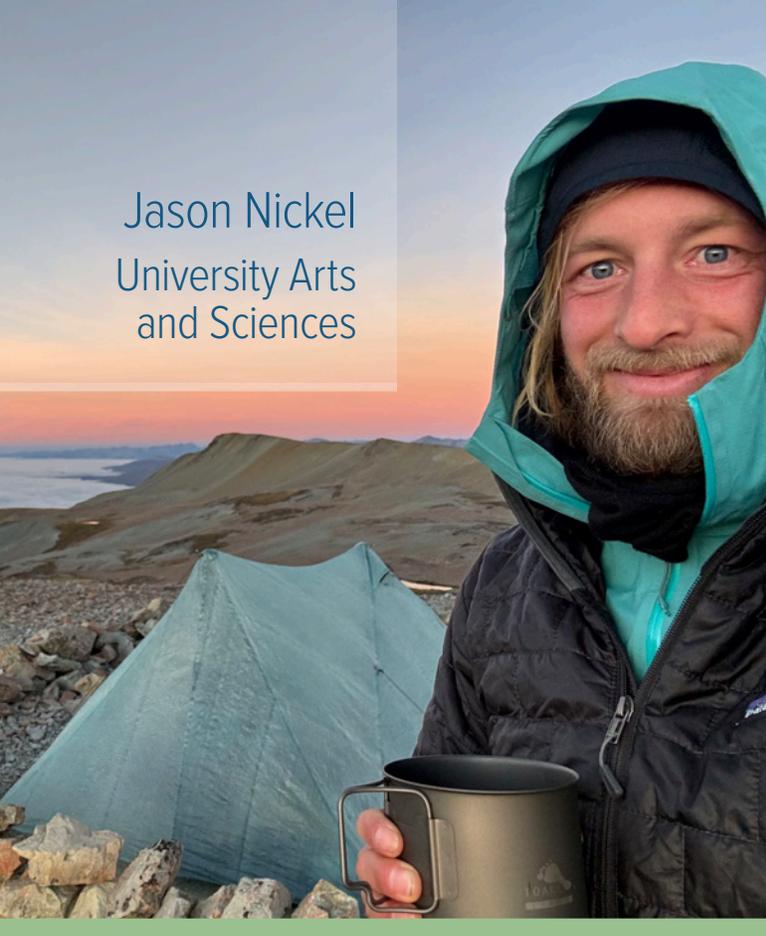


Sarah Fawcett
Northern Pygmy Owl

DID YOU KNOW?

Selkirk College was established in 1966 as the first rural community college in British Columbia, following a 1965 referendum in which regional taxpayers voted to provide post-secondary education in their area.

Jason Nickel
University Arts
and Sciences



INCOMING PD COMMITTEE CHAIR **JASON NICKEL**

Hi SCFA folks.

I am excited to be a part of the SCFA PD Committee in the role as chair! Thank you to Coby VanderGaast for your support to the SCFA in the chair role over the past years.

I have utilized my PD funds for a variety of activities, and I understand the benefits of these funds. At the same time, some years I couldn't use the funds I had available, or my application was not accepted.

I notice the inequitable access to the funds and the desire members have to use funds for tech and software. I hope to address these issues.

Since getting on board in January, I already see the engagement and enthusiasm of the PD committee members and I think we can move in a good direction.

Best,

Jason ~

Collective Voices

(...Continued from page 1)

I would also like to emphasize how important it is for us to use our collective voices to bring this crisis to the attention of our communities and politicians. Along these lines, I have recently completed a CAUT training course in lobbying and will be meeting with our MP, Richard Cannings, in the coming weeks to talk about the impacts of these federal decisions on our institution, our work, and our communities. At the provincial level, FPSE Presidents are just beginning to meet with our newly appointed Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Anne Kang. Right now we need all levels of government to recognize the value of post-secondary education and start addressing the financial challenges facing our system due to chronic underfunding. I am happy to chat any time about the lobbying work going on within and among our partner labour organizations, so please let me know if you would like more information about these efforts. One additional way to get involved is through the "Unlock Education" campaign, which you can find more about here: [Unlock Education](#).

In solidarity,

Takaia ~



Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Students In Uncertain Times

By Matty Hillman

Recent government changes and the gender-binary agenda south of the border may have trans and other marginalized students feeling distressed or unsafe. As educators, we can engage in educational opportunities that will help us support students whose rights are being challenged in the current socio-political climate.

On the provincial level, the Healthy Minds / Healthy Campus (supported by the Canadian Mental Health Association) is hosting a summit next month (Feb 25-27). This yearly event provides a plethora of opportunities to connect and discuss initiatives that support post-secondary students. Here is a link to the program: [Healthy Minds, Health Campuses](#).

There is a presentation on the Wednesday afternoon at 3 pm titled: Increasing 2SLGBTQ+ supports in a time of polycrisis (Michelle Hamilton-Page, Kate Jenkins, Jake Staratt-Farr).

Additionally, your SCFA colleague Theresa Southam will be presenting on Wednesday, February 26th at 12:15 PM (From Musts to Momentum: approaching campus-wide change initiatives through liberating structures and futures thinking) and I will be presenting on Thursday, February 27th at 1 PM (Trauma-Informed Education: how connection across an institution facilitates safety, connection, and growth).

Let's continue this conversation and consider attending some of these presentations for the sake of information and solidarity.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Matty ~



Lunch Club

We have our first lunch club of the year coming up on February 6th. Please note the location change: LAR-15. There's a lot going on at the college with the canvas and layoffs so we felt a confidential space could be good for this particular event at this time. We will have drinks and snacks to share and will, as always, do a member draw for an SCFA mug.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

SCHOOL OF ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Kailey Allan
Digital Fabrication
and Design



In 2019, I was working as a freelance product designer in East Vancouver. The constant hum of laser cutters, CNC machines, and 3D printers had become the soundtrack to my daily life. My studio was tucked away in a bustling makerspace; a collaborative workshop where creativity flourished amid the smell of sawdust and creative minds. For a modest \$100 monthly membership, I had access to an entire workshop's worth of technology – a setup that would have cost hundreds of thousands to acquire independently. This arrangement allowed me to offer my clients something special: not just designs on paper or 3D models, but tangible prototypes, from CNC sleek furniture pieces to 3D printed consumer products.

“... *but hey, can you teach?*”

While Vancouver's tech scene buzzed with endless talk of “work-life balance,” I watched my friends rush between coffee meetings and co-working spaces, their promises to “get outside more” perpetually pushed to next weekend. The irony

wasn't lost on me – we were all so busy talking about better living that we forgot to actually live.

Late one night, I found myself typing “makerspaces around the world” into Google. My business was not location dependent - all I needed was a reliable workshop and an internet connection. As I scrolled through results, I discovered that while makerspaces had exploded

globally, they remained scarce in rural British Columbia. Then, I spotted it: the MIDAS lab in Trail. The photos showed impressive machinery, and the backdrop of mountains promised skiing and mountain biking. It seemed too good to be true – a fully equipped workshop surrounded by an outdoor paradise.

I packed up my life in Vancouver, said goodbye to the familiar whirl of machines and friends, and drove east toward the Kootenays. Rossland welcomed me with its crisp mountain air and quiet streets – such a contrast to the urban chaos I'd left behind.

The very next morning, eager to begin my new chapter, I drove down

(continued on next page...)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Kailey Allan

(continued from previous page...)

to the MIDAS lab. My spirits were high as I approached the building. Then I saw it – or rather, didn't see it. The "MIDAS Lab" logo had been freshly scratched off the front door, leaving ghost-like traces in the glass. I knocked anyway. The door opened to reveal Jason Taylor, who would soon become a valued colleague and mentor. "Hi, I'm here to take out a membership at the MIDAS lab," I said. His response hit like a bucket of cold water: "The MIDAS Lab no longer exists, this is now the Selkirk Technology Access Center, but hey, can you teach?" The irony was almost laughable – I'd left Vancouver seeking certainty, only to find myself facing the biggest uncertainty yet. But sometimes, as I would soon learn, the best stories start when plans don't go to plan.

In those early days of 2020, I was the sole instructor in the Digital Fabrication and Design program, pouring my energy into shaping a curriculum that balanced technical skills with creative

Kailey splits her time between teaching in the Digital Fabrication and Design Program and as a researcher at STAC in Trail



Kailey Allen from DFab demos air brush painting techniques.

problem-solving. It was challenging and exhilarating, much like those first prototypes I used to create back in Vancouver. As the program grew, so did our team. Today, we're a vibrant faculty of five, each bringing our own expertise and perspective to the table.

After two years of full-time teaching, my role transitioned into a hybrid position

professional practice and education. Every project I tackle at STAC, every challenge I navigate, becomes a real-world lesson for our students – turning my trials and tribulations in design and making into stepping stones for others learning journeys.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Committee Report

Report by: Jason Da Costa

Last week, our **local Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS) committee** had its annual check-in and found great ways to improve our communication with all of you. One key point we want to remind everyone about is your right to refuse unsafe work. Safety is everyone's priority, and your well-being is our top concern.

We also want to ensure you know that our JOHS meetings' minutes are available on MySelkirk. We encourage you to check them out regularly so you can stay updated on the important

conversations and decisions being made about workplace safety. Being open and transparent helps create a culture where everyone feels confident about participating in health and safety matters.

The SCFA now has three Health and Safety Representatives ready to help with any questions or concerns you might have. If anyone has any questions or concerns about safety in your workplace or has general questions that we might be able to help answer, please email:

Myself (jdacosta@selkirk.ca)

Katie Comrie (kcomrie@selkirk.ca)

Daryl Jolly (djolly@selkirk.ca)

Please follow links below to learn more about the right to refuse work and worker responsibilities. This committee will regularly contribute to On Stream. Please let us know if there are any topics you would like us to address.

Health and Safety Links

[Joint Occupational Health and Safety Meeting Minutes](#)

[WorkSafe BC Refusal of Unsafe Work Procedure \(sec. 3.12\)](#)



(L to R): Max Beauchesne, Shawn Curran, Kailey Allan, Jason Taylor and Aras Balali Moghaddam of the DFAB faculty, rocking their SCFA toques!

A Visit to the Trail Campus

By Leesa Dean and Jason Taylor



On Friday, January 10th, Takaia and I went to Trail to meet with SCFA members who teach in the Digital Fabrication program. Over lunch, we were able to host an informal “town hall” style conversation where we learned some of the issues that are important for members there. Unsurprisingly, and very much in line with the results of the bargaining survey, workload came up as an issue.

In the afternoon, Jason Taylor brought us for a tour of the Selkirk Technology Access Centre which is located just outside Trail, near the Glenmerry bowling alley. As someone who works exclusively in the arts, I have never been to a tech innovation space of that calibre. It was like setting foot on a new, very exciting planet. Everywhere we looked, there were 3D printers and other forms of advanced technology that Jason patiently explained to Takaia and I. There were also parts of Lululemon mannequins lying around—Jason and his team recently worked on a project creating mannequins to reflect 30+ authentic body types representing a range of diverse body types from around the world.

Jason was kind enough to summarize some of the more advanced projects they are currently working on at STAC:

The Selkirk Technology Access Centre (STAC) is working on some exciting circular economy projects to support more sustainable advanced manufacturing. We are teaming up with Tempus3D and is very close to figuring out how to recycle nylon PA12 waste from their 3D printing process, turning waste materials into reusable feedstock for new prints. We are also working with KC Recycling to tackle recycled plastic (polypropylene) from car batteries, and exploring how to repurpose it into a new product. These efforts are all about cutting waste and promoting greener practices while driving innovation in the region.

An exciting new area of research at the STAC is Ion Source Research. Future plans include advancing discovery science to study astrophysics and solar reactions more effectively. In the semiconductor sector, ion sources are being explored to enable deeper implants in silicon wafers for applications like EVs and solar panels. And in medical isotopes, the focus is on enhancing cyclotron performance to ramp up the production of materials for cancer imaging and treatments. It's pretty cutting-edge stuff!



Jason Taylor spent his Christmas holidays creating the advanced photography system pictured here.

If you want to bring your class for a tour of the lab in Trail, contact Jason.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS • HAPPENINGS • MOVERS • SHAKERS



Theresa Southam has filled the vacant spot on the Academic Governance standing committee. Thank you, Theresa!

CAUT has started a campaign for more accessible education. The campaign goals are:

- making college and university affordable for anyone
- Freedom to think, teach and learn
- including new people and new perspectives
- University and colleges we can rely on

Join the campaign [here](#).

A **Job Action Committee** has now been formed within the SCFA. The current members are: Aubrey Demchuk, Paula Vaananen, Pablo Pastor, Jonathan Buttler and Leesa Dean. If you want to join, you can reach out to any member of that group.

SCFA member **Jessica Adrain** has been involved in organizing a **Selkirk College Night** hockey game and food drive at the Rebels game in Castlegar on **Friday, February 7th**. Learn more [here](#).



This year's **Coldest Night of the Year** event will take place on **Saturday, February 22nd**.

The SCFA participates every year and we always try to have members in each location (Nelson, Castlegar, Trail). Support the good work folks are doing to offer financial support to community organizations that help people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

This year's funds go to the Castlegar & District Community Services Society, the Nelson CARES Society and the Trail Skills Centre. If you aren't able to walk, you can still donate. Sign up for a team [here](#): [Coldest Night Teams](#).

THANK YOU COBY!

As was announced on page two, Jason Nickel is currently training to become the new PD Chair when Coby VanderGaast retires this spring.

Coby has held this position for a number of years and has been deeply involved with the SCFA during all her years with the college.

Thank you Coby for all you have done for the SCFA!



Sarah Fawcett
Northern Flicker

SCFA ~ Executive

Takaia Larsen
President

Shannon Shah
VP Contract Administration

Jonathan Vanderhoek
VP Negotiations

Leesa Dean
VP Member Engagement

Kim Verigin
Treasurer

Pablo Pastor
Secretary

Ken Laing
Board Observer

Todd Solarik
Retirement Issues

ON STREAM

is the official newsletter of the SCFA, keeping members informed and connected. Whether you're new or a longtime member, this is your space to stay engaged.

Published monthly, we welcome submissions from all members—share your stories, photos, ideas, and achievements.

Submission ideas to:
Leesa Dean, editor
LDean@selkirk.ca



SCFA.ca