

## Atlantic School of Theology Senate

It has been my honour and pleasure to serve as the representative for the United Church of Canada, on the Atlantic School of Theology Senate.

Because of the Covid 19 Pandemic, all three of the meetings I have attended during the school year of 2020-2021, have been online through zoom: October 28 '20, Feb 3 '21 and April 28 '21. As a recent graduate of AST, it is a pleasure to renew acquaintances with faculty as well as to meet and serve with senators I had not previously met.

The following is a summary of some of the discussions we have had and decisions that were made:

### Atlantic School of Theology programming & courses

Students:

In Graduate Programs - During this Winter Semester,  
there have been 40 Full Time and 72 Part Time  
In Adult Education Diploma Programs for the same period  
there have been 67 students

Courses:

All courses have been offered online only  
Staff and faculty have worked primarily from home, the library has been mostly open for limited hours.

Note: The Diploma in Youth Ministry has been discontinued, as of February, with assistance extended to those currently enrolled to enable them to complete.

Convocation:

The graduates of 2019-2020 were acknowledged last spring, but there was not a convocation held. Unfortunately, with the Pandemic still active there will again be no live convocation again this year. However, there *will* be a pre-recorded ceremony for graduates of both years on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. The link for this service will be made available on the AST website, [astheology.ns.ca](http://astheology.ns.ca).

NOTE: *David Suzuki* will receive an honorary doctorate from AST, and will deliver the keynote address at the Convocation.

Faculty:

There are at present, 10 core faculty and 12 sessional instructors, as well as numerous instructions for Continuing Education courses.

Warm and hearty congratulations are extended to Dr. David Csinos on being granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, and to Dr. Daniel Driver on being granted tenure and promoted to Full Professor.

Drs. Evangeline Kozitza-Dean, Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, and Andrew O'Neill will over the next months be taking up tenure-track faculty positions.

At Present:

*Learning Leadership Initiative:* This is an AST Senate initiative. It involves a 3-year plan, developing innovative leadership programming. Its focus is to reach a wider circle of participants than the AST courses reach. Several workshops have already successfully taken place, including:

Leading from the Inside Out

Black Women in Leadership

A Conversation with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

This initiative is still under discussion.

There are 40 *Summer Distance students* who will be taking courses either online or as hybrid. Technology has been up-graded in 3 locations to allow for the hybrid course possibility.

*Weekly Chapel services* are held online, Thursdays at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend these. They have been a successful and appreciated online service.

*Accessibility Committee* – this committee has been struck and is working to move forward in making the AST campus accessible to all, both physically and educationally.

Progress is being made to meet all required standards for the *Association of Theological Schools*, due November, 2022.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the UCC Representative on this august body. This completes the first of a 3-year term.

Rev. Mavis JA Peddie Peters