

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023-2024

Frank McKenna School

— of PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS —



JACK PEMBERTON

MEET JACK PEMBERTON

2023-24 McKenna Entrance Scholarship winner

When Jack Pemberton received the news that he was the recipient of the 2023-24 McKenna School Entrance Scholarship, he and his parents were jumping up and down and cheering because they knew how much help the scholarship would offer.

This scholarship awards \$10,000 to entering students intending to major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and is renewable for three years (\$5,000/year). Donors helped create the prestigious scholarship and other awards for PPE students.

“Besides the amazing financial aid it provides, for me the biggest part is the accomplishment and honour of being chosen by the program,” says Pemberton. “That accomplishment provides me with that further drive to push myself in all of my courses and to further prove to myself and show everyone that they made the correct decision in choosing me for the scholarship.”

Pemberton is from Falmouth, NS, and has long been interested in studying political science and philosophy.

Before university, Pemberton worked in the office of his local MLA, Melissa Sheehy-Richard, and says the opportunities it provided to get out into the community and directly help people, including during the devastating flooding in his community in 2023, was something that made a big impression on him.

“The feeling that comes with knowing you are out there, directly tackling issues and able to do some good in the world is what makes politics good,” says Pemberton.

WHAT IS THE MCKENNA SCHOOL?

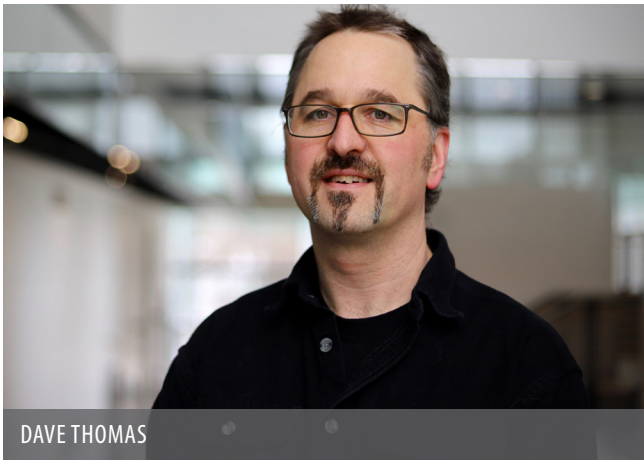
The Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) provides students insights into the meaning of citizenship, how government works, the nature of justice, and the outcomes of economic systems and policies. It is one of Canada’s only PPE programs.

MCKENNA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The McKenna Scholars program offers scholarships for entering and returning PPE students, research assistantships for senior students, and Convocation prizes for top graduating students. Jack Pemberton was among nine students named McKenna Scholars in 2023-24.



9 STUDENTS
— RECEIVED —
MCKENNA
SCHOLAR AWARDS IN 2023-24



DAVE THOMAS

MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENOR

I am pleased to share with you this update on the Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

This past year marked a decade since Mount Allison University introduced its Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) program. It was a great opportunity to take three of the University's strong academic disciplines and foster more interdisciplinary learning. Following the well-established model from University of Oxford, our own PPE program is now one of only a few in Canada. The 10-year anniversary was featured in the fall 2023 edition of Mount Allison's *Record* magazine.

The PPE program received a tremendous boost when donors and friends came together to create the Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Donations included funding for scholarships, research assistantships, a postdoctoral fellowship, and speaker series. Work continues to grow our school's endowment and activities.

I was pleased to be part of the McKenna School's creation and to continue to serve as its convenor. Most importantly, I'm thrilled to witness the many opportunities it provides students.

Sincerely,

DAVE THOMAS

Convenor, Frank McKenna School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

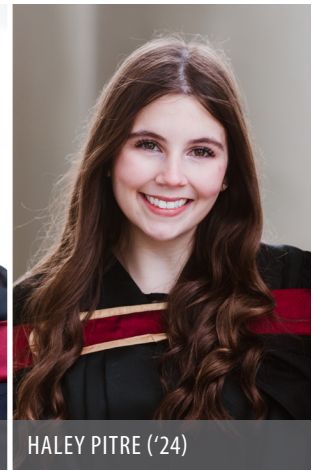
FRAN AND EDMUND CLARK FUND

The Fran and Edmund Clark Student Mobility Fund provides international learning opportunities for PPE students. Liam Clark-Black spent the winter term on exchange at the University of Kent, in England. "I have grown a significant amount as a human being by doing this exchange, and I believe that it will make me a better positive force coming back to Mount Allison, and in whatever I decide to do in the future," says Clark-Black. "Thank you so much to the donors."

Congratulations Liam!



SUCHET MITTAL ('24)



HALEY PITRE ('24)

CONVOCATION PRIZES

Suchet Mittal and Haley Pitre ('24) were awarded Convocation prizes during the graduation ceremony. These prizes recognize outstanding contributions to the McKenna School's academic life. Mittal will now be heading to India to visit family and friends before returning to Canada and pursuing a career in policy analysis, either through a think tank or research institute. He also plans on eventually pursuing a master's in public policy. Pitre will be attending law school this fall, entering McGill University's BCL/JD program. "Being a part of the PPE program is one of the best decisions that I have ever made," says Pitre. "Obtaining a multidisciplinary degree has been both challenging and rewarding in the best way possible."

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SPEAKER SERIES

Thanks to funding from the McKenna School, the philosophy department hosted a virtual speaker series that invited experts from around the world to interact with our students. Speakers included:

- Ken Dorter (Guelph) on "Why Does Plato Think We are Like Prisoners in a Cave?"
- Christiana Olfert (Tufts) on "Sextus Empiricus on the Nature and Meaning of Equipollence"
- Tamara Albertini (Hawai'i at Mānoa) on "Introduction to Medieval Islamic Philosophy"
- Paul Richard Blum (Loyola University Maryland) on "Giordano Bruno"
- Alexei Procyshyn (Queen's University Belfast) on "Beauty and Form in Kant"
- Lee Bess (Bug Mars) on "Insect farming, green protein, and the promise of AI"
- Holger Briel (Hong Kong Baptist-Beijing Normal University) on "Food Porn Inc. – The Visualization of Taste"



HINKE YOUNGER

MEET HINKE YOUNGER

First-year student saw the McKenna School as a good fit for her interest in public policy

Hinke Younger is from Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S., and was attracted to the PPE program because it was a good fit with her interest in public policy and her high school extracurricular activities — including volunteering for a state senate primary campaign and serving in leadership positions within model legislative conferences at both the state and national levels. Each year, hundreds of students participate in the Virginia Model General Assembly program. Younger was elected by her state-wide peers to serve as 76th Youth Governor of Virginia for the 2023 conference. The experience transformed her perspective about the importance of youth involvement in developing public policy.

“Generally, there’s a lot of social stereotypes about young people not wanting to be involved or not caring about government and policy, and to be able to see how wrong that is and help facilitate youth involvement in those crucial social structures was really life changing,” she says. “Participating in the state assembly and national conferences are amazing experiences. They are opportunities for young people to put forward our messages for the positive change we want to see in the United States.”

Younger is particularly interested in environmental policy. One of her favourite classes this year was Microeconomics.

“It changed my perspective on economics,” says Younger. “I’m now considering an Honours in Economics through the PPE program because of how much I enjoyed that class.”

Younger had no connections with Mount Allison before applying and knew very few people who had heard of the university.



“I was drawn to Mount Allison in part because of the international experience it would give me, something to set me apart from my peers and really provide me with an opportunity I might not get at a different point in my life — to live in a different country and experience a different culture,” says Younger. **“I was also particularly drawn to the small size of the school and the opportunities to really connect with teachers and students.”**

She says her Mount Allison experience so far has been incredible and that she is enjoying being part of this community. Outside of class, Younger hosts a weekly classical music show at the local CHMA radio station, is a violinist in the University’s chamber orchestra, and participates in several student clubs and committees.

Younger is the recipient of a Bell Scholarship, one of the University’s top entrance awards.

LATVIAN AMBASSADOR VISIT

In March, Latvian Ambassador to Canada, H.E. Kaspars Ozoliņš, visited Mount Allison to talk to students and faculty in the Department of Politics and International Relations. Ozoliņš gave a presentation, *Evolving European Security: View from Latvia After 20 Years of NATO Membership*. The event was organized by McKenna School Postdoctoral Fellow Thomas Hughes.

“This is a particularly important time to take stock of the European security environment,” says Hughes. “Latvia is a key part of NATO’s efforts to support Ukraine and has a close relationship with Canada, particularly with the Canadian Armed Forces leading the NATO enhanced Forward Presence battle group in Latvia. The ambassador gave an excellent presentation, and it was an opportunity for students to speak with someone about how policy decisions are made in a dynamic and often dangerous environment.”





THOMAS HUGHES

McKENNA SCHOOL FELLOW

The 2023-24 McKenna School Postdoctoral Fellow was Dr. Thomas Hughes, who earned his doctorate from Queen's University, his master's from the University of Denver, and his BA from the University of Durham (England). His research centres on Arctic defence activities and developing stronger understandings of how Arctic states are interpreting and reacting to the changing security environment.

In 2021, Hughes' PhD thesis, *The Art of War Games*, explored confidence-building measures and the political effects of military exercises in Europe since 1975. He has published further research on military exercises, NATO, and Arctic defence, and was the 2022-2023 Canadian Defence and Security Network Post-Doctoral Fellow, held through the University of Manitoba.

At Mount Allison, Hughes taught two political science courses: *Security Studies* and *Arctic Politics*. He was also very active in campus life — delivering a workshop on public speaking, helping students run a current events discussion group, giving a talk on the war in Ukraine, and organizing a non-academic career night where students heard from alumni working in various levels of government and for a non-profit. Hughes also participated in the University's mentorship program for students first in their family to attend university, and collaborated with the Purdy Crawford Teaching Centre on exploring innovative approaches to learning.

"The fellowship was excellent," says Hughes, citing the balance among teaching duties, opportunities to contribute to campus life, and to continue his own academic research. "I think the PPE program, because of its breadth and diversity, is a real opportunity to bring a lot of fantastic students and visitors to Mount Allison and I'm glad to be a part of that."

CONGRATULATIONS L.R. WILSON INTERNS

PPE students Sadie Shelly and Josh Stevenson are the latest recipients of L.R. Wilson Internships, which support students working in organizations that complement their academic studies and interests. This summer, Shelly will be working with Nova Scotia Legal Aid where she intends to gain a better understanding of how policy impacts the legal sector and to develop paralegal skills. Stevenson will be working with the YMCA, coordinating support for newcomers and other vulnerable populations in Canada. "I am very interested in exploring the experiences of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers," says Stevenson. "As more and more people decide to call Canada their home, I think there is a social and moral responsibility to ensure that our systems, institutions, and societies are ready to accept them."

McKENNA SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

This year's speaker was Dr. Kate Ervine, associate professor, international development studies, Saint Mary's University. Her talk was *Uncertain Times: The Ethics of Policy Choices in an Era of Climate Breakdown*.

ECONOMICS WORKSHOP: THINKING ABOUT COMPETITION

The McKenna School supported an event on campus featuring presentations from three Mount Allison alumni. Matthew Chiasson ('07), senior policy advisor, Competition Bureau Canada, spoke about the recent and proposed amendments to Canada's Competition Act. Nelson Paterson ('06), director general, economic studies and policy analysis, Finance Canada, presented on competition and productivity growth in Canada. David Byrne ('04), professor of economics, University of Melbourne, shared research on pricing in retail gasoline markets.

We are grateful to the donors and friends that helped create the McKenna School and continue to support its programming and student experience.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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Tel: 506-364-2343 | Toll Free: 1-866-890-6318

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