

National Chair - Joan O'Callaghan

Joan O'Callaghan has been on faculty at OISE at the University of Toronto since 1996, training high school English teachers. Joan has been the recipient of the Golden Apple Award from Queen's University for excellence in teaching; she has been named Professor of the Year by the OISE Students' Council as well as Most Inspirational Instructor. She is the author of three books, and has published articles in the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Sun and the Jerusalem Post. She currently chairs the League for Human Rights Student Human Rights Award and is Educational Chair of B'nai Brith's Operation Thank You. In 2006, she presented at a Yad Vashem conference in Jerusalem, "Teaching the Holocaust to Future Generations."

Quebec Chair - Nicole Allio

After a successful career, first as a business executive in the private and public sectors and then as a professional speaker on "heart and soul" leadership, Nicole Allio is now having what she describes as "the most meaningful career of my life" as a full-time volunteer and activist for causes that have always inspired her: the defense of human rights, the fight against anti-Semitism and prejudices, the defense of Israel's right and responsibility to protect its citizens, and helping the poor.

Nicole is a member of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, of the Executive Committee and the Board of BBC Quebec Region. She is also active in other organizations such as Canadian Magen David Adom and in social programs like Empty Bowls.

Nicole is bi-cultural and equally at ease in French and in English. She has a baccalauréat from France and a B.Sc. from Université de Montréal. She is also a Reiki Master. Her interests are wide and varied and include many facets of art and culture.

Western Region Chair - Richard Swyston

WORK EXPERIENCE:

1. 30 years of teaching in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
2. Grades taught: elementary and junior high
3. Have also worked in the capacity as a school resource teacher
4. Have also worked in the capacity as a special education teacher
5. Have also worked in the capacity as the computer teacher for both students and staff.
6. **Five years working Shenzhen, China and Hong Kong as a public school teacher and adult ESL teacher**

EDUCATION:

1. Bachelor of Arts – University of Manitoba, Canada

2. Bachelor of Education, University of Manitoba, Canada
3. Pre-Masters - Special Education, University of Manitoba, Canada
4. Pre-Masters – Educational Administration, University of Manitoba, Canada
5. Masters-Special Education, University of Manitoba, Canada
6. Special Education Certificate – Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Curriculum Development – Social Studies – Department of Education, Province of Manitoba, Canada.
2. Author: “Politics and You” (Prentice-Hall Publishing)-
a text book on the teaching of politics for public school children
Author: Children’s play – “Save Our Playground” (Prentice-Hall Publishing)
Author: Children’s play – “The Green Slime Affair” (Prentice-Hall Publishing)
Author: Children’s play – “Lorne’s Question” (Prentice-Hall Publishing)
2. Lecturer: University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education: Teaching techniques, Social Studies Curriculum, Integrating Special Needs Students in the classroom, What First Year Teachers Should Know
3. Lecturer: University of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada
4. Lecturer: University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, Calgary Canada, Grand Prairie, Canada: Integrating theatre in the classroom
5. Lecturer: Teachers (various locations, school in-services). Using the computer in the classroom.
6. Lecturer/Presenter – Manitoba Teachers’ Society Special Area Group
Conferences on the topics of Social Studies curriculum, working in small schools in a rural setting
7. Researcher: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Work related to projects such as the Canada Studies Foundation and the development of teaching materials for students at the upper elementary level
8. Creation of assessment tools – Department of Education, Province of Manitoba, Canada

SPECIFIC ESL EXPERIENCE

1. English Teacher – Foxconn, Shenzhen, China. This is a computer company where I was responsible for working with 500 Chinese Engineers. English classes ranged from large and small groups, to one on one instruction. Materials and lessons focused on assisting these Engineers to function in English at various postings in North America.
2. News Broadcaster – Shenzhen TV News – responsible for the writing, editing of all English broadcast stories; working with English anchors on story context and pronunciation, writing stories and providing voice for all video segments of the news.
3. Free Lance Commercials: Provided voice for various products manufactured in Shenzhen, China.
4. Administrator: PB5 Language Academy, Shenzhen China. Responsible for the hiring, training, evaluating and posting of all instructional staff.

5. Private tutor –Shenzhen, China. Working with adults who were employed in a variety of occupations. The focus was on the development and/or improvement of English skills that would assist these individuals in the work place.
6. Public School teacher – Hong Kong
7. Private tutor – Hong Kong. Worked for a variety of Hong Kong private English schools whose adult students required English skill enhancement which was required in their workplace.
8. Private tutor – Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada – Worked with young adults from Russia, Argentina and Israel. Programs varied based on ability and needs.
9. Lecturer/Presenter: Education and Manpower Bureau, Hong Kong-working with both local Chinese and foreign English teachers.
10. Writer – Hong Kong Education Department

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

1. Member of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council
2. Member, Rady JCC Board of Directors
3. Member, Rady JCC Executive – Membership
4. Member, Winnipeg Jewish Theater
5. Member, Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education
6. Former Co-Chair – Super Sunday, Winnipeg Jewish Community
7. Winnipeg Bnai Brith supporter
8. Former Member Rosh Pina Synagogue
9. Member of the Hong Kong Jewish Business Association

BUSINESS

Currently own “Swyston Pearls of Distinction” – import company

Alberta Chair - Dr. Michael Alpern

Dr. Michael Alpern is President of the Edmonton Jewish Drop-in Centre, Vice President of Beth Shalom Synagogue, a Board member of the Our Parents Home Society, and a member and immediate past treasurer of the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha

Michael has more than 40-years experience as a teacher, administrator and a senior manager with Alberta Education. Mike is a graduate of the University of Alberta earning BEd, MEd and PhD degrees. He has taught in the British Army, at the university and college levels, in junior and senior high schools and in private vocational schools.

Michael is a founding member and Executive Director of the Job Safety Skills Society and a private consultant to government departments, business, industry and other agencies in areas relating to the design, development, delivery, implementation and assessment of integrated training and safety-related programs.