January 4, 2017

**TedxMacEwanU: Laying New Tracks celebrates MacEwan’s innovations**

Edmonton – MacEwan University’s first TEDx event, themed Laying New Tracks, will take place on Thursday, January 19 from 6 – 9:30 p.m. in the Betty Andrews Recital Hall. Laying New Tracks is about celebrating MacEwan’s innovations, the people behind them—and the impact that their contributions have made within MacEwan and the community at large.

The TEDx program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences.

“It’s about forward momentum and forward moving—like revolutionizing education and the student experience by bringing novel research and innovative teaching into the classroom,” said Dr. Cynthia Zutter, vice-provost, MacEwan University. “Our lineup of presenters includes faculty and students are laying new tracks in a diverse range of expertise.”

TEDxMacEwanU speakers include:

**Deborah Saucier, president, MacEwan University:** An accomplished academic and successful university administrator, she is deeply committed to diversity, equity and inclusion—and truly believes that education has the power to transform lives.

**Launa Linaker, learning specialist, School of Business:** Launa keeps one eye on the future of education and the other on innovation, entrepreneurship and technology as a mentor and faculty resource at MacEwan University.

**Mike Perschon, assistant professor, English:** In addition to writing and speaking about science fiction, fantasy and horror literature from around the world, Mike is an avid fan of tabletop roleplaying games.

**Anna Pienkowski, assistant professor, Earth and Planetary Sciences:** Anna is passionate about nature, science and the oceans, and first fell in love with Canada’s Arctic during her PhD studies.

**Margaret Milner, program chair and professor, Faculty of Nursing:** Margaret teaches with a passion for social justice, political activism and sustainability.

**Michael MacDonald, assistant professor, Department of Music:** Michael’s research focuses on youth and community studies, ethnographic film, and the critical pedagogy of music.

**Kalen Pilkington, director, Office of Sustainability:** Kalen sets and achieves valuable goals for the campus—but she sets equally ambitious goals for herself.

**Leo Wong, assistant professor, School of Business:** Leo teaches and researches progressive business practices that are aligned with conscious consumerism, responsible advertising, socially and environmentally responsible thinking.

For more information, please contact:
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Adam Prince and Richard Clark, MacEwan alumni and co-founders of StudentHire Corp.: StudentHire, an Edmonton-based tech startup, provides financial and experiential opportunities to post-secondary students.

Brandon Craig, MacEwan alumnus: Brandon is currently pursuing his Masters of Science in clinical neurosciences at the University of Calgary. He spends his time investigating various aspects of pediatric strokes at the Alberta Children’s Hospital.

For ticket information, please go to: MacEwan.ca/TEDx

About TEDx, x = independently organized event
In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

About TED
TED is a non-profit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or fewer) delivered by today’s leading thinkers and doers. Many of these talks are given at TED’s annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, and made available, free, on TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Monica Lewinsky, Phillippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Sal Khan and Daniel Kahneman.

TED’s open and free initiatives for spreading ideas includes TED.com, where new TED Talk videos are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from thousands of volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative. TED-Ed; the annual million-dollar TED prize, which funds exceptional individuals with a “wish” or idea, to create change in the world; TEDx, which provides licenses to thousands of individuals and groups who host local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; and the TED Fellows programs, which selects innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.
exhibition spaces for the community, including a 419-seat theatre, theatre lab, recital hall, art gallery and recording studio. MacEwan University is moving the arts downtown. MacEwan.ca/ComeTogether.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.