

Conference Presentations

- MacFadgen, L. (2007, August). *Research update: Mature students in the persistence puzzle*. Poster session presented at the Technology in Teaching and Learning Showcase, Malaspina University-College, British Columbia.
- MacFadgen, L. (2007, June). *Results of the mature students' persistence study*. Paper presented at the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre Symposium, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- MacFadgen, L. (2007, May). *Factors impacting adult learners' quality of life and retention in post-secondary education*. Paper presented at the Association of Canadian Community Colleges Annual Conference, Montreal, Quebec.
- MacFadgen, L. (2007, February). *Preliminary findings and practical implications of the mature students' persistence study*. Paper presented at the Applied Research Symposium, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Jeffs, C., Carr, W., MacFadgen, L., Paynter, R., Waterhouse, T. (2006, January). *Renewal of the unspoken compact: Counteracting the impacts of globalization on higher education*. Poster session presented at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- MacFadgen, L. (2003, March). *Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Career Development Practitioners*. Paper presented at the Educational Association of Networking, Education and Training for Workers in Employment, Rehabilitation and Career Counselling (NETWERCC) Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- MacFadgen, L. & Zimmerman, L. (1995, April). *Women and Retirement*. Paper presented at the 6th Annual John K. Friesen Lecture Series in Gerontology, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

ORAL EXAMINATION LYNNE MACFADGEN

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
EdD

Thursday, December 13, 2007
Harbour Centre (Room 2250) at 2:30 PM

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair:	Dr. Nancy Johnston
Senior Supervisor:	Dr. Geoff Madoc-Jones
Member:	Dr. Tim Rahilly
Member:	Dr. Irving Rootman
Internal/External:	Dr. Cathie Dunlop
External Examiner:	Dr. Jane Dawson
	St. Francis Xavier University Department of Adult Education

***MATURE STUDENTS IN THE PERSISTENCE PUZZLE:
AN EXPLORATION OF THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO
ADULT LEARNERS' QUALITY OF LIFE AND RETENTION IN
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION***

ABSTRACT

Mature Students in the Persistence Puzzle explored new theoretical directions and methodological approaches for studying adult learners' quality of life and retention in the first year of university-college general arts and science programs. The study was conducted to broaden and deepen our understanding of the multifaceted nature of mature students' lives and those factors exerting important influences on their educational commitment and persistence.

An adult quality of life conceptual framework was used to explore the broad connections between health and learning, based on a synthesis of social ecology, health promotion, adult learning, and student development research. Mixed methods included a phenomenological hermeneutical-based approach for conducting in-depth interviews with first-year students, a focus group with faculty teaching introductory arts and science courses, and standard multiple regression analyses performed on the age-aggregated data of the 2005/06 Pan-Canadian Study of College Students and First Year Outcomes.

Results provided valuable applied-research information, as there are few studies that focus on adult learners' post-secondary experiences and fewer still that incorporate detailed student perspectives. The implications for faculty, student-development staff, and educational leaders were presented, along with practical strategies for creating and maintaining a health-promoting campus environment to support and sustain mature students.

Academic Record

1984 – M.H.Sc. Health Administration, University of Toronto
1981 – B.A. Honours Psychology, University of Waterloo
1980 – B.A. Psychology, Dalhousie University

Professional Experience

2003 – present Coordinator Community and School Liaison,
Department of Student Services, Malaspina University-
College, Nanaimo
2000 – 2003 Program Coordinator/Health Programs, Centre
for Continuing Studies, Malaspina University-College,
Nanaimo
1996 – 1999 Women's Employment Service Coordinator, McMillan
College – The Training Centre, Nanaimo
1993 – 1995 Research Associate in Health Promotion, BC
Consortium for Health Promotion Research, Simon
Fraser University, Vancouver
1989 – 1993 Program Director Long Term Care and Geriatrics,
St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto

Publications and Reports

MacFadgen, L. & Klockars, D. (2002). *Pathways to wisdom: Recognizing and crediting the workplace skills of First Nation Education Assistants in School District #68* (Final Research Report). Nanaimo, British Columbia: Malaspina University-College, Centre for Continuing Studies.
MacFadgen, L. (2001). *Prior learning assessment: Recognizing and crediting workplace learning* (Final Research Report). Nanaimo, British Columbia: Malaspina University-College, Centre for Continuing Studies.
MacFadgen, L. & Zimmerman, L. (1995). Women's retirement: Shifting ground (pp.93-118). In E.M. Gee & G. M. Gutman (Eds.). *Rethinking Retirement*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Simon Fraser University.
MacFadgen, L. (1991). *Health and related care needs of the elderly: A community-oriented needs assessment* (Final Research Report). Toronto, Ontario: St. Joseph's Health Centre.
MacFadgen, S.L. (1987). The care of irreversible dementia sufferers in the Toronto and Peel Regions: Perceptions of service providers. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 6(4), 271-289.