

# Realize. It starts with you.

How would you define being a good citizen? Would you say: vote, pay your taxes, help others, love your country and embrace multiculturalism?

These are the answers that Dr. Jennifer Tupper and Michael Cappello of the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina received when they asked high school students in both Regina and Edmonton what it meant to be a good citizen.

Tupper, Cappello and their research partners from the University of Alberta weren't surprised by the students' responses since learning about citizenship is an important part of the school curriculum.

"This research helped us to consider ways to prepare teachers to approach citizenship education in their own classrooms in more critical and reflective ways," says Tupper. "The preparation of young people to encourage them to be thoughtful and meaningful citizens in their communities, nation and the world is of the utmost importance given current socio-political realities and future challenges we must collectively face."

Tupper adds that citizenship research is important because citizenship exists as a central goal of education. Most social studies curriculums in North America explicitly support goals of citizenship through the transmission of civic values, skills, knowledge and purposes. The intent of their research was to grapple with the tensions of citizenship, particularly as certain ways of thinking about good citizenship were advanced.

As Tupper, Cappello and their colleagues spent more time discussing citizenship issues with students, they discovered that students' understanding of citizenship tended to be superficial and showed a lack of interrogation.

There was also a divide between students from different socio-economic backgrounds, with students from more affluent homes more likely to see themselves participating in the democratic process.

"More affluent families have shaped the horizon of possibilities for their children in a way that they see value in democratic participation," says Cappello. "Less affluent students have had little in their lived experiences that made participation seem meaningful to them."

Tupper and Cappello also concluded that many of the students, even if they can't imagine participating in the political process, do understand citizenship on a broader level.

Their conclusion? Teachers must challenge their students to think about and interrogate the ideas of good citizenship. Tupper, Cappello and their colleagues have already begun presenting their findings to teachers in Canada and in the United States.

This project *21st Century Citizens: High School Students' Understandings and Experiences of Citizenship* was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the University of Regina.



Michael Cappello

Jennifer Tupper

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**March 8 1 p.m.**  
**International Women's Day**

Location: Language Institute, Room 215

The University of Regina is pleased to host one of many International Women's Day events across the world.

A film screening of "No Woman, No Cry" (2011) will be presented. In her gripping directorial debut, Christy Turlington Burns shares the powerful stories of at-risk pregnant women in four parts of the world, including a remote Maasai tribe in Tanzania, a slum of Bangladesh, a post-abortion care ward in Guatemala, and a prenatal clinic in the United States.

Patricia Miller Schroeder will lead a discussion of the film.

Keynote address by Amy McIlmoyl and Mahaila Scott, from Planned Parenthood Regina, will address "Engaging Our Community".

Free admission.

For more information visit: [www.uregina.ca/cce/events](http://www.uregina.ca/cce/events)

**March 23 10 a.m.**  
**Physics Celebration**

Location: Research and Innovation Centre Theatre, University of Regina main campus

Come and celebrate a major milestone reached by University of Regina physicists in the **GlueX Project** – an international subatomic physics project which seeks to uncover how matter is held together.

Free admission.

For more information please contact Elsa Johnston at (306) 337-3291.

**April 4 7 p.m.**  
**Dr. Barbara Powell Lecture**

Location: Riffel Auditorium, Campion College

The Humanities Research Institute is pleased to host its annual Dr. Barbara Powell Lecture with author Gail Bowen. Her lecture is titled: "A Sense of Place: Joanne Kilbourn's Regina".

Book signing and reception to follow.

Free parking in lot 3 "M".

For more information, contact Christian Riegel at (306) 359-1219.

Realize. Your future **starts** here.

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what you can become

Mark your calendar!  
Register for classes and apply  
for scholarships and awards  
by **March 15**.

For more information visit:

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