

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*March 16, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 11*



Course Exam *HRMT 322, dissected*

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The Good Life
Why good food is worth it

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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

THE VOICE

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Employment Law in Canada (HRMT 322)

As of January 12, 2005, another new Athabasca University course has launched! Employment Law in Canada (HRMT 322) explores what was originally referred to as "Master and Servant Law" - that is, the legal relationship between employers and their employees. Course author A.N. Khan, Professor Emeritus of Legal Studies at AU, indicates that he wrote this course to "highlight the law that determines the rights and duties of the majority of non-unionized workers," as many people "are not aware that the majority of Canadian workers are non-unionized employees." Employment Law in Canada (HRMT 322) focuses primarily on two broad concepts in employment law; first, the rules related to contract laws, and second, an examination of government legislations toward employers and employees.

HRMT 322 consists of eight exciting units. The first introduces and defines the concept of employment law, providing an adequate background in the subject. It discusses how the concept of employment law that we are familiar with today has interesting roots, dating from the ancient feudal systems and beyond. Khan explains that, "initially, the law of master and servant developed in a society where everyone belonged to someone or somewhere, for example, kinship, locality, religion, occupation, trade and social class." This contributes to today's situation where, as Professor Khan indicates, "employers' authoritative superiority is still far greater to the rights and entitlements of employees." The unit also discusses different types of legal contracts between employers and employees, including distinguishing between contracts *of* service and contracts *for* services.

As HRMT 322 progresses, you will delve into topics surrounding the creation of employment contracts, including the concept of freedom of hiring, contracts and legal capacities for both employers and employees, and child labour policies. You will also explore the legal requirements of employees to their employers, and likewise, you will learn about employers' obligations towards their employed. The latter is explored in 2 units in the course; the second unit focuses on the statutory obligations of the employer, including "appreciation of the workers' access to enforcement of statutory rights" explains Professor Khan.

Unit six explores the federal and provincial laws surrounding human rights, and how these legal implications affect the workplace. This unit also elaborates on issues of discrimination. Once you have explored human rights, you will delve into the legal aspects of employment termination, analyzing the "statutory and judicial trends" including the "...restrictions on permissible grounds for dismissal" and "...the remedies for wrongful dismissal or unjust discharge," according to Professor Khan. In HRMT 322's final unit, you will look at potential future trends in employment law, discussing the impacts of several key concepts including the relative powers of employers and employees, employee rights and relationships. Throughout the course, you will reinforce your learning through participation in online discussions with other AU classmates.

Your evaluation in HRMT 322 is derived from participation in online discussions (worth 15%), 5 assignments (worth 10% each), and one final exam weighted as 35%. Course author Andy Khan has served as Professor and Coordinator for Legal Studies at AU between 1996 and 2000, during which time he wrote and revised several of AU's law courses. Professor Khan has published many articles in a wide variety of legal publications; currently, he also helps edit several law-based journals. Professor Khan has also just finished writing another AU course dealing with Labour Law in Canada, which will be offered shortly.

For more information on Employment Law in Canada (HRMT 322), you can visit: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/hrmt/hrmt322.htm. For more information about course author Professor Khan, you can visit: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/staff/academic/andyk.htm>.

FICTION FEATURE

Letter to a Friend

Bill Pollett



Some of the survivors have moved into the house where you and Tom used to live. They arrive almost daily in groups of twos and threes. Some of them are in the house, and others are living in tents in the yard. I was out in the field picking up stones and dead crows yesterday, clearing a space for a garden, when an old man passed by with a trout he'd just caught in the pond. We both knew it was poisoned, but it really was a beautiful looking fish. Sweet tasting, I'll bet. He nodded as he walked past. Neither of us said anything.

I've got a lean-to atop the hill in the south pasture, where there's a pretty good view of the place. I like to sit up there some evenings, when the sun is sinking, and watch the two black dogs running around the yard and the smoke rising from the chimney and the girl hanging clothes out on the line. Sometimes I like to pretend that I'll go down there and join them. Spend the last few days or weeks with them sitting around the kitchen table. I sit with my back to the telegraph post, and watch and pretend and listen to the wires singing in the wind as though there were still voices travelling through them, still things to say.

Katie's dead. I know you won't have heard, and I thought you should know. I buried her in the apple orchard.

I spend a lot of time walking through the woods where we saw the ghost. That was so long ago. Were we really scared, back then, by things like that? You were so beautiful that day. No, not beautiful. I think it's important to tell the truth now. But you had such a kind face, and there's a sort of beauty in that.

I had a dream last night that we were all together again. Katie and I, you and Tom. We were sitting on the floor laughing and laughing about something, I'm not sure what. We were very small, like two or three year old children, but with our own adult smiling faces. We were at the summerhouse that my Aunt Sylvia used to have on Georgian Bay. The sun was slanting in through the open window. There were no plague hospitals, no prison camps then. All the world was shiny and new.

Listen, I know that you'll never get this letter. Probably you're dead. We all are. So what I'm saying doesn't mean a thing. But I want you to know that I loved you. Love you. Despite what you must think, I never set out to betray you. Only gradually did I become aware of my weakness and my treacherous nature. And, of course, by then it was much too late. Your name was in all the wrong hands. Your papers were revoked. Your fate was sealed. The secretary's shoes were shiny and black, and I will never forget the way they squeaked across the clean white floor.

NEWFOUNDLAND PROMISES THREE-YEAR TUITION FREEZE

Nadya Bell

Surprise announcement pleases CFS; prof warns it could spell trouble CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) -- As the Canadian Federation of Students prepared to protest the Newfoundland and Labrador government Mar. 15, the student lobby group got exactly the announcement it wanted. In a surprise meeting that morning, Minister of Education Tom Hedderson and Premier Danny Williams said they will freeze tuition at all post-secondary institutions in the province for the rest of the government's term.

While the CFS is pleased the government kept its campaign promise, others are concerned over the future of Memorial University of Newfoundland. "In a lot of ways, they couldn't not make this decision. It's a very good decision for the province; it makes sense economically and socially," said Jessica Magalios, provincial chair of the CFS. But the head of Memorial's political science department, Stephen Wolinetz, said the tuition freeze could present trouble for the university's budget. "The tuition freeze squeezes the university budget in ways in which every unit in the university is finding it extraordinarily hard to operate, (with) no wiggle room because most of the budget is salaries," he said.

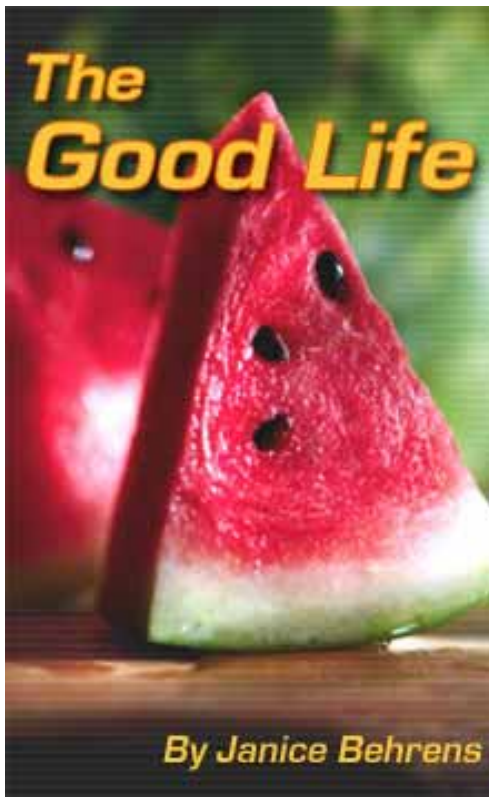
Wolinetz was involved with the Memorial senate's submission to the province's white paper on post-secondary education, a document evaluating the state of the post-secondary system in Newfoundland and Labrador. "None of us who were involved with the white paper necessarily asked for a tuition increase -- what we did ask for was funding comparable to that being received by universities in Atlantic Canada," he said.

The tuition freeze was announced despite the unreleased results of the white paper, which Williams said largely recommended a tuition increase. Memorial president Axel Meisen has no objection to the tuition freeze, provided the university is properly funded. But the university's board of regents has the final say on setting tuition fees, as well as approving extra fees for certain programs such as pharmacy. "What the government has said is that it will provide the university with the money to keep tuition constant. It will be up to the regents to set the tuition fees at the normal rate," said Meisen.

Magalios said news of the tuition freeze was a surprise, considering the tone of the meeting she had with Hedderson Mar. 11. "We had very serious reason to believe that the budget was not going to contain good things for students -- that, in fact, we shouldn't expect a tuition fee freeze. (Hedderson) didn't say that, but that was the impression we got," she said.

Hedderson said the decision to freeze tuition was made over the past few weeks during the budget consultations. "This is something that we were looking at as a budget announcement, but the premier spoke with me and indicated, 'Why should we keep this in suspense? The decision was made,'" he said.

"We see it as an opportunity to afford the students of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Canadian students the opportunity to have an affordable and accessible post-secondary education that also has equality attached to it."



Why good food is worth it

There's a common misperception out there that it is cheaper and easier to eat crappy, mass produced supermarket foods than to eat high quality, hand-prepared meals with fresh top-quality ingredients. Kraft dinner and wieners may not excite the taste buds very much, but after a long day's work and with several more meals to go before pay day, it provides an easy and apparently inexpensive option. Healthy, gourmet quality meals, on the other hand, mean lots of dollars spent at specialty food stores and hours of prep work in the kitchen.

Well, as the blues singer once said, it ain't necessarily so. Remember that there is no such thing as a free meal. When you're buying processed foods prepared in a factory, you're inevitably paying for the cost of the employees, the buildings, the equipment, the liability insurance, etc., etc., not to mention the big fat profit cheques for the corporation's board of directors. The way you're paying for it is through massively inferior ingredients, including more chemicals than you really want to think about, as well as poor wages for the workers, and many other ethical and environmental concerns.

When you buy organic fruits, vegetables, pastas and grains, and handcrafted artisan cheeses and meats, on the other hand, your grocery dollars are going toward supporting diversity of food sources and environmentally sustainable production methods - which may or may not be a big deal to you. But consider that you are also getting a product that tastes far better than the Frankenfood alternatives, is better for you, and could even save you money. The saving money part comes in because, with the higher quality flavours your taste buds are receiving, you need only use a very small amount of these ingredients. A thin slice of a three or five year aged white cheddar from Quebec, placed on a chunk of baguette with some real mayonnaise and perhaps some green onion, is a far more tasty alternative to a thick chunk of some supermarket cheese that tastes as flavourless as a block of wax.

Last night for dinner I dug out my friend Dina's favourite pasta recipe. It's a sauce called *puttanesca*, which apparently translates as *night pasta* because it was apparently a favourite of Neapolitan prostitutes, who found it a quick and easy source of food energy to keep them going through the busy night. Like most pasta sauces, the exact ingredients and quantities are flexible, but it involves simmering some fresh tomatoes (from the garden, if possible, but don't worry about it if not), some anchovies or capers (or both), black olives, lots of basil, and at least six or seven cloves of crushed garlic in about a third of a cup of good olive oil. It takes all of fifteen minutes to prepare - just enough time to boil the linguine, spaghetti or fettucini - and feeds a family of four for maybe five or six dollars. Less than the price of a cardboard-tasting boxed pizza with God knows what sorts of nauseating ingredients.

I have a file of cheap, easy meals and delicious meals that I refer to on a regular basis. If anybody out there has anything along these lines to share, I would love to hear about it.

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU's Website Has a New Look

The AUSU website has a new look and navigation. Please stop by to take a look and let us know what you think. It's possible that a few links may not be working as we go through and ensure the new menu system is updated, so please write webmaster@ausu.org if you notice any problems or have a comment.

AUSU Helps Sponsor the Alberta Services for Students Conference

The Alberta Services for Students Conference will be held this May at Mount Royal College and AUSU councillor Lisa Priebe will be in attendance to meet with students and answer questions. AUSU has donated \$500 to provide students with snacks and coffee during the conference. Students can attend the conference for \$110. For more details on this conference and how to attend please contact the AUSU Office at ausu@ausu.org or toll free at 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413.

AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU is in need of more volunteer mentors to help our new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student and interested in being matched to a new student, please email ausu@ausu.org for an application form. The mentor program is designed to aid new students in their adjustment to distance learning. If you're a new student and would like to be matched to one of our mentors please fill out the application form at this address: <http://www.ausu.org/services/mentorsforms.php>

The AUSU Office is Moving this May

This May the AUSU Office and the AU Edmonton Learning Centre will be moving to the 12th floor of the Peace Hills Trust building located on 10011-109 Street in downtown Edmonton. The new location is only two blocks away from our current location. Our office will be closed for a few days while we carry out this move. Keep watching this column and the AUSU website for more details.



Defying Expectations

When Igor Stravinsky's ballet score, *The Rite of Spring*, premiered in Paris in 1913, its powerful, tumultuous and dissonant celebration of pagan sensuality was met with a stunned and horrified reaction from the audience. Polite silence rapidly transformed into a near-riot of booing, hissing and projectiles aimed at the stage. Today, this jarring and cathartic score is considered to be one of the great masterworks of twentieth century music, and is met with appreciative applause from audiences all over the world.

In 1979 *Apocalypse Now*, Francis Ford Coppola's epic Vietnam War movie, was nominated in the Best Picture category of the Academy Awards. It lost out, though, to *Kramer vs. Kramer*, a well-acted, competently written, and ultimately forgettable divorce drama starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. For anybody looking for a thoughtful, balanced film about an intelligent family dealing with the complications and stresses of a modern relationship, Robert Benton's film is well worth checking out. Coppola's film, on the other hand, is a sprawling,

flawed masterpiece. It is long, self-indulgent and violent, almost hallucinogenically intense in parts, filled with phantasmagoric imagery, and all but ruined in its final quarter by an amazingly weird and (for me) almost unwatchable performance from Marlon Brando. It is also the best film ever made about the madness of that war, and is generally considered to be amongst the greatest and most influential American films of all time. A little more than a quarter century later, *Apocalypse Now* is still a film that causes interested discussion amongst movie buffs (and, really, who isn't a movie buff?), whilst *Kramer vs. Kramer* is rarely ever mentioned.

Stravinsky and Coppola were inspired artists, able to follow their creative visions into new territories, and emerge with vital, unsettling works of art that defied the expectations of audiences and critics. I think each of us should take some inspiration from these stories into our own lives. As we follow our own creative paths, try new things, explore new areas within our own minds and lives, and illuminate those areas for others to see, we should be prepared for some catcalls, a certain amount of indifference, ridicule, even hostility. Just as Stravinsky's audience had certain expectations about what constitutes appropriate music for the concert hall, and the members of the Academy in 1979 had an overly conservative idea of what makes a great film, so too our friends, relatives and acquaintances likely have preconceived ideas about who we are and what to expect from us. As the above instances show, defying these expectations is not a sure-fire recipe for instant accolades. People don't like to be challenged or confused. Challenge and confusion, though, is a part of what makes the world a strange and wonderful place, and it is up to each of us, in whatever way is most appropriate, to rattle the cage a bit, at least every once in awhile. At worst, we won't become stale and boring. At best, history may even vindicate us. You never know.



Dear Barb;

I have had a rash on my face for a few months and after trying everything to get rid of it, I went to my family doctor. I was diagnosed as having a skin condition called Rosacea. Until this diagnosis I had never heard of this condition. My doctor gave me some information and is referring me to a dermatologist. I'm wondering how common this condition is and does it occur more often in men or women? I would appreciate any insight you can offer on this most embarrassing condition.

Tony in Quebec

Hi Tony, great to hear from you. After researching your question I learned that Rosacea is a common skin condition affecting millions of people worldwide. Most of those affected are between the ages of 30 and 60. It is equally distributed among men and women. Often individuals are able to identify other family members who also suffer from this condition.

Rosacea initially appears as a rash-like flushing of the face, mostly across the cheeks. It may escalate into pustules that resemble acne and can affect the eyes as well. The exact cause is unknown. Many factors can

aggravate Rosacea. For example consuming coffee, tea, or any hot drink may trigger outbursts. As well what you eat may also aggravate Rosacea. Spicy food is often a precipitating factor for many sufferers. Exposure to the sun or wind, particularly cold wind, can trigger a flare up.

Strong emotions and stressful situations can also cause the symptoms to reappear. However, avoiding stressful situations is not always within our control, therefore you need to know how to manage this skin condition on a daily basis.

Caring for your skin on an ongoing basis is important in handling Rosacea. It is best not to use abrasive cleaners, or scrub your face excessively. Also, Tony, it is advisable that men shave with an electric shaver, rather than a blade, as it is easier on the skin. When you visit the dermatologist, you will learn of many topical creams, as well as oral antibiotics such as tetracycline, that are used in the treatment of Rosacea. Which treatment is best for you will be decided between you and your doctor, as each situation is unique.

You have done the right thing in seeing your doctor since if Rosacea is left untreated it can cause permanent skin damage.

Further information can be obtained at the following websites:

<http://www.rosacea.org>

<http://www.niams.nih.gov/hi/topics/rosacea/rosacea.htm>

I hope I have been helpful Tony. Please write back after your visit with the dermatologist, to let me know how you are doing.

E-mail your questions to advice.voice@ausu.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



Budget Boosted Again

The Alberta Government has once again announced that it under-estimated the revenues it would receive. This time, it's the Alberta Heritage fund, which is expected to earn 383 million dollars more than it was originally budgeted to, an increase of over half the amount previously expected.

With the Alberta debt already paid for, at least there's precious little excuse for the government to deny additional funding in areas where it's most needed such as post-secondary education and health care.

Of course, with sky-rocketing energy prices and the tax-payer subsidy for various energy corporations in the province (also known as the Natural Gas Rebate Program), these surpluses can be deceptive. After all, Albertans have to make sure they support people like Jerome Engler, the President of Atco Gas, or he might have to shop where he can see students going to the food-bank, and we can't have that.

On the bright side, it does appear that the Alberta Government has finally realized that students are reaching the breaking point. Maybe it has something to do with the number of seats lost in the last election. At any rate, whatever the reason, post-secondary institutions and even students' unions are being given a lot more attention by the Minister of Advanced Education.

A worrying trend, though, is the tuition rebate program announced by Premier Klein. If this is what we can expect from the Honourable Minister Hancock, Alberta students will be in a precarious situation. While a rebate is great for the tuition increase this year, what happens next year? Or the year after that?

Students and the Bills

There are two bills regarding post-secondary education currently in front of the Alberta Legislature that are likely to affect student both within and outside of Alberta.

The most recent of the two bills, Bill 14 is said to add clarity and flexibility to the Student Financial Assistance Act. One clarification is that the lifetime limit for student loans applies to the total amount of loans you've received, and not the current principal you owe.

It also clarifies that the Cabinet has the authority to make regulations regarding eligibility and setting limits. This ties in with flexibility by making it so that the Minister can set limits for a student as an individual. That's right folks, the government is essentially saying that they can choose to grant exceptions or not, with no criteria established as to what limits those determinations. So you may want to think carefully about speaking out against the government once this bill passes.

The other bill, Bill 9, was released a while ago. It's mostly innocuous, however one change not mentioned in the announcement is that this bill makes it so that the 30% Alberta tuition to public payment ratio will not apply this year.

This requires some background. Currently, the Post-Secondary Learning Act states that if an institution receives less than 30% of its funding from Alberta student tuition in a year, the institution can raise its fees for the next year based on how much fees were raised the year before. If, on the other hand, an institution receives

more than 30% of its funding from Alberta student tuition in a year, it can raise its fees for next year based on inflation + 2% only, and then only to a maximum of 5%.

For comparison's sake, AU has raised its tuition by close to 7% for the past several years, and has been allowed to do so because it has been under that 30% mark the year before. However, both AU and the other universities have been edging continually closer to that magic 30% figure where they will be bound by the lower rate.

Along comes Bill 9. This bill states that they don't have to look at this last year's figures to determine if they're over the 30% cap, but rather the figures of the year before. In a sense, this gives a free pass to any university that happens to cross over that line this year.

Alberta Students' Unions fought hard for any limits on tuition increases, so it's particularly galling that even the very lax restriction may well be side-stepped by the Alberta Government. Whether you're a student in Alberta or not, this bill may end up affecting you, as tuition increases affect all of us.

CLICK ON THIS

Lonita Fraser

A little bit of web weirdness and wonder

Radio Bastet - <http://www.radiobastet.com/index.html>

Where, amongst other things, you can download a new how-to album on bellydancing on the 15th of every month. It's a good way to get in the groove without the attendant embarrassment I know I'd feel!

Top 100 Gadgets of All Time - http://www.mobilepcmag.com/features/2005_03/top100gadgets.html

Huzzah for the Pez dispenser! Did you have a favourite one as a child?

Big Things - <http://www.bigthings.ca/bigobject.html>

Exactly how does one play a violin that's, well, as big as the side of a barn?

Gallery of Dangerous Insect Sculptures - <http://www.beware-of-art.com/gallery/insects/>

Absolutely gorgeous metal and wire work, and no ickies!

Weird Foods From Around the World - <http://www.weird-food.com/index.html>

Beets on a burger?! Two things I like, but together?!

Tiny Mix Tapes - <http://www.tinymixtapes.com/amg/>

"You send us a style, genre, word, phrase, emotion, or whatever else, and if one of our mix tape robots fancies your suggestion, that crazy set of circuits might just make a mix tape out of it - well, at least a tracklisting for a mix tape out of it." I wonder if they'd make up a list for "Songs to listen to while reading *The Voice* and surfing very crazy websites"?

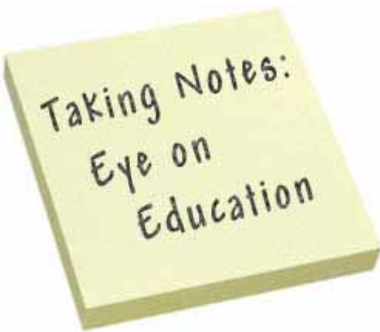
SensiTile - <http://www.sensitile.com/>

"SensiTile is based on a patent pending set of new technologies that allows the material to become sensitive to changes in light intensity and color. Due to this ability a SensiTile system will respond to the movement around it by creating a dazzling set of ripples on its surface. The technology is completely passive in that it does not need to be powered but instead uses daylight and ambient light as its source of power."

Alex MacLean: Aerial Photography - <http://www.alexmaclean.com/portfolio1.html>

What the world looks like from above. Lovely work.

This column focuses on a wide range of issues affecting post-secondary students. Students are encouraged to submit suggestions and educational topics they are concerned about, or personal experiences with courses or university situations they feel other students should know about. If suggest a topic or a course alert for taking notes, contact djabbour@ausu.org



HIGH TUITION AND PARENTS

Debbie Jabbour

Parents may or may not be in a position to pay for their children's post-secondary education, but high tuition rates are affecting many parents in a less obvious way. Students struggle to pay for their education, stay in school longer, and often find earnings upon graduation are insufficient to allow them to repay student loans while earning enough to marry, buy a home and start a family. Increasingly, students are opting to live at home both during their education and afterwards, creating an additional financial burden on their parents and impacting parental lifestyle in numerous ways.

In contrast to a few years ago, one U.S. study estimates that one-fourth of the cost of raising a child now comes after the child turns 17 - with some researchers suggesting that parents will spend at least \$47,000 on each of their adult children between the ages of 18 and 34. Another study found that almost one-fourth of parents borrow an average debt of \$17,000 to pay for their children's education, with one in five taking out a second mortgage and one-third using credit cards. In addition to the tuition outlay, parents are taking responsibility for day to day living costs for their children, often well beyond graduation. American parents receive some relief through federal government-sponsored loans that help pay for post-secondary education, offsetting the need for second mortgages or credit card debt. Canadian parents, however, have no such assistance, and the impact of bankrolling a child's education means that many parents are placing their own lives on hold; deferring retirement and adjusting their retirement expectations.

Edmonton Journal, March 11, 2005. Kids in parents' pockets eroding retirement savings: Parents wrestle with changed expectations for their own futures as twentysomethings stay in the nest.

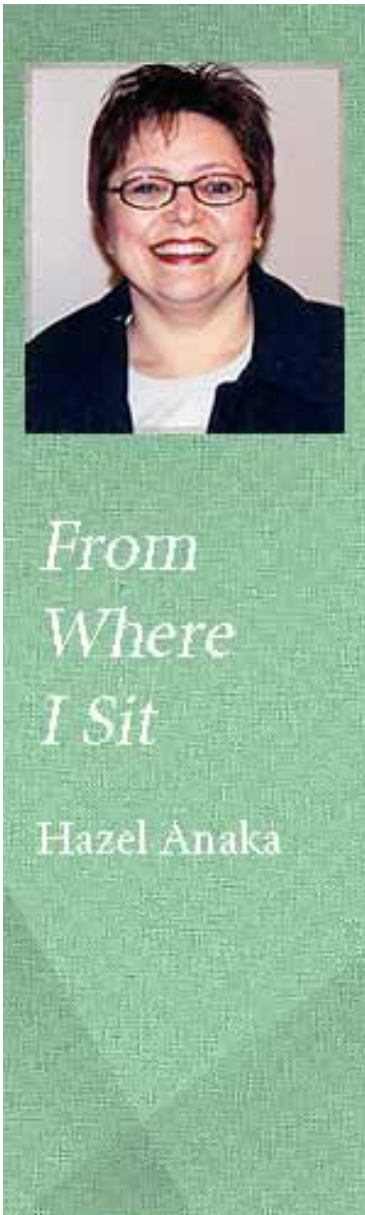
Women you should know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Ellen Richards - 1842-1911

Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards was credited with being the first female environmental engineer. As a child Richards eagerly helped her parents with farm work and domestic chores. After completing high school, Richards received her first B.S. degree from Vasca College, N.Y. and her second B.S. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Richards continued her studies at MIT, but was not granted her Ph.D because they (MIT) did not want their first Ph.D in chemistry to be granted to a woman. Nonetheless while working as an assistant director for the Women's Education Association in Boston, Richards was able to inspire other women to go into the scientific field. Throughout her life Richards wrote numerous articles and published several books, including *The Chemistry of Cooking and Cleaning*. Eventually Richards opened "The New England Kitchen" in Boston, where she was able to offer low cost nutritious meals to working class families. In addition, Richards lobbied to have domestic courses available in public schools. As a result of her work, Richards was named to the counsel of the National Education Association and became responsible for overseeing the teaching of home economics throughout the public schools. Ultimately, she was awarded an honorary Ph.D from Smith College. Richards died March 30, 1911.

<http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/biographies/richards-es.html>



Good to Go

No self-respecting professional would dream of tackling a day's work without the proper equipment, gear, tools and wardrobe. What's a lawyer without a suit and briefcase? Or a nurse without comfy shoes and scrubs? Or a painter without brushes, drop cloths and paint splattered duds?

So too must we consider the well-equipped farmer. He will have clothing that meets the needs of each season, is task appropriate and is going to keep him safe. No dangling sleeves or loose shoelaces to get caught up in the PTO please.

The calving season ensemble will be accessorized by shoulder length gloves of the transparent plastic variety. A parka and felt lined boots will guard against frostbite during the middle of the night cow checks. Depending on the weather, headgear may be either a toque or a balaclava.

Spring means rubber gum boots, ball caps, a denim chore coat and a visibly lighter gait if there's just enough moisture but not too many potholes. Specialty jobs like spraying require safety gear like goggles, masks, and rubber gloves and boots. To do less is to court danger and respiratory or skin problems.

Summer is haying season. Depending on the age of the farmer that could mean a muscle shirt and cutoffs or more likely jeans and either a t-shirt or work shirt. I suspect very few farmers wear sun screen, which is dangerous given the hours spent outdoors year round. Footwear ranges from runners to cowboy boots to steel-toed work boots. Sandals would be a definite no-no unless our farmer is sitting on the deck with a cool beverage. Mosquito repellent with DEET is the order of the day if doing any fencing or cattle moving.

Fall means harvest and long, hard days of frantic activity. It's also probably time to pull out the old quilted, plaid flannel shirt.

New jeans, denim jacket and a western shirt are perfect for the Farm and Ranch Show, CAIS information meetings, groveling in front of the banker, or having coffee with friends. A fundraiser at school, a trip to Edmonton or a local dance may bring out the black jeans and boots and a new ball cap.

Perhaps the single factor most likely to change the look of our guy is hope. The imminent (?) reopening of the border would go a long way to lifting spirits. The financial windfall from all the seismic and exploration work has either kept the wolf away for some or allowed for extra projects or travel for others. Good moisture levels, fair commodity prices, a rebounding cattle market and cost containment may put a smile on more faces this spring. With the scandalous farm injury and death rates, dressing for the job has never been more important. Farming is dangerous work. We owe it to the ones we love to take farm safety seriously. That means equipping him with the right stuff for the job. That will ensure that this professional is good to go, from where I sit.



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

BUNAC - Work Canada

Internship types: Accounting, Agricultural Sciences, Business Admin, Management, Communications, Computer Science, Economics, Finance, Forestry, Graphic Design, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Ad, PR, Museum Studies, Technology, Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality, Tourism, Cooking, National Park Employment, Resort Employment, Ski Resort Employment, Ranch Employment and State Park Employment

Qualifications / skills needed: You must currently be a full-time student at an accredited University. Please note that students on Study or Semester Abroad (except in Canada) who are still considered full-time at a US college or university ARE eligible for this program.

Description: BUNAC's Work Canada program is operated in conjunction with SWAP and allows you to gain the international experience of working abroad without actually having to go overseas. Work Canada is a program authorized by the Canadian Government to allow US college students the opportunity to work and travel in Canada for up to 6 months. The program fee is \$205, plus mandatory travel insurance. The program fee includes program and sponsor administration and materials, and support in the USA and Canada.

Highlights: Free choice of arrival date into Canada; Pre departure support from BUNAC including your work authorization documents; SWAP Canada Hosting Centers with job and accommodation advice, online computer facilities, telephones, mail drop and forwarding services and general advice from friendly and knowledgeable staff; Arrival orientation with vital information on bank accounts, tax, applying for a SIN (social insurance number) as well as practical information on job and accommodation hunting; 24 hours Emergency SWAP assistance; Special phonecard including voicemail and fax facilities; Fast processing, no express fees.

Language required: English

This internship is a paid position. Application process involves: Letters of Reference; Transcript; Written Application

<http://www.bunac.org/>

Location: Throughout Canada

Dates: Throughout the year

BUNAC
PO Box 430
Southbury, CT 06488
United States
phone: (203) 264 0901
fax: (203) 264 0251

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

LUCENT GLOBAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Two students attending Canadian universities will be chosen as Lucent Global Science Scholars in 2005. In Canada, the award competition will be administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education in cooperation with the Institute of International Education. The successful applicants will receive a one-time award of \$US5,000 and an expense-paid trip to visit Lucent/Bell Labs Global Headquarters in Murray Hill, New Jersey to attend the "Lucent Global Science Scholars Summit" in July 2005 along with other competition winners from around the world. When possible, the winner will be offered a paid summer internship.

Eligibility Criteria

1. You must be a full-time student in your first year at any Canadian university entitled to grant degrees under provincial legislation;
2. Your major or intended major must be computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering with a strong computer science interest, or a specialized technical telecommunications major, such as wireless engineering;
3. You must have high academic standing - as demonstrated by your marks in the final year of secondary school and first term at university;
4. You should be planning to pursue a career in information or communications technology;
5. You must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
6. You must have demonstrated competency in spoken and written English;
7. You must have demonstrated your potential to contribute to your profession in the future and your interest in expanding your international perspective.

How to Apply:

A complete application consists of the following materials:

1. A completed Lucent Global Science Scholars Program Application Form, available from this site or from a designated representative at your university.
2. Two letters of recommendation. One must come from a secondary school teacher or university professor or instructor, ideally in science or math. The other must come from a professional non-family member who has supervised your education, work, and/or other activities.
3. An official transcript of grades from your last year in secondary school and your first year at university. Include explanation of marks provided by institution.
4. Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent residency.
5. A typewritten essay of 500 words which describes your science or math-related achievements, your future career plans, activities that illustrate your international perspective and past and current activities that could help you benefit from and contribute to the Lucent Global Science Scholars Program and why you should be selected as a Lucent Scholar.

Deadline: The deadline for application is March 31, 2005. Semi-finalists will be interviewed by the selection committee in April. Finalists will be announced in May. Selection decisions are final; there is no appeal process.

Application Address:

Canadian Bureau for International Education
Attn: Lucent Global Science Scholars Program
220 Laurier West, Suite 1550
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9

For more information

You may send your questions on the Lucent Global Science Scholars Program by E-mail to CBIE at info@cbie.ca or telephone 613-237-4820, ext. 243.



Provided by Lonita Fraser

ROMANCE SLAM JAM 2005
Dallas, Texas USA

March 10 - 13 2005

Contact: Cindi Louis - 972.623.2537; Emma Rodgers - 800.272.5027 - P.O. box 530326, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053
romanceslamjam2005@yahoo.com - <http://www.romanceslamjam.com/>

The four-day conference unites readers and writers of Black romance for an exciting fun-filled extended weekend of literary activities, entertainment, and awards presentations. Over 300 authors, readers, and industry professionals are expected to attend. Theme: Rolling Out the Red Carpet for the Readers

Key activities include:

- Literary activities - writer's workshops, editor and agent presentations, book signings, and aspiring writer's contest
- Keynote luncheon featuring best-selling author Jacquelin Thomas
- EMMA awards banquet acknowledging the top books in ten tempting categories.
- Readers participation and tributes in all major functions
- Fun activities like shopping and sightseeing in Dallas, a trip to Black Images Book Bazaar, tastes of Dallas, welcome reception, Sunday morning worship, skits, games, and prizes.

The per person registration fee is: Until Jan 15, 2005 - \$ 165.00 per person; Jan 15 - Mar 13, 2005 - \$200.00 per person. Bookclubs or writing groups submitting five or more registrations at one time will receive \$15 off the per person registration fee. (Price - \$150.00 per person) All five registrations and payment must be sent together.

PerEL Workshop on Pervasive eLearning
Kauai Island, Hawaii, United States

8 to 12 March 2005

<http://www.ra.informatik.uni-rostock.de/perel2005> - PerEL Organization Team - perel05@informatik.uni-rostock.de
Held in conjunction with the IEEE Int. Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications (PerCom 05). It wants to bring together researchers and developers from different technical and educational disciplines.

4th Annual Race and Place Conference: Borderlands and Boundaries
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States

10 March 2005

<http://www.ua.edu/academic/colleges/raceandplace/> - E-mail: gdorr@bama.ua.edu

Second International Conference on Positive Behavior Support
Tampa, FL, United States

10 to 12 March 2005

<http://www.apbs.org> - Contact name: Tim Knostr - E-mail: tknostr@bloomu.edu - Positive Behavior Support involves the assessment and engineering of environments so that people with problem behaviors can increase social, personal and professional quality in their lives.

International Dark-Sky Association 16th Annual Meeting
Tucson, Arizona, United States

10 March 2005

Website: <http://www.darksky.org/index.html> - Contact name: Bob Gent - E-mail: RLGent1@aol.com

Children's Literature
Rochester, New York, United States

19 March 2005

Contact name: Laurie Ousley - E-mail: lousley@monroecc.edu - We welcome abstracts on any aspect of children's literature, contemporary, classic, obscure or popular. Papers might focus on illustration, drama, poetry, the picture book, the historical novel, fantasy, science fiction, realism, fairy tale. Organized by: Monroe Community College

**Conference on Southern Literature
Chattanooga, Tennessee, United States**

31 Mar - 2 April 2005

<http://www.artscouncil.org/csl/cslit.html> - Contact: Susan Robinson - info@artscouncil.org - Nearly 40 writers convene for panel discussions, readings, lectures, book signings, and more. 2005 theme is The South: A Community of Outsiders. Keynote by Reynolds Price. Registration starts in January. Organized by: Arts & Education Council

**American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada, United States**

31 March 2005

<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2005annualmtg.htm> - E-mail: asecs@wfu.edu

**Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL)
New York, New York, United States**

31 March 2005

<http://www.dickinson.edu/nectfl> - E-mail: nectfl@dickinson.edu

**MEPHISTOS
Providence, Rhode Island USA**

March 5-6, 2005

<http://www.brown.edu/Students/Mephistos/> - Mephistos is an international graduate student conference in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine. The purpose of the conference is to stimulate open discussion among graduate students. The graduate community at Brown University, in association with the Committee on Science & Technology Studies, is proud to host the twenty-third annual edition of the event.

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **iCORE (Informatics Circle of Research Excellence) Summit - Aug. 2005 -Banff.**
The second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days. The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics. (403) 210-5335. <http://www.icore.ca/>.
- **Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium - Oct. or Nov. 2005, Calgary.**
The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership. (403) 244-6666. <http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/>.
- **InfraEDUCA 2004 - June 25-27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi -** The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialized Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distance Learning Systems, International Universities and Programs, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programs etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **PISTA '04 - July 21-25 - Orlando, Florida -** Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are transforming our societies, therefore papers about research results, solutions and problems of the applications of ICT in Politics and Society are highly encouraged. Details: <http://www.confinfo.org/Pista04/website/default.asp>
- **EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 - July 28 - 30 - Dhaka, Bangladesh.** EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 is the platform for you to promote your Institutions and services and to recruit students in Bangladesh. Details: <http://www.expam.com/bangladesh/>

Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

classifieds

To list events in your area, e-mail voice@ausu.org with "events" in the subject line.

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.



AU SCIENCE STUDENTS' SOCIETY (AUS3) ONLINE! The AU Science Students' Society is online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss/index.php>. If you are an AU science student or a student with an interest in science, this club is for you! Contact aus3@ausu.org for more information. It's free to join!

THE VOICE

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