

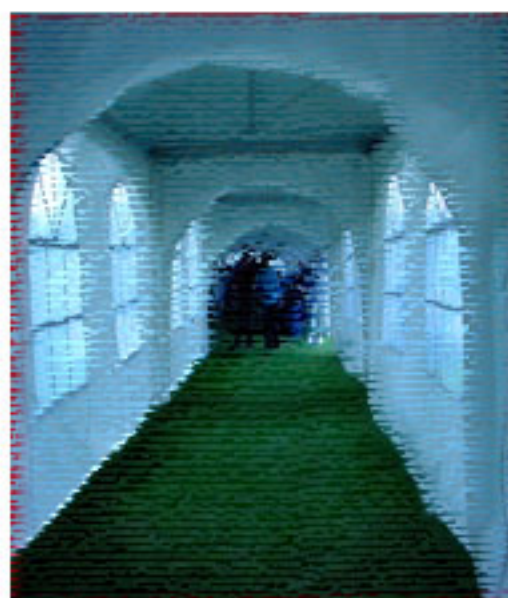
# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Jun 29, 2005  
Volume 13 Issue 25

### Convocation 2005

*More interviews - AU's new President*



### AU's biggest graduation ceremony

*Part two of our coverage....*

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*Passing of budget clears way for gay marriage bill*

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*and much more...*



*Happy Birthday, Canada!*



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

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## THE VOICE

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*The Voice* is published every  
Wednesday in html and pdf format

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University's *The Insider* for its  
frequent contributions

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## Convocation Report 2005

### Introduction & Installation of the President, Thursday, June 9.

*Text and Photos by Debbie Jabbour*



Gilbert Perras displays the AU Mace at the university entrance. Bushels of fresh flowers decorate the university and grounds for the occasion.

*The Voice Magazine's coverage of Convocation 2005 continues with reports from the grounds and more photos. Keep watching next week as our coverage continues...*

This year marked a significant change in the structure of the yearly Convocation at Athabasca. Each year the number of graduates has increased, and this year, Athabasca University's 28th convocation, we have over 1096 graduates! Almost 400 decided to attend the ceremony in Athabasca, accompanied by some 1400 family and friends. The university realized that two days would no longer be sufficient to accommodate these large numbers, and made the decision to add a third convocation day.

Not only was the ceremony extended to three full days, the graduates were also divided differently. In previous years, master's degrees were awarded one day, undergraduate degrees the next. This year undergraduate and graduate degrees were blended, following a somewhat logical division.

Friday was science day, including Master of Health Studies (MHS), Master of Nursing (MN), Master of Science - Information Systems (MScIS), Bachelor of Nursing (BN), Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Systems (BScIS). Saturday was all business - with the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Bachelor of Administration (BAdmin), Bachelor of Commerce (BComm), Bachelor of Management (BMgmt), and Bachelor of Health Administration (BHAdmin) degrees awarded. Thursday was everything else; the Master of Distance Education (MDE), Master of Arts and Integrated Studies (MAIS), Master of Counselling (MC), Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Applied Studies, Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Arts & Science, and Bachelor of Professional Arts (BPA).

The combination created an interesting atmosphere, giving rise to many comments about work-related personality types. There was an overabundance of suits & ties on Saturday's business day, and the atmosphere was one of efficiency and order. Friday's program of nurses was predominantly female, the post-convocation university grounds becoming a sea of photo-op group hugs. One former member of Governing Council commented to me that if you were going to get sick, Friday at Athabasca was the day to do it - you were surrounded by nurses! While I initially thought nursing and information systems degrees didn't have much in common, some of the grad bios suggested otherwise. One of the nursing grads commented that at times she found she was learning more about computers than nursing. Another



O Canada opens the ceremonies each day



Thursday, the first convocation ceremony of 2005 is about to begin

started out her studies as a nurse, but found computing to be much more interesting and switched her major to information systems! The nursing graduates also brought another dynamic to the mix, as many of them had completed their degree primarily through the classroom collaboration program with Mount Royal College in Calgary.

The blending of graduate and undergraduate degrees also provided a unique opportunity for undergrads to get a sense of what may lie ahead for them with master's studies, and to see what kinds of jobs their degree may open to them. It also provided a chance for professionals to meet on a very different plane, united by a common university experience across countries, rather than being separated by educational level.

A very special event marked Thursday's convocation - the installation of Athabasca University's sixth President - Dr. Frits Pannekoek. After the graduands, the platform party, governing council and the academics had all entered the tent, and after O Canada was sung, the first order of the day was the ceremony to install Frits Pannekoek as president. Dr. Pannekoek stood in thoughtful silence as Mr. David Burnett, chair of AUGC, introduced him. He then raised his right hand as David spoke the words, "do you, Frits Pannekoek, swear that you will, to the best of your skill and ability, truly and faithfully carry out the several duties and powers of the President of Athabasca University, without fear or favour, so help you God?"

Dr. Pannekoek replied, "I do", then David Burnett addressed Governing Council to advise that Dr. Pannekoek had sworn to accept the duties and responsibilities of the office of President. Burnett again turned to Dr. Pannekoek, stating that as chair of AUGC, "I hereby install you as President of Athabasca University, with all the powers and responsibilities pertaining to this office." It was a solemn, formal moment that was perfectly appropriate to the ceremony, as it mirrored the petition the graduands themselves would receive shortly. At this point, Dr. Pannekoek was robed with the official garments of the President. He then gave the installation address, a speech that he would repeat each day of convocation before a new group of graduands.



Registrar Gilbert Perras displays the AU ceremonial mace as Dr. Pannekoek (right) prepares to be installed as the new AU President.

Dr. Pannekoek spoke of the years of dedication and struggle it had taken for the grads to make it here and commented on AU's different tradition - the fact that graduands were seated on stage, with the faculty in the audience, was a clear testimony to the student-centred nature of the university, since the reverse is the case in most other universities. Although I found myself wondering how it must feel for him to speak these words, having never before attended a convocation ceremony at AU, it was impossible not to notice his obvious pride and excitement at being part of this very special university. He commented that it was "an exciting time to be



President of the fastest-growing, most dynamic, online and open university - Canada's university of the future."

The installation was attended by several representatives from other universities - including Dr. Ron Bond, Provost and Vice-President Academic from the University of Calgary, Dr. Carl Amrhein, Vice-President Academic and Provost, University of Alberta, Dr. Susan May, Associate VPA from Grant MacEwan Community College, and Dr. Alan MacDonald from Dalhousie University. I was later advised that it is not common practice for universities to send representatives to a president installation, so this is really a



Athabasca University has a new president! Frits Pannekoek is sworn in by David Burnett

mark of the camaraderie and respect the other universities in Alberta have for AU. Indeed, Dr. Amrhein commented on the high value the University of Alberta places on the collaborative relationship of Campus Alberta. Many of Dr. Pannekoek's Calgary colleagues also travelled to Athabasca to cheer him on in his new appointment. It was interesting to hear from Dr. Ron Bond, as Dr. Pannekoek worked directly under him at the University of Calgary. In his greetings from the University of Calgary, Dr. Bond commented that Frits's interests are an excellent match for the mandate of AU. He said that during the time he was ostensibly Dr. Pannekoek's "boss", it was "sometimes difficult to ascertain who reported to who," adding the warning, "Frits is a subtle man." This brought laughter from the crowd, but it certainly enhanced the positive impression I have already received from our new President, as he appears to be someone who knows how to get things done. Dr. Bond concluded by expressing a hope that the relationship between the University of Calgary and Athabasca University will be strengthened. Dr. Susan May rounded out the collegial greetings by expressing a great admiration for the work of AU, stating that AU is a "great friend of Grant MacEwan College."

Official greetings from the Government of Alberta and Minister of Advanced Education David Hancock came from Dr. Bill Byrne, Deputy Minister of Alberta Advanced Education, and Julian Nowicky, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission Chairman. I couldn't help but see the humour in having a representative from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor commission on hand, given that sometimes the stress of trying to study at a distance can drive you to drink! Dr. Byrne, of course, has a very special connection to Athabasca University through his cousin, Tim Byrne, first president of Athabasca University, whose foresight and dedication to distance education led to the creation of Athabasca University as we know it today.

Dr. Byrne reminisced a bit about Tim Byrne, noting that he and Tim grew up together in a remote community in Warspite, Alberta. Tim's thirst for knowledge was enhanced by an understanding of the difficulties faced by people in remote communities to attend school, and he embarked on a dedicated career as an educator, ending up as a deputy minister of education. Bill Byrne said his attendance at AU convocation was extremely gratifying, remarking that Tim would be very proud. He concluded by stating to Dr. Pannekoek that as a "family stakeholder" he would be "watching him very carefully" prompting laughter and sustained applause from the audience.

*Some time ago, at my request, Dr. Pannekoek had agreed to be interviewed for The Voice. We managed to get together in his office early Thursday morning before Convocation began. This interview, along with more convocation reports & interviews, will appear in the next few issues of the Voice - so keep reading!*

# Convocation 2005

Photos and interviews  
by Debbie Jabbour

*This is the second part of a three-part Voice feature focusing on this year's graduates. Voice reporter Debbie Jabbour was on hand at the main campus to interview the new grads and provide coverage of the proceedings. Watch for more the third instalment of interviews in next week's Voice.*

*Also see this issue for coverage of the proceedings on the first day of convocation and the swearing in of the new AU President, Dr. Frits Pannekoek. This year's convocation was Dr. Pannekoek's first with AU, and it was also the first to be spread over three days. Dr. Pannekoek calls AU the "university of the future." This year's AU grads are ready to take us into that future and increase the profile of AU through their skills and hard work. Congratulations graduates!*

**Amanda Baldwin, Bachelor of Arts**  
From: Strathmore, Alberta

Amanda is one of those AU students who accomplishes truly amazing feats—she completed her BA (double major in psychology and english) in 4 years, and managed to complete 14 courses in 4 months, while holding down 2 full time jobs! This, of course, was partly due to procrastination, leaving her with little choice if she wanted to graduate. During her studies at AU, Amanda also found time to write for *The Voice*, an experience she will never forget, according to her bio.

Amanda works for the Society for Treatment of Autism as a behaviour therapist, and is also an educational assistant at Golden Hills regional school. She has already applied for the Master of Counselling program at AU, although she is worried that the "14-course thing" may have had a negative effect on her GPA! Sociology 305 was a least favourite course; but Amanda loved all her creative writing courses, abnormal psychology and learning psychology. She especially enjoyed being able to translate what she was learning into her work environment, and the most outstanding experience was having the opportunity to write.

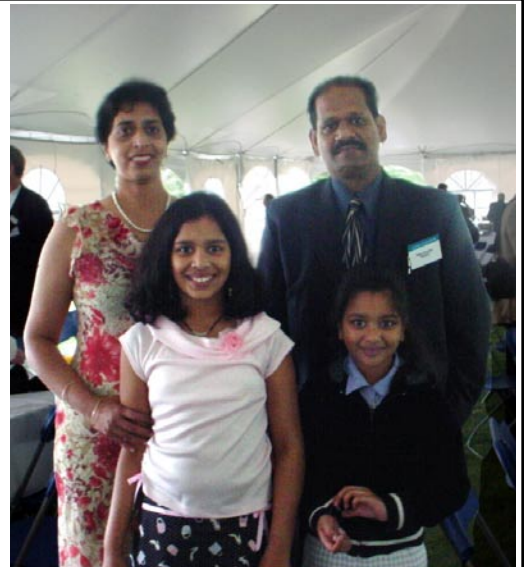
When I asked who had come with her, Amanda enthusiastically responded, "everyone!," pointing out her mom, dad, step mom and dad, boyfriend, and 2 brothers. As we talked, they were all proudly cheering her on from the sidelines. Amanda would like to research how autism is depicted in the literature, and offers these words of advice for others: "know who you are and where you come from. You will not enjoy your studies and regret the time spent otherwise." She also added, with a laugh—"don't procrastinate cause you will end up with 14 courses in 4 months!"





**Diego Monteiro,**  
**Master of Business Administration, Information Technology**  
**Management**  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Pictured: Diego, wife Ameeta, daughters Meagan and Kaitlyn

Diego's family were enjoying a leisurely breakfast in the tent before the ceremony, and told me how much they shared in his happiness. His wife and children commented that they "haven't had him for 2 1/2 years" and that the best convocation present was, "getting our dad back!" The family enjoyed a holiday in India last December, but Diego had to work hard to complete his courses, finding that the program required discipline and time: on average 3-4 hours every night, plus the whole weekend. In his stage bio, he said he will remember "long days and hard work," thanking his wife and children for letting him sleep odd hours and his friends who supported him with prayer.



Diego embarked on the degree for personal development, to gain a better understanding of management and leadership, and to improve job performance. At first, he didn't expect much interaction, but was surprised there was more group work than in a regular class! He found the courses very strategic and good, and he appreciated the focus on leadership and management in organizations. Diego also did three residentials, providing an opportunity to give feedback to other students about the MBA. His feedback was positive, except for one small thing, related to the hectic life of AU students: Diego noted that some students are too busy and post just to get their postings in, without paying attention to quality. This generated a lot of discussion with little real value, something that might improve if the coaches monitored the postings more closely. Overall, however, he was pleased with the quality and joined program director Lindsay Redpath in Saskatoon to talk to prospective students about the program. Currently, Diego is VP of Information Technology for the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, but his degree will allow him to become VP of Licensing and Communications. He plans to start his executive CMA soon. Although he intends to relax for a bit (and spend time with family!), his new job is very challenging, so he expects exciting days ahead.

Diego's final thought: "people may think online courses are watered down, but I found it to be a first rate learning experience." Congratulations, Diego, and good luck on your upcoming ventures!

**Jessica Hamill, BN (Mount Royal College)**  
Calgary, Alberta  
Pictured: Jessica with husband Jay Hamill

I connected with Jessica's family near the walkway tent—including parents, brother, in-laws, husband, aunts. They all told me how proud of her they are, which was obvious as they surrounded us, beaming, as Jessica and I talked. Jessica was part of the Mount Royal College nursing program, meaning that most of her work was in the classroom (the program has no online requirements), although she did take two distance ed classes. Her new degree has helped her secure a job in Foothills Hospital labour and delivery, and she stated that getting hired was the best part of the whole experience.



Jessica chose the MRC/AU collaborative degree because she considers it a superior program, doubling the clinical hours offered at the U of C. Courses related to maternity and child health were the most enjoyable. For Jessica, this degree means "getting the job of her dreams and more money," and for the moment she has no plans to pursue further studies. Jessica has some encouragement for other students. "Stick with it! Don't give up. There are days you want to quit - but don't give up!" Congratulations, Jessica - well done!



**Kathie Moses, Bachelor of General Studies  
(Arts & Science)**

Saddle Lake, Alberta

Pictured: Kathie Moses, Husband Joe and  
grandson Logan

Kathie has 10 grandchildren (one just arrived), and two more on the way. She was thrilled to be graduating after working on her degree for 8 years, and was accompanied to convocation by her mom Florence, husband Joe and grandson Logan. She works as a self-employed contract writer, doing business proposals for businesses interested in finding money (I couldn't resist asking if she could help me find tuition money!). Kathie hopes to go on to enrol in the Master of Counselling at AU, and plans to get her doctorate in educational psychology and open her own practice, working with her people in the elementary/high school environment.



The best memory Kathie has of her study experience came just before her final semester ended in April. She had been cramming so she could finish in time to graduate, but also desperately wanted to visit her daughter in New Mexico, who was graduating there. She said, "I wanted to be there and, I did it!" She and her husband showed me some of the beautiful jewellery they had obtained during their month-long visit in New Mexico (check out Joe's collection!)

Kathie really liked all of her native studies courses, remembering one professor in particular who was "so cool, really encouraging" to everyone in the class. Which course didn't she like? Stats!!!

Kathie would encourage other students that, no matter how hard the day or life may be—there is a light at the end of the rainbow, the tunnel, and it is very rewarding. "It is like god putting down a ray of sunshine on your roadway. It may not seem like much to others, but it means a lot to you." Congratulations, Kathie, and thanks for the inspirational words!

*Are you a new AU graduate who'd like to tell your story to The Voice? If so, write [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) to be featured in the Graduate Profiles column. All participants will receive a free Voice mug. (For those featured in this issue, send me your address to get your mug! Thanks to everyone who participated.)*

*See next week's issue for more convocation coverage.*



From left: graduand procession begins, following the piper & registrar into the tent; Meghan Grasby, 18-year old piper, performing her first official event, nervously awaits the signal; the AU mace.



*This monthly column features news and issues affecting gays and lesbians in Canada and around the world. Look for it on the second week of each month, only in The Voice.*

Welcome to this special edition of Gay and Lesbian Update! The budget has passed!

Late Thursday, June 23, the Liberals and NDP passed the budget, with help from the Bloc Quebecois in passing a motion stating that the Conservatives were holding up the passing of the budget. The acceptance of the budget came after the NDP, Liberals and BQ voted to extend the session of the house to specifically deal with same-sex marriage legislation which is expected to pass easily.

- <http://tinyurl.com/bv5s9>
- 

The military has performed its first same-sex wedding. Two servicemen were married at CFB Greenwood in Nova Scotia by the military Chaplin.

- <http://tinyurl.com/aqxww>
- 

Previous to this column, New Brunswick Judge Judy Clendenning ruled in favour of four couples, clearing the way for them to marry. Her ruling gave the province 10 days to allow for the necessary work, such as the changing of forms.

- <http://tinyurl.com/amvwm>
- 

The bill to legalize same-sex marriage across Canada has passed the House of Commons. The vote was 158 to 133 in favour. Stephen Harper has vowed to repeal the bill if the Conservatives form the next government. In 1969, Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau decriminalized homosexuality. The bill to legalize same sex marriage, which remains "illegal" in Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut still needs to pass the Senate, seen as only a formality, and receive royal assent. The monarch hasn't used royal prerogative to veto legislation since the 1700s.

- <http://tinyurl.com/d3b9g>
- <http://tinyurl.com/bqgyu>

### *Quote of the Month*

"I think there was a sense that many people thought they would never have seen something like this in their lifetimes - and not in a negative way, but in a positive way," Lt Cmdr David Greenwood of CFB Greenwood, in reference to the recent same-sex wedding there, June 14.





## **SOCI 378: Media Construction of Social Movements & Issues**

Have you ever wondered how many of the social norms prevalent in today's Canadian society were formed? Have you ever been curious about the extent to which the media has influenced society? If you've considered these things, then Athabasca University's new course, SOCI 378 (Media Construction of Social Movements & Issues), is for you!

A 3-credit course in the Social Sciences, SOCI 378 provides an "overview of the critical literature on media coverage of social movements," writes course professor and author Dr Ella Haley. She indicates that course topics like SOCI 378 are becoming more popular, "particularly after 9/11 and...the invasion of Iraq," as people are "questioning whose interests the mainstream media serve." Dr. Haley designed SOCI 378 so students will be able to "examine the significance of mass media in the world today" and be introduced to the "growing concentration of media ownership and the role of propaganda" in today's society. Using the knowledge gained from this background information, students then proceed to critique "how mainstream media shape and influence how we speak and write about social movements" says Dr. Haley, as well as "how social movements are fighting back."

Media Construction of Social Movements and Issues is divided into three parts. Part one, which consists of six units, introduces students to how society is shaped by media influences. It discusses concepts in critical analysis, as well as the relationship between social movements and democracy. Students will also discuss the effects of propaganda on social norms. The second part familiarizes students with theories prevalent in the mass media over seven units. First, students learn about effects research as they examine prevailing theories of media and social interactions, including the Functionalist theory. Canadian content is interwoven into the course as students take a look at influential Canadians in the mass media movement like Grant, McLuhan and Menzies. Culture-related issues and feminism are also discussed. Finally, the third part, which consists of six units, discusses in detail how social norms and issues are influenced by the mass media. Here students learn about the movements prevalent in today's society, including the environmentalist movement and how this has affected our perception of our earth, the labour movement, gender equality issues, and issues surrounding war and peace.

SOCI 378 has several exciting features. Students "seek alternative viewpoints by reading alternative news sources [like] Manchester Guardian and internet," said Dr. Haley. Additionally, they read "Canadian documentaries such as The Corporation and The Take [which] reflect the public's thirst for alternative sources of information on issues that matter to them," she continues. And once students finish the course: "students who would like to expand their interest in this area in a more independent fashion are welcome to approach me about SOCI 426, an independent research course," offers Dr. Haley.

Student evaluation in Media Construction of Social Movements and Issues (SOCI 378) consists of three assignments (worth 20%, 25% and 25%, respectively) and one take home midterm exam, worth 30% of the final course mark. Dr. Haley feels that the "assignments are closely tied to the course material to help ensure that students have a solid grounding in key sociological materials."

Spend your summer learning about the role of mass media in today's society by enrolling in SOCI 378. For more information, visit the course website at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/soci378.htm>

They took a running start. As fast as they could, they jumped into the water. Their laughter was followed by a splash. I stood behind them, peering out from between my fingers and shaking my head emphatically no way. They were jumping off a cliff.

I was white-water rafting down the Bow River in Alberta. My friends had arranged the trip and surprised me with the rafting. Maybe they suspected that had I had time to think about it, I would have found a good reason not to go. Keeping me in the dark was their way of ensuring my attendance. Ignorance is bliss.

At 8:00 a.m., as we stood in our cold damp wetsuits and received safety tips such as, "please try to make eye contact if you fall out so that we know you're conscious," I was seriously contemplating being a big wimp and waiting in my warm car. But by 2:00 p.m. when we were finished, I was the one saying, "So that's it? It's over? Can we go again?"

I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm no risk-taker. I like to try new things, but I've come to understand that I'm the girl who puts her toes in the water before she dives in. I learned this about myself a few years ago when I began mountain biking with group of more experienced riders. They laughed and said I couldn't be forced into anything I didn't want to do, and yet, I never turned down a chance to ride. I ended up looking forward to the uphill climbs because I knew it was the only chance I had to catch up. Not that the severe downhill plunges or skinny mountain-goat trails presented me with a real problem. I simply remained firmly seated and puttered along at my own speed. I even swallowed my pride and walked my bike down the really steep parts like any sensible person would do. Then, I pedaled as hard as I could uphill. I like to think of it as knowing my strengths.

I recently took up skiing after a seven-year hiatus. I discovered that I ski in much the same way that I bike. The difference with skiing is that I fell on one of my first runs. I hit the ice of a groomed run and tumbled. With my skis going opposite directions, I had to think quickly and abandon the left one. As I watched it slide down the hill without me, I realized falling wasn't so bad. The thing with falling is that you don't have a choice. Before you even know you're going to fall, you're on the ground. In the end, the fall was kind of like rafting -- cold at first, but then kind of fun.

This winter I got to try surfing, something I've always wanted to do. I wasn't afraid -- not even a little. Surfing is easy after you've braved white water and skied black diamonds. Okay, I didn't stand up on my first wave. But by my second wave I figured I had it mastered and I surfed the wave in like a pro. Okay, like a total amateur, but it was great. After I swallowed most of the ocean and proceeded to run over a fellow surfer (he was in my way and really shouldn't have been resting right there), I decided I should have jumped.

When I was rafting and everyone jumped, I should have too. Of course, you risk-takers already knew that, didn't you?



## The Poor Are Out of Touch

Lionel T. Undershaft

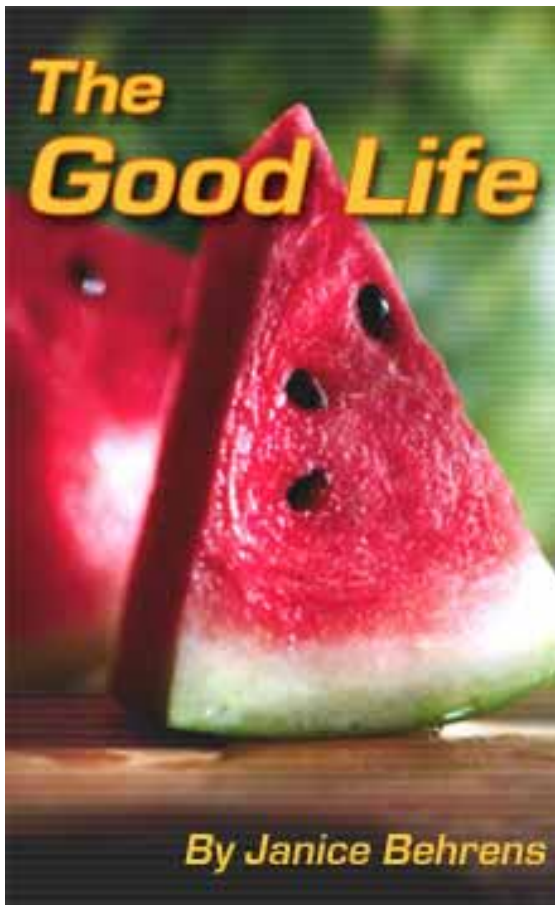
On June 1st, I was appalled and dismayed to read an article in a local weekly newspaper about a man who is paying \$375 a month to live in a storage shed attached to the back of a house. As President and CEO of *Grasp Ventures Unlimited*, a large property development company developing some of Vancouver's most luxurious and affordable townhouses, condominiums and rental properties, I am profoundly disturbed by the idea that somebody out there is charging only \$375 a month for this space. With no heat, no washroom, no cooking facilities and dimensions approximately equal to the dirty double mattress the man sleeps upon, this apartment is admittedly a few square feet smaller and far less convenient than the Luxury Studio Condominiums in Gloucester Towers Estates, our latest high-rise development. Nevertheless, my colleagues and I simply cannot condone any building owner offering rental units at such fire sale prices.

I find it unconscionable that this man is taking advantage of the obvious lack of business acumen being displayed by his landlord. Has this renter's financial advisor failed to inform him that for zero money down and just a few thousand dollars extra per month, he could immediately take up residence in one of the many high-quality waterfront properties we currently have available? At the very least, if the man had any scruples at all, he would be paying the owner a minimum of double the monthly rent he is currently forking over. Please don't tell me that he can't afford it, just because he is unemployed, has HIV and Hepatitis C, and is currently in a methadone treatment program. Can he not simply liquidate some of his lower-yielding mutual funds until he gets himself back on his feet again?

In my opinion, this story points to a much larger societal problem: many of the so-called poor and marginalized people within our society are shockingly out-of-touch with the financial realities of the twenty-first century. Far too many of them, after graduating from whatever college or university poor people attend, simply don't understand how vital it is for them to pull their fair share of weight within our economic system.

According to some statistics my personal assistants have been compiling for me, many lay-about single parents and the freeloading mentally ill have not been purchasing a reasonable number of luxury items every week. I am sad to say that many of them, in fact, do not even have Visa or American Express cards. All of this, of course, places a tremendous extra burden on the wealthy, who must make up for these deficiencies by spending extra time in restaurants, spas and shopping malls. Time that would be far better spent snorkelling in the Caribbean or diddling their secretaries. And don't even get me started on all the homeless people pushing around shopping carts all day and all night, yet scarcely ever making an actual purchase.

"Shame on you all," I say, "shame on you. High time you got with the program."



## Work Less Party Has Some Wisdom For Us All

For those of you who believe, as I do, that many of our most troubling problems as a species can be traced back to our ceaseless *busyness*, our never-ending striving for new skills, experiences, knowledge and possessions, there is a political party out there that has some very interesting things to say.

The credo of the B.C.-based Work Less Party is "Workers of the World - Relax!", and if you think that this is just a spoof or a frivolous joke, you should consider what the party's official website has to say: "Every day millions of people rush off to jobs at factory plants to produce televisions sets, cars, computers, and a wide assortment of consumer goods created at a frantic pace." Many of these products "after an unbelievably short lifespan, end up in landfills and harm the environment and our lives." Furthermore, "in the process of producing and consuming all of this stuff, we're making ourselves sick with stress and exhaustion."

According to an article by career coach Mark Swartz in the April 25th Globe and Mail, statistics indicate that the average working Canadian is today putting in at least 15 per more hours on the job than they did in 1970. This amounts to approximately 1,790 hours per year. In Europe, by way of contrast, the 35 hour working week "has been sacrosanct for decades." According to Swartz, the average number of hours per year that a French employee puts in is 1,560, and in Germany ("the engine of the European Union"), it's a featherbed 1,450.

One of the Work Less Party's solutions to this is to advocate a 32 hour work week in Canada. And to make their point about the importance of slowing ourselves down, during the recent B.C. provincial election party workers handed out violation tickets in downtown Vancouver to anyone they caught mindlessly rushing around.

Clearly, our relentless and ungrounded energy is contributing to the reduction of our joy as well as the destruction of our planet. Yet, this energy and drive is fundamental to our humanity. Human beings are doers, thinkers and creators. We are restless by nature, so stagnation and passivity are probably not an option. What we can do, though, is refocus our priorities and redirect our energies in ways that help us lead better, fuller, more engaged and less harmful lives. "Let's focus," says Work Less founder Conrad Schmidt, "on devoting less time to production and consumption, and more time to the things that matter most, like music, art, culture, recreation, family and community."

I think, at this crucial stage in the development of our species, it's the responsibility of each and every one of us to give some serious thought to the wisdom behind these words.

### Sources

<http://globeandmail.workopolis.com>

<http://www.worklessparty.org>





#### Alberta's Post-Secondary Review

Once again the Alberta Government is conducting a review of post-secondary education. Once again, it completely misses its own learning commission's recommendation that an independent review be conducted, and is conducting the review itself. That said, the current review is at least expanding beyond the Ministry of Advanced Education for the stakeholders that are being consulted, even if the Ministry is maintaining complete control over the review process.

On the bright side, tuition is already being recognized as a significant barrier to access, even with student financing being available. The review is also recognizing that a post-secondary education has concrete public dividends in that it tends to reduce the use of other social support programs, create increasing employment, and drive itself in a virtuous cycle. The work that went in to making post-secondary education an election issue is paying off. With the government on track to receive another five billion surplus, there may be good news for Alberta Students yet.

However, this review will not be like the one conducted in Ontario that took place over several years. Advanced Education Minister David Hancock expects this review to be completed by the fall of this year, so that results can be put into place by the next election campaign when Premier Klein is expected to retire. The idea is to put together a comprehensive plan that will carry the province to the year 2020 in its educational strategy. It seems ambitious, and I wish them the best of luck, but for a comprehensive review to provide a framework for the next 15 years in less than 15 months has me wondering whether there might be a bit too much rush toward the election involved.

#### Feds Don't Like Backups

Honourable Minister of Canadian Heritage, Liza Frulla, along with Honourable Minister of Industry David Emerson, have put forward their new bill to change the Copyright Act in Canada. While somewhat better than previous incarnations, this bill still means the rights of average citizens will be stripped in favour of large companies and corporations.

Specifically, Canadians have always had a right to make a copy of music for their own personal use. If you have a CD, it's perfectly legal for you to make a tape of it to take in your car. These days you might be more likely to change it to an MP3 file so that you can listen to it on your computer. Or perhaps you do the reverse, and take your MP3s and put them onto a CD so you can listen to them elsewhere. If this bill goes through, that will no longer be allowed. While it will still be technically legal for Canadians to make copies, it will be impossible to do so without breaking the law. This is because the new bill makes it illegal to circumvent, remove, or tamper with any kind of technology used to keep people from copying music, regardless of whether the copy would be a legal one or not.

This means that if the music industry changes formats, rather than being allowed to transfer your already purchased music from one format to another, you'll be forced to either purchase it again or break the law. So if you want to copy your original CD so that you can have a copy in the car that you don't worry about getting stolen (as someone who's had his car broken into and CDs stolen, I highly recommend this) the new law will no longer allow you to do this. This also means that if the protection scheme for your music requires the media file to contact the vendor (some Windows media files do this) and the vendor goes out of business or stops supporting that scheme, you have just lost any legal access to the music you purchased. That certainly sounds fair, doesn't it?

As if that isn't enough, the new bill makes it so that anyone who takes a picture owns the copyright to that picture. It seems reasonable enough at first glance, but then you think about when you hand a stranger your camera to take your picture, it's now the stranger who actually owns that picture. If this bill passes,

we'll have to be sure to hand them a form to sign along with the camera. Good luck getting your pictures taken then.

As one who more or less makes my living on my words, I appreciate strong copyright protections, but there's a difference between strong and asinine. If these things disturb you too, you should write your Member of Parliament (you can find their address at this site: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/house/PostalCode.asp?lang=E&source=sm>) and let them know what you think about bill C-60. If you hurry, we may be able to stop them before it becomes law.



*Dear Barb,*

*I don't know if you can help me, but I thought I'd write anyway. I grew up in a severely dysfunctional home. All I ever wanted to do was get away. I was finally able to obtain an education and start a career. A few years later I met a wonderful man and we were married. For the first time in my life I feel happy and free of my family, as I maintain only minimal contact with them. However, now one of my sisters is having difficulties and is trying to come back into my life. I feel angry and resentful of this sister, as she has done nothing to help herself. What are my obligations to her? I don't want anything to threaten my 'normal' life, as I fear I could lose it all in the blink of an eye.*

*Guilt-ridden Survivor*

Well it certainly sounds like you are a survivor and you should be extremely proud of yourself for your accomplishments. However, always remember the old saying, "never forget where you came from." This does not mean you cannot rise above your beginnings, but simply do not allow yourself to think you are better than anyone else.

There could be many reasons why you were able to overcome your early life; similarly there could be many reasons why your sister has not been able to achieve this same success.

I do not believe you have to take care of your sister, but perhaps you can extend a hand to her. However don't let her pull you down, rather your goal is to lift her up. You will know soon enough whether she is willing and able to help herself.

Perhaps the best way to help your sister is to put her in touch with professional agencies that can direct her to the resources that are available in her community. Her needs will be specific to her situation and you can't be expected to know what is available. For example, if she has drug or alcohol problems, or mental or emotional problems, it would be difficult for you to know what is the best treatment for her.

In regard to your question, there is no easy answer. Your obligations to your sister are not black and white, but rather what you feel you can comfortably give. A good rule of thumb is the old saying, "follow your heart."

Perhaps there are other readers who have experienced similar circumstances and would be willing to write in and offer some insight into their situation. I hope I was able to help and thanks for writing.

*E-mail your questions to [dearbarb.voice@ausu.org](mailto:dearbarb.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.*

# AUSU THIS MONTH



## AUSU Course Evaluations

Would you like to know what your fellow students have thought of an AU course? If so, you are not alone. Many students find the input of their peers invaluable when selecting courses or a program of study. AU students may not have cafeterias and hallways in which to share this knowledge, but AUSU has provided an alternative: AUSU Course and Program Evaluation surveys.

Accessible through the "Course Evaluations" link on the right side of the top bar of AUSU.org, these surveys ask a series of questions about AUSU courses and programs. Each student may rate each course or program only once, to ensure the validity of the results, so you must be logged in to access a survey form. Anyone, however, may view the results. If you haven't already, please rate some courses you have taken so that others may benefit from your experience. Note: these surveys are not the same as the ones that AU distributes with their course manuals. No AU staff or faculty member has access to the AUSU website, nor can they determine who has filled out a survey. Your anonymity is assured.

## AUSU Discussion Forums and Chat

Looking for a way to interact with fellow students? Check out the AUSU discussion forums and chatroom, accessible through the top menu bar of AUSU.org. The forums contain many sections to address a wide variety of student interests. You'll find the most students in the General Student Chat section, but you may also wish to use one of the province or city-specific forums to speak with AU students in your local area.

## The AUSU Office has Moved

The Edmonton Learning Centre, which not only houses a number of AU services such as invigilation rooms and student advisors, but also the corporate offices of AUSU and The Voice, has moved to a new location in downtown Edmonton. The phone numbers and email addresses at the ELC remain the same. Watch AUSU.org for some photos of our new office once we get everything unpacked! Our new mailing address is: Athabasca University Students' Union, Peace Hills Trust Tower, 1200, 10011 109 St., Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

## AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU needs volunteer mentors to help new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student interested in being matched to a new student, please email [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) for an application form. The mentor program is designed to help new students succeed with 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>





## What You Need to Know About Werewolves

Amongst my happiest childhood memories are Friday nights spent watching late night horror movies with my brothers and sister in our family's basement television room. Four decades later, I can still recall the smell of popcorn on the dank air and the flickering shadows playing across the walls. Films such as the *Plan Nine From Outer Space* (Wood, 1959) and *Dr. Terror's House of Horrors* (Francis, 1965) gave me an appreciation for all things cheesy and macabre that I still love now.

It's not surprising then, that one of my most treasured possessions is the sadly out-of-print *The Story of Werewolves* by the late Thomas G. Aylesworth (1978). I found the book sitting on the top bunk of a KOA Kamping Kabin just outside of Quebec City. Where, incidentally, the fabulous man/wolf is referred to in hushed tones as the *loup-garou* (pronounced as LOO gahr-oo). It's a slim but delightful little book filled with the sort of useless but fascinating information that wooly-headed, scatter-brained people like me love to stuff our heads with. The illustrations included medieval engravings and wood block prints of innocent travellers being eaten alive on remote country roads. If you have ever wondered how to cure the werewolf, feed it, confuse it, enslave it, transform it, kill it, attract it, or repel it -- this is the book for you! Needless to say,

it holds pride of place on my favourite bookshelf sandwiched between *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (Adams, 1995) and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (Lawrence, 1983). Aside from this little treasure trove of lycanthropic lore, the good professor was apparently responsible for a lengthy list of other books on subjects as diverse as palmistry, baseball, microbes and graphology.

Here is a sampling of the many important things that I've learned from *The Story of Werewolves*:

- Marco Polo was said to have come across wolf-men on the Adaman Islands, located off of the coast of India in the Bay of Bengal.
- In Poland, werewolves were frequently known to go on rampages around Midsummer's Eve and Christmas time. They especially enjoyed crashing into taverns, emptying all of the beer and wine kegs, and stacking them one on top of the other in the cellar. After this, the drunken beasts would proceed to a ruined castle and compete with each other by jumping over the walls.
- In Brittany, the chief of a werewolf pack was a wizard, known as *le Meneur des Loups*.
- In Sweden and Normandy, the packs were always led by the oldest of the females.
- In Portugal, werewolves were shy, gentle and afraid of the light. The smallest candles were enough protection on a dark road at night.
- Werewolves are surprisingly good cooks.
- To cure a werewolf, dose it with a potion made from thyme, epithymus, aloes, wormwood, squills, poley, birthwort, phlebotomy, and cataplasms. If this doesn't work, induce vomiting by forcing the werewolf to drink hellebore and rubbing its nostrils with opium.
- In medieval Italy, it was believed that anyone conceived during a new moon would become a werewolf. Sleeping in an open field beneath a full moon on a Friday night would have the same effect. The same outcome would occur to anyone eating the flesh of a sheep that had been killed by a wolf, drinking water from a wolf's footprint, or eating a wolf's brain.

Happy travels. Don't say you haven't been warned.

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- Adams, D. (1995). *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Reissue edition. Del Rey.
- Aylesworth, T.G. (1978). *The Story of Werewolves*. McGraw-Hill.
- Francis, F. (Director) (1965). *Dr. Terror's House of Horrors* [Motion Picture]. Republic Studios.
- Lawrence, D.H. (1983). *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Reissue edition. Bantam Classics.
- Wood, E.D. (Director) (1959). *Plan Nine From Outer Space* [Motion Picture]. Rhino Video.

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 [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), attn: Debbie Jabbour



### ABORTION DOCTOR RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE *Debbie Jabbour*

The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, was inundated with protestors this month, as abortion doctor Henry Morgentaler accepted his first honorary degree. While signs waved outside, graduating students gave Morgentaler two standing ovations at the convocation ceremony inside. Campus officials, worried about the potential for violence, implemented unprecedented security measures, accrediting media and closely regulating all convocation attendees. A crowd of some 2000 family, friends and students were on hand for the convocation ceremony of about 400 social sciences graduates.

Morgentaler has devoted his career to challenging Canada's abortion laws, facing raids, firebombs, clinic protests, and jail time. The controversy surrounding the University's decision to award him with an honorary doctorate of laws, pitted faculty members and the university president and chairperson of the board of governors against each other, and even resulted in the loss of a \$2 million bequest withdrawn by the donor in protest.

In his acceptance, Morgentaler told the audience that as a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust, he had witnessed cruelty and inhumanity and personally experienced oppression and the injustice of "racist, dogmatic and irrational ideology." Taking the opportunity to diminish suffering and injustice was therefore very important to him (Leong, 2005). He concluded by advising students against using civil disobedience to effect change, encouraging them to instead use the political process to change what is not going well in Canada.

Regardless of whether you are for or against abortion, it is heartening to see a university take a stand in promoting freedom of speech, standing by their decision and not succumbing to protest and threats.

Leong, M. (2005, June 17). Protests mark honorary degree for Morgentaler: Pro-life activists outraged as pioneering abortionist given kudos. National Post; CanWest News Service.

<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=303251fc-4e98-425a-919a-a411dd293b43>

## ***Women You Should Know***

*Compiled by Barbara Godin*

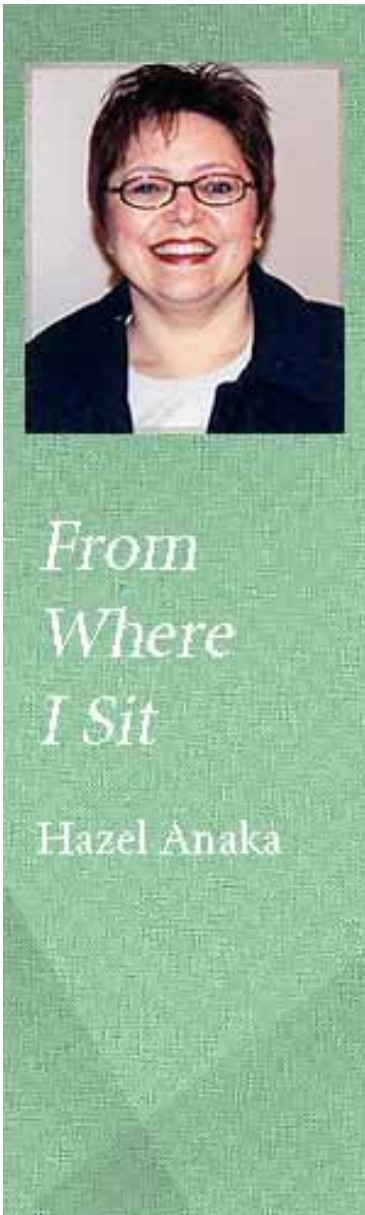
### **Bella Savitsky Abzug (1920-1998)**

**Bella Savitsky Abzug** was a renowned American political activist and politician. She served in the United States House of Representatives from 1970 to 1977, representing her constituents of Manhattan, in the State of New York. Abzug's famous saying was "This woman's place is in the House -- the House of Representatives." Bella's achievements include becoming one of the very few women attorneys practicing labour law in the 1940s. She openly expressed her opinion regarding several liberal causes of the day. For example, she strongly supported the Equal Rights Amendment and strongly opposed the Vietnam War. As well, Bella was a powerful leader of the Women's Movement. She co-founded the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). In 1976, she was unsuccessful in her bid to obtain a U.S. Senate seat. In 1978, she was unsuccessful in attempting to return to the House of Representatives. Bella was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. She died in 1998 at the age of 77.

#### **Source for additional information**

Lach, E.L. (2000). American National Biography: Abzug, Bella.

<http://www.libarts.ucok.edu/history/faculty/roberson/course/1493/supplements/chp30/Bella%20Abzug.Feminist.htm>



## It's About Time

Canadian pride is a rare and elusive thing. The stereotypical Canadian is self-effacing, humble, apologetic, and meek. In some perverse way, we're actually proud of this image. I call it "aw shucks, little ol' me" thinking accompanied by downcast eyes and a toe digging in the dirt. We don't as a rule blow our own horns.

Too often the stars among us have to be recognized elsewhere before they're appreciated here at home. It's no challenge to list all the expatriates who've made it big in the United States. David Spade, Alex Trebek, Jim Carrey, Donald Sutherland, Celine Dion, the whole SCTV gang, and Pamela Anderson are just some in the entertainment business.

Americans have also taken the awards show format to extremes. They're too frequent, too long, too much. I was pleasantly surprised to catch the Canada Walk of Fame broadcast on TV the other night. The Walk of Fame began in Toronto in 1998 and honours nominees from the world of arts and sports. The program included a bio clip of career highlights, a celebrity introduction, a performance and heartfelt acceptance speeches.

The 2005 inductees included heavyweight boxing champion George Chuvalo, former teen idol Paul Anka, ballet dancer Rex Harrington, actor Kiefer Sutherland, singer Alanis Morissette. Unknown to me were music industry producers Daniel Lanois and Pierre Cossette, father of the Grammy Awards, and concert promoter Michael Cohl. Fay Wray of *King Kong* fame was inducted posthumously. How sad, how telling that nearly all the inductees had to come 'back' to Canada for this honor.

Michael Buble sang a personalized version of "My Way" during the tribute to Paul Anka. In a career now spanning six decades, over 120 albums, sales of over 10 million records, 900 songs written or co-written, and royalties from Carson's Tonight Show theme of nearly a million dollars

per year, Anka is a force to be reckoned with. And he's ours.

George Chuvalo's story of triumph over more personal grief than anyone should have to endure brought tears to my eyes. To see this tough guy admit that perhaps the focus on his boxing career led to inattention at home was sobering for anyone with misplaced focus. That inattention led to the drug-induced deaths of two sons, and the suicide of another son and George's wife. Talking to kids about drugs has become his new life's work.

I was struck by the tasteful, impressive presentation. I was touched by the sincerity and humility of the acceptance speeches. I wondered how many more visionaries, pioneers, stars and greats are under the public's radar. I wondered why mocking Celine Dion has become a national sport.

Perhaps this year instead of waving the flag on Canada Day and singing the anthem at sports events, we could begin honouring exceptional Canadians every day. Perhaps we could take pride in our own achievements. Perhaps we could educate ourselves about our record of success. Perhaps we could change our national persona to one of pride. It's about time, from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*





# Searching for Internships

*Lonita Fraser*

## The Hansard Scholars Programme London, England

[http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/programmes/study\\_programme](http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/programmes/study_programme)

Autumn: Sep - Dec

Internships in the British political system with placements with an MP in the House of Commons, a Peer in the House of Lords, a parliamentary clerk, or other political organisations that could involve work with think tanks, human rights groups, campaign groups, lobbyists, law firms, research organisations, or policy makers. Three days a week are spent in the internship placement, and take two lecture courses designed to provide background knowledge for the internship experience. You will also work on a research project of your choice. The programme includes guest lecturers concentrating on topics of importance to UK politics.

Fees include registration and tuition at the London School of Economics, entitling you to membership at the British Library of Political Science, an LSE email account, use of the LSE IT facilities, Student Union membership, and access to all student facilities, as well as other facilities offered by other colleges of the University of London.

Each semester also includes a number of cultural events and excursions including theatre trips and political study visits to Oxford and Edinburgh. The four-day Edinburgh visit includes a tour of the Scottish Parliament and lectures on Scottish law and politics from a number of high profile speakers. Scholars will have the opportunity to debate current issues surrounding Europe and international politics.

A total of 15 credits are awarded on successful completion of the Programme.

### Qualifications

- The Hansard Scholars Programme is open to both undergraduates and graduates. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.
- Previous experience in British politics is not necessary.
- Candidates should display genuine interest in politics, enthusiasm, and the necessary integrity to work at all levels of Government and Parliament, as well as other British political organisations.

Cost in US\$ - \$10,000 - \$12,000

### Cost Includes

The Programme fees are 6,350 (British pounds sterling) and include: all tuition at the LSE and registration, accommodation, a London travelcard (for unlimited travel in central London), political study visits to Edinburgh and Oxford and cultural trips.

### Application Process:

- Letters of Reference
- Resume
- Transcript
- Written Application

### Post Services Include:

- Alumni Network

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

### Canadian Marketing Association (CMA) Student RSVP Awards

Value: \$500, CMA membership, Strategy Magazine profile and subscription

Application Deadline: Varies

Applicant must be attending any Canadian college or university in business, marketing, commerce, advertising or design.

Applicant must not be currently employed in a marketing-related position. Must submit marketing or creative campaign based on selected case study.

Applicant must be coached by professor / instructor.

Deadlines are June 9, June 30 and July 21

Entrance fees vary depending on time submission

For further information please visit the website posted below

Contact: Canadian Marketing Association (CMA)

Web Site: [www.the-cma.org/awards/welcome.html](http://www.the-cma.org/awards/welcome.html)

### Michael Luchkovich Scholarships for Career Development

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs

Award Amount: \$2,000.00

Must have been working full-time in Alberta for a minimum of three years. Program of study may be up to six months of full-time study or up to one year of part-time study.

Deadlines are December 1st, April 1st and August 1st.

Contact: Alberta Scholarship Program

9940 - 106 Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 28000, Station Main, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4R4

Phone: (780) 427-8640

Fax: (780) 422-4516

Web Site: <http://www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/scholarships>

E-mail: [heritage@gov.ab.ca](mailto:heritage@gov.ab.ca)

Application Address: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/forms.asp>



**The 2005 Society for Arts In Healthcare  
Conference - No Borders: pARTners in HEALTHcare**

June 22, 2005 - June 25, 2005  
Edmonton, Alberta  
<http://www.thesah.org/annual>

**Universal Village: Livable Communities in the 21st  
Century**

June 15, 2005 - Washington, DC, USA  
<http://www.aarp.org/livable>

**2005 Hawaii International Conference on Sciences**

June 18, 2005 - June 20, 2005 - Honolulu  
<http://www.hicsciences.org>

**Cultures of eBay**

August 24, 2005 - August 25, 2005 - Colchester,  
England  
[http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.ht  
ml](http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html)

**Canadian Science Writers' Assoc. 34th Annual  
Conference**

18 to 21 June 2005 - Jasper, Alberta, Canada  
<http://www.sciencewriters.ca/>

**Murder In The Grove**

10 to 11 June 2005 - Boise, Idaho, United States  
<http://www.murderinthegrove.com>

**5th Annual Country Schoolhouse Conference**

20 to 22 June 2005 - Barbourville, Kentucky, United  
States  
<http://public.unionky.edu/countryschoolconference>

**Sexual Rights and Moral Panics**

21 to 24 June 2005 - San Francisco, California, United  
States  
<http://iasscs.sfsu.edu>

**Society for Historians of American Foreign  
Relations Conference**

22 June 2005 - College Park, Maryland, United States  
<http://www.shafr.org/cfp.htm>

**10th International D.H. Lawrence Conference**

26 June 2005 - Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States  
<http://www.wsu.edu/~hydev/dhl/dhlsna.htm>

**2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum**

August 30-31, 2005 - Ottawa, ON  
<http://gov.wowgao.com>

**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/>.

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



# classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.

**AU SPORTS CLUB SEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE** The AU Sports Club is looking for AU students who are interested in serving on the AUSC executive. All that is required is a few hours a week to respond to emails, add new members to the discussion forum, and locate information to update the website or forum sections. Being on a club executive is a great way to meet other AU students!

## THE VOICE

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## THE VOICE ONLINE: [WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE](http://WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE)

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*The Voice* is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: [VOICE@AUSU.ORG](mailto:VOICE@AUSU.ORG)

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions

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