

# THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

July 13, 2005  
Volume 13 Issue 27

## Convocation 2005

*Coverage concludes*



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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.**

My daughter-in-law, Sheryl Britton, got her M.B.A. from Athabasca University on June 11th. I just want to say how much we enjoyed the weekend that was planned for us. All of the effort and programmes were so well done that, we did not have to worry about a thing.

We came from Ontario for the convocation and are we ever glad we did.

Thank you very much for a wonderful time.

**Yours Sincerely  
Mrs. Ellen Britton**

*Congratulations to Sheryl and all new AU grads. It's great to know that the ceremonies are worth crossing the country for! Thank you also to all of the graduates who took the time to provide interviews to The Voice. The last of these interviews appear in this week's issue. We have had tremendous positive feedback on this feature, and hope to continue printing graduate interviews in coming years.*

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## THE VOICE

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## Convocation Report 2005

### Conclusion

Text and Photos by Debbie Jabbour

*The Voice Magazine's coverage of Convocation 2005 concludes with reports from the grounds and more photos.*

*Friday, June 10, 11:00 A.M.* - After lingering over a morning coffee with my hosts and some other AU people, I arrive at the university only an hour before ceremonies begin. The atmosphere is much busier today, and few people are lingering at the breakfast tent. Today it is mostly nursing graduates, and they have arranged class pictures and group meetings that keep them busy before and after convocation.



*Gwendolyn Hooks receives her honorary doctorate award, Friday*

*Friday, June 10, 11:30 A.M.* - I wander around, taking a few more pictures. I stop to chat at the alumni table, checking out the rings. At the merchandise table I admire the AU stuffed animals with their miniature graduation hats - we don't wear the traditional flat hat at AU, but they make a great souvenir nonetheless.

*Friday, June 10, 11:45 A.M.* - I notice several former members of AUGC (AU Governing Council) that I recognize, and we exchange greetings and hugs. They advise me that they had come for a special "meet the new president" reception the previous evening. I was particularly pleased to see former AUGC chair Robert Fulton and his wife, and I realized how much I missed him in that role.

*Friday, June 10, 11:50 A.M.* - Dr. Bruce Spencer, Acting Director Arts and Science, beckons me over. He has an elderly black lady on his arm and he introduces me to her -- it is Gwendolyn Hooks, honorary degree recipient. I feel pleased to meet her and tell her so -- she responds that she feels surprised and thrilled that she is being honoured in this manner.

*Friday, June 10, 11:55 A.M.* - Everyone is lined up again, just as the day before. This time I take a spot on the other side of the "T", hoping for some pictures from a different vantage point. The weather is cloudier today, threatening rain. I hope it will hold off. While chatting with some AU staff, I'm told the story of a student who took a cab from the airport -- not realizing how far Athabasca was from Edmonton! That must have been quite a cab fare! \*(Note: Athabasca is about 150 kms from Edmonton)

*Friday, June 10, 12:00 P.M.* - The procession is off again. The piper seems a little more confident in her role today, and the group is much larger than Thursday's -- there are a lot of nursing graduates! I had noticed this the previous year, for some reason AU's nursing students seem to all show up for convocation. This year several busloads had come up from Calgary, students who were in the Mount Royal collaborative nursing



program. I was surprised later to discover that many of these students had not taken any distance courses. Although they didn't really fit the profile of the typical AU student, they seemed very excited to be there.

*Friday, June 10, 12:10 P.M* - The ceremony has started, everyone is seated, and special guests are introduced. Among them, the president of the Canadian Nursing Association, Deb Tamlyn; former AUGC members Robert Fulton and Herb Belcourt, Frank Appleby (Saturday's honorary degree recipient), and Wayne & Terry Hooks, children of Gwendolyn Hooks. Deb Tamlyn, in her welcome, spoke about the "thirst for knowledge and

learning" that was satisfied by students in "other countries" or "on ships across the ocean" or part of collaborative programs such as the Mount Royal one.

*Friday, June 10, 12:15 P.M* - The president gives his welcome. This is now the second of three times I will hear this welcome, and he begins by sharing some statistics about the university. I can't help but feel he is a bit overwhelmed by these numbers, excited about the potential of the university he has just become such an important part of. He spoke of the challenge he had received from Deb Tamlyn to soon have a doctorate in nursing at AU. He concludes by saying, "it's an exciting time to be the president of the fastest-growing, dynamic university, Canada's university of the future"

*Friday, June 10, 12:25 P.M* - The graduands are now lined up at the side of the stage, ready for their moment.

The bios were a highlight, once again. It might have been the nature of the Master of Nursing program, and the fact that most of the Bachelor of Nursing students attended a regular classroom, but there was a much closer camaraderie among the students, and many comments about great, unforgettable friendships. A lot of these graduates were already well-established in careers, having already been RNs for many years. Quite a few spoke about going on to doctoral studies, teaching, publishing. Many spoke about the importance of providing an example to their children. One graduate, whose mother is also an AU student, prompted laughter from the audience, recounting how her son observed the book-covered table at Christmas and asked, "didn't grandma finish school either?" Another managed to complete three courses while he was deployed twice to Afghanistan. The bios show that the AU student experience is still the same in many ways - we study anywhere, fitting our studies in-between life events.

*On friendships:*

*"thanks to my friends for a shoulder to cry on"*

*"...strong bond with my classmates despite the fact that I never heard their voices"*

*"...always remember the virtual relationships"*

*"my virtual friends enhanced the learning experience"*

*"developed amazing new virtual partnerships"*

*"I made many friends I have yet to see face-to-face"*

*"great friends made along the way"*

*"keep in my heart the friendships"*

*"met some amazing people while completing my degree"*

*On personal growth:*

*"... never forget the excitement of opening each new course and the relief of mailing the last assignment"*  
*"studying helped me bury the pain from an injury"*  
*"...great to connect with other health professionals from around the globe"*  
*"...became very efficient at time management"*  
*"the inspiration received from professors and classmates"*  
*"taking classes with people from all over the world!"*  
*"proud to be the first in my family with a degree"*  
*"discipline of working on course, after course, after course - for 15 years"*  
*"always remember mentoring other students"*  
*"the profs remembered my name!"*  
*"gave up tickets for a Stanley cup final to study for stats!"*  
*"figured out how to fit 30 hours of work into 24!"*

*On family support:*

*"...daughters allowed me to monopolize the computer on weekends"*  
*"my kids had to remind me that A-minus is still a good mark!"*  
*"my son said, 'you are out of your mind if you think I'll ever study as hard as you do!'"*  
*"they stayed up with me to meet deadlines"*  
*"thrilled to go back to university alongside my two children"*  
*"a never ending source of encouragement"*  
*"my family and friends would not let me give up"*

*On future plans:*

*"...smell the flowers and pursue a doctorate"*  
*"plan to teach and pursue doctorate studies"*  
*"look forward to publishing papers"*  
*"will take some time to get used to having free time"*  
*"travel as a nurse...I can nurse anywhere in the world!"*  
*"look forward to the freedom of being done"*  
*"become a doctor"*  
*"nice to finally have some money"*  
*"go on my honeymoon"*  
*"enjoy a life with paycheques, not papers!"*

*Friday, June 10, 2:20 P.M* - There seem to be a LOT of nurses! As enjoyable as the bios were, the audience was starting to appear a bit restless. The wind is picking up outside, and the first rattle of raindrops strike the tent. Along with everyone else, my eyes drift upward, hoping the storm will hold off.

*Friday, June 10, 2:30 P.M* - Address by Graduate, Karen Stauffer, Master of Science and Information Systems and recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal (photo of Karen delivering her address appears in the previous issue).

Karen started out with a Bachelor of Nursing, took one class and switched to computing science. She spoke about the AU student experience - studying across the world, aboard an aircraft carrier, in downtown Dubai; trying to add yet one more thing to a long list of priorities; planning busy lives around final assignments. She spoke of finding creative ways to complete studies - on a plane, on a bus, while waiting at the doctor, long hours late into the night. Graduates shared in laughter when she commented on "exam panic" - opening the booklet and realizing that it was much worse than anticipated! On behalf of the graduates, she expressed gratitude to all those who had supported their studies.

*Friday, June 10, 2:40 P.M* - Dr. Bruce Spencer presents Gwendolyn Hooks, who will receive an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters, in recognition of her "contribution to the history of black settlers in Alberta and her promotion of learning. He begins to provide some background to her story.



*Friday, June 10, 2:41 P.M* - The rattle of raindrops picks up. Within minutes the tent resounds with repeated hammering, the rain creating a rebounding echo that threatens to obscure the sound system.

*Friday, June 10, 2:42 P.M* - In spite of the hammering on the tent ceiling, Bruce continues with the story. It is an extremely interesting one, relating how Gwen settled in the Keystone community (now called Breton, in the area of Wildwood and Barrhead). Her family left the U.S. to escape oppression and Jim Crow laws, becoming part of a small black pioneer community. Gwen blazed many trails and defied many black stereotypes. She was the only black teacher in Alberta in 1941, her first assignment Athabasca. Bruce went on to describe many of the experiences Gwen and her family had, including the establishment of a museum in Breton. The audience was brought to tears when a clip of Maria Dunn played - a tune Maria had written for Gwen, with the line "hardly a welcome for a black pioneer, but hard times come with freedom here."\*

The introduction is lengthy, but has the audience at rapt attention. Although Gwendolyn had been standing since first introduced, her 85-years begin to take their toll and she has to sit down again.

*Friday, June 10, 2:55 P.M* - The rain slows down to a quiet patter, just as Gwendolyn Hooks is brought forward to be robed and receive her degree. She is presented to the audience as "Dr. Hooks" and she takes the podium to a standing ovation.

*Friday, June 10, 3:00 P.M* - Gwen says, "I don't have much to say - Bruce said it all!" She reiterates a bit of the story, how she wanted to be free of hardships, able to be free and be educated. On seeing her mother working on hands and knees, she was motivated to vow that she would only do this "on my own floor." Voice breaking, she related, "my mother told me, Gwen, you are going to be a teacher," adding, "in those days, you listened to your parents." In 1997, Gwen became involved in community activism, promoting the role of black pioneers, and went on to publish her husband's recollection of the role black pioneers had in molding Alberta history, *The Keystone Legacy*. Her motto - "never too old to learn."

It is clear that the decision to award an honorary degree to Gwendolyn Hooks is an inspired one. The audience gives her a second standing ovation as she leaves the podium.

*\*read more about Gwendolyn Hooks at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/convocation/general/honorary.htm>  
Liepins, L. (2005, June 10). Book on black history brings author honours: Gwendolyn Hooks told story of pioneers. Edmonton Journal, B3.*

*Friday, June 10, 3:00 P.M*  
- There is nothing more to say, and AUGC chair David Burnett calls the ceremony to a close, suggesting that we "all sit and reflect" on what we have just heard.

*Friday, June 10, 3:10 P.M*  
- The graduate procession leaves the tent and the grads congregate outside to take pictures, the skies now bright and sunny.

*Saturday, June 11, 10:00 A.M* - It is the third and final day. Even though I had expected some tired faces, amazingly,



everyone seems just as happy as the first day, eager to welcome another group of grads yet again. The energy level is high and everyone is smiling.

*Saturday, June 11, 10:10 A.M* - I find several family groups enjoying breakfast in the tent, and interview a few.

*Saturday, June 11, 10:50 A.M* - I wander out to the grounds around the university, taking pictures. I notice a large group of academics gathering by the fountain. Bruce Spencer is there and he introduces me to a few. As we are chatting, one of the program directors comes up and I admire her colours. She does the same to another academic. I'm struck by the humour of the situation -- all these academics standing around admiring what each other is wearing! But the robes are truly wonderful, a proud and colourful declaration of each individual's academic achievement and pride in their home university. They all move over toward the side of the fountain for a large staff picture.

*Saturday, June 11, 12:00 P.M* - Convocation begins. The grad line up and the sense of pent-up excitement is the same as the last two days, although perhaps tinged with a slight relief, knowing this is the last time we do this until next year.

*Saturday, June 11, 12:10 P.M* - Welcoming speeches. This is the third time I've heard the president's speech, but he again manages to interject some new observations. He seems really pleased to be part of this, clearly impressed by what he has seen over the past few days.

*Saturday, June 11, 12:20 P.M* - MP for Athabasca, Mike Cardinal, brings greetings from the government. I'm surprised, since this is the first time in my memory that he has remained at convocation for the ceremony. I assume it has something to do with today's honorary degree recipient, Frank Appleby, who is a former politician and landowner from Athabasca.

*Saturday, June 11, 12:25 P.M* - The first graduate walks across the stage to receive her MBA - Janet Allen, who has a baby due in 5 days!!

*Saturday, June 11, 12:30 P.M* - Once again, the audience is treated to a succession of graduates and bios, wonderful stories, similar to those of the nurses the day before, similar to those of the graduates on Thursday, but still different, individual.



The MBAs include many professionals, a professor in a school of business, an honorary consul of Peru, director of the YMCA. Many comment on the great friendships made, how much they appreciated the opportunity to work with students from a diversity of backgrounds all over the country, the impact of true global learning. One graduate started his studies while in Cambodia, another had a heart attack a few days before finishing his final paper. There were the same fond looks into the audience, smiles and tears. Two excited small children haunted the front of the stage waiting for dad, camera in hand. Some bio highlights:

*"wanted this degree for 20 years, now I realize there is much more to learn"*

*"enjoyed the online interaction with other students"*

*"I'll remember the diversity of backgrounds of fellow students"*

*"good friends who helped me maintain a sense of humour during tears over stats!"*

*"the advantage of working with cohorts from around the country and the world"*

*"meeting students from everywhere, learning lessons from them"*

*"you can never know too much!"*





*Saturday's honorary degree recipient, Frank Appleby, awaits presentation of his award.*

*"never forget the virtual groups"*  
*"...the intensity of the program...long days and hard work"*  
*"never forget the depth and breadth of student cohort's knowledge and experience"*  
*"loved meeting fellow students"*  
*"diverse group of students who were actual business professionals AND moms and dads!"*  
*"people I met and got to know better than ever thought possible in an online format"*  
*"look forward to drinking a beer in the backyard without the guilt of a waiting assignment"*  
*"show my kids that learning is life-long"*  
*"each course brings you a step closer to your goals"*

The presentation of the MBAs ends with an exceptionally long applause. I had noticed this in previous years. Perhaps it's partly because, like the nursing grads, so many of the MBA students attend their convocation. But I think it's also because AU's MBA is such a well-respected degree.

*Saturday, June 11, 2:30 P.M* - All the degrees have been awarded, and Wendy Christenson, MBA, gives the address by graduate. Like the other graduates who had this honour, Wendy describes the AU student experience and how much this degree means. She refers to Aristotle, "roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet" and concludes by saying "teachers can open the door, but you must enter yourself. We might enter alone, but we learn a wealth of

knowledge from others"

*Saturday, June 11, 2:40 P.M* - Former president Dominique Abrioux comes forward to present the final honorary degree recipient, Frank Appleby. He describes how Frank was born in a log cabin south of Athabasca, going on to become an educator with foresight and a life-long commitment to education, including a BGS from Athabasca University in 1994. Frank retired from politics in 1986, but not before playing a key role in the future of Athabasca University. It was Frank who coined the phrase, "bring Athabasca University home to Athabasca," actively lobbying to have the university moved to that location, arguing against those who would have had it established in St. Albert or elsewhere.

I couldn't help but shake my head at hearing all of this. I clearly recalled the outrage when Athabasca University was moved 145 KMs north to this small town back in 1984. Many belittled the mantra, "bring Athabasca University home to Athabasca" since the name of the university had nothing at all to do with the town, and many actively disagreed with the ultimate decision (*ed. hence AU is titled "Athabasca University" as opposed to the now common misnomer, "University of Athabasca"*). The upset of the move to Athabasca caused resignations from the governing board and management, loss of staff, and a great deal of controversy. I know there are still many who feel the decision was a mistake, one that has hampered AU's ability to perform in a global marketplace. I had no doubt that some in the audience were likely observing the awarding of this degree with some cynicism, given Frank's key role in moving the university to its current location.

*Saturday, June 11, 2:50 P.M* - with the awarding of the honorary degree, the ceremony comes to a close and we file out, lining the red carpet the final time to welcome the new graduates.

*Once again, Athabasca University has shown that when it comes to convocation - nobody does it better!*

# Convocation 2005

*Photos and interviews  
by Debbie Jabbour*

This is the final installment of graduate interviews for 2005. Thanks to everyone who shared their experience for those grads who were unable to make the trip to Athabasca, We wish you the best in your future career, and hope you'll contact The Voice in the future for an alumni profile.

## **Carol Klepsch, Bachelor of Administration**

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Pictured: Carol & Delisa Daniel (on right)

Carol started her studies in 1992, and completed the 3-year degree in time to graduate in absentia last December. She tried another university (SIAST), but found she was falling behind in her studies. AU's flexibility met her needs. Although she is very happy that she persevered and says it "feels pretty nice" to graduate, she wishes she could have completed her degree faster. During her studies, Carol faced many challenges at work as her company went through privatization and re-engineering (she worked at 15 Wing, Moose Jaw - home of the Snowbirds!). She had to leave class for a few years as she was commuting, dealing with work problems, and involved in the re-engineering committees; but later she was able to translate this experience into her B. Admin course on re-engineering. Although Carol was leery about coming to convocation alone, she is very glad she did. One thing she found about distance learning was a lack of interaction and a feeling of isolation, so convocation helped give her a sense of camaraderie with her fellow grads (plus her new friendship with Delisa!); and she felt the whole convocation experience was excellent.

Carol now works at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, but feels her future may not lie in this department. She may retire and try a different career path. Currently she is also working as a literacy volunteer, tutoring students from Bangladesh, so this may be something she will get into more. Carol had one word of advice for other students, "persevere!"



## **Delisa M. Daniel, Bachelor of Administration**

Calgary, AB

Pictured: Delisa (right) & Carol Klepsch

Delisa came to Athabasca alone as none of her friends and family could arrange the trip. To her surprise, on the bus from Edmonton, she met another student travelling alone - Carol Klepsch. Although they were in the same program, they had never met, but became friends who enjoyed the convocation experience together!

Delisa chose the AU program because of the 2+1 option through SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology), which allowed transfer credit, and she liked the flexibility as it met her needs and she could continue working. Her final year was taken completely at AU. Delisa works at SAIT as a strategic research analyst, a position she was promoted into because of her degree, and her company helped pay her tuition. Her work has made her very aware of student needs; in fact she just completed a survey of 13,000 SAIT students on that topic.

Delisa found that the program allowed her to "hone in on my passions and step outside my comfort zone." She really enjoyed the organizational culture courses, recalling one assignment in particular where she interviewed with business leaders. Delisa selected an individual with the Calgary police service, discovering that the police service and SAIT organizational cultures are really very similar and deal with similar issues. She also discovered through her studies that, "organizational development is my passion!" Delisa also enjoyed critical thinking courses, but really "hated" Changing Global Economy (ECON301), as it was all on audiotape and didn't suit her style of learning. Delisa has already been accepted into the MAIS program for September, and she has these suggestions for other students, "work on courses that engage your mind. Push yourself outside of your comfort zone and enjoy it!"

# Cologne's EL-DE Haus

*John Buhler*

In Cologne, Germany, the EL-DE Haus, so-called because of the initials of builder Leopold Damen, serves as a memorial to the victims of Nazi terror. The museum is a centre for documentation and research ([http://museenkoeln.de/ns-dok\\_neu](http://museenkoeln.de/ns-dok_neu)), serving as a facility for educating the public about the horrors of National Socialism. Of particular interest to this writer is the educational aspect of its exhibit concerning Cologne's relationship with National Socialism. The museum exhibit raises questions about the complicity and resistance practiced by the citizens of Cologne. It portrays the Nazi presence in German everyday life, with emphasis on the policy of racial hygiene. As well, it presents the devastation that Cologne suffered during the Second World War, another aspect of the Nazi legacy.

From December 1935, until the arrival of U.S. forces in March 1945, the EL-DE Haus was the regional headquarters for the *Gestapo* (abbreviation of *Geheime Staatspolizei*), Nazi Germany's Secret State Police. The exterior of this stately building, however, gives no hint of the interrogations, torture, and murder that took place here during the Nazi era.

On the cell walls in the basement, prisoners' writings offer traces of the cells' former captives. Their words are reproduced as part of the exhibit. From these writings, it seems that many of the German, French, Polish, and Russian prisoners did not even know why they were there, or why they were subjected to interrogation and torture. We may guess that in many cases, the words scribbled on or etched into the walls may represent an author's last written statement.

On another floor, the development of the National Socialist movement is traced from the embers of the First World War through to the full-blown Hitler state. Visitors to the exhibit are shown the pervasiveness of National Socialism on everyday life in Germany. The regime dictated that young Germans hold membership in Nazi youth organizations. The regime even went as far as recommending recipes for German housewives to use!

Central to the National Socialist ideology was its policy of racial hygiene. In his book *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler (1943) wrote that he wanted to make Germany *Jew-free*. Yet Germany had been one of the most progressive countries in Europe, and its Jewish population had been fully integrated into German society. With Nazi rule, however, increasingly restrictive anti-Jewish legislation came into force. Jews who did not emigrate were forcefully ghettoized. Eventually, the ghettos were emptied, and German Jews (along with Jews from other Nazi-controlled territories) were murdered on a massive scale. After the Second World War, and the end of twelve years of National Socialism, Cologne's Jewish population had been decimated.

The Nazi policy of racial hygiene had other victims as well. In a room that portrays the persecution of the *Gypsies* (more properly known as *Roma* and *Sinti*), visitors are not simply confronted by numbers and lists of names. Instead, Gestapo documentation is presented on about a dozen wooden stands. The photographs are at eye level, and along with the handprints make these people more real to us, and provide us with tangible evidence that these individuals once lived. Their photos, handprints, *Gestapo criminal records*, and racial reports provide evidence of their arrests and destruction. By reading the names and files, we learn that two families are represented here. We see can their relationships. We know too that ultimately, most of Cologne's *Roma* and *Sinti* were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Overall, photographs, texts, and artifacts presented at the EL-DE Haus help to give us a sense of the victims, perpetrators, and political and social climate of the time. The exhibit also includes interviews with eyewitnesses. The videos and voice recordings relate the experiences of victims and their families. These stories remind us that many of the people who lived and suffered under the Nazi regime are still with us, and the Nazi past is not so far behind us.

Although the EL-DE Haus does provide some literature in English, most of the text throughout the museum is only presented in German. While Germans are the intended audience, the information should be more accessible to foreign visitors as well. After all, the genocide that took place under the Nazi regime was not



only a German crime. It was aided by the complicity of foreign governments and individuals, too often willing participants in the betrayal and roundup of political opponents and ethnic minorities. Even the Canadian government of the day closed the door to Jewish immigration, helping to seal the fate of many German Jews. Cologne's EL-DE Haus offers a valuable opportunity to learn of the Nazi terror and social tragedy.

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## Diploma-induced Dichotomy

Sara Kinninmont



I officially have in my possession a piece of paper that cost me somewhere in the five figure range. Acquiring it was one of the hardest things I've ever done (and no, it wasn't a result of a booze-blurred bidding war on e-Bay). Paper in hand, I don't regret any of what I went through to get it. Am I crazy? No, but I am a graduate.

As with any student at the end of their university education, I'm faced with many difficult decisions, all of which lead to the ultimate question: what now? For those of us lucky enough not to have enormous student loans to tackle, and who can forego the post-university migration to Asia to teach English in hope of paying them off, we have the luxury of choice.

Choice, although liberating, can be frightening, especially when it takes the form of the follow-your-dream-or-play-it-safe dichotomy.

This dichotomy rears its ugly head when the path you followed throughout your education ends and you find yourself at an intersection. Which way do you go? Do you risk heading in the direction that might lead to the utopian community you've heard about called Dreamland? Do you choose that route even though you're not sure how to get there? Not only has no one you know ever made it, but there is no way of knowing ahead of time the perils and triumphs that may lie in wait. While the old path, the one you followed as a student, may have been challenging and seemingly impossible at times, at the very least, the direction was clear and you knew that with persistence and perseverance you would be rewarded for your efforts in the end.

If you do decide to attempt to find Dreamland, people will inevitably say you're wasting your time heading in the wrong direction, a direction they are convinced can only lead to a dead-end. Those same people are the ones to tout the virtues of the opposite direction, the one leading to Practicalville. It's far safer. The road is straight and flat, making it easy to navigate. It's user friendly, little-to-no effort is required. Certainly, no risk. Everyone keeps emphasizing that the residents have good dental plans and get two weeks paid vacation each year. Once a decision has been made, there may be lingering doubts about whether it was, in fact, the right one. *Did I take a wrong turn back there? Should I have gone left at the Petro Canada Station? Maybe left would have been better? More scenic? Less bumpy?* Even if you bravely choose the direction you thought led to Dreamland, you quickly realize it too leads to Practicalville, and that there is no paved and marked route to Dreamland. Everyone who made forged their own way.

Your original journey along the scholarly path left you with grand ideas and plans, yet as you head along the eight-lane superhighway that is life, you wonder if that little moped built out of bits and pieces of university idealism and accumulated knowledge will be able to maintain its speed and stay on course, even with its Premium Dream Fuel. At the first rest stop, you take a drink of water and debate whether or not you should trade it in for a more practical vehicle. Isn't that what everyone else is traveling in? It has dawned on you that the little moped that was perfect for cruising around the campus might not be well suited to carry you through the "real world". You sit on a picnic table overlooking the highway while eating a box of Smarties

from the vending machine. You watch all the people drive by in their no-nonsense practical sedans and minivans, all running on Daily Drudgery Crude instead of Premium Dream Fuel. They all look the same, polluting the air with their playing-it-safe petroleum products.

In the sea of non-descript metal you see faces full of sadness and anger, but mostly blank faces seemingly going through the motions. You realize that the superhighway is only designed as a means of shuffling the masses back and forth. Day after day, the same stretch of asphalt. Always moving, but never actually going anywhere, at least not anywhere new or adventurous. You look at your candy-coloured Vespa parked next to the table. It doesn't look like anything else you've ever seen. And that's okay. It may not keep up with all the cars, but you don't mind having to go slowly along the shoulder. While it may not be as efficient as the fast lane, your pace allows you to take in the scenery. You get so caught up enjoying the ride; you don't even notice the exits for Practicalville. You're not quite sure where you're going, but are confident you'll get there in time.

## Confucius—Bumper-Sticker Style

Rebecca Brewer

George Orwell (2003) said the "greatest enemy of clear language" (p. 170) is insincerity. I agree. I can't seem to write my philosophy essay. The only thing I am sincere about is putting it off. I've learned that being philosophical when you are so inclined and studying philosophy are two different things. If that's the only thing I take from this class, then I've learned enough.

*I need to write my essay.* I think this as I drive home.

"So Confucius liked to name things, but in Taoism, language didn't capture enough," I say, hoping that hearing my thoughts aloud will breed more of them. "And what did language mean to Socrates?" I almost run a stop sign. I go home contemplating what an accident means to my insurance company.

I have a rush of understanding over breakfast the next day as I read my Taoism text. I begin to feel very optimistic that I will get this essay done early. I have visions of going outside after having paid the ransom to my computer. I quickly write down my ideas before they are lost forever.

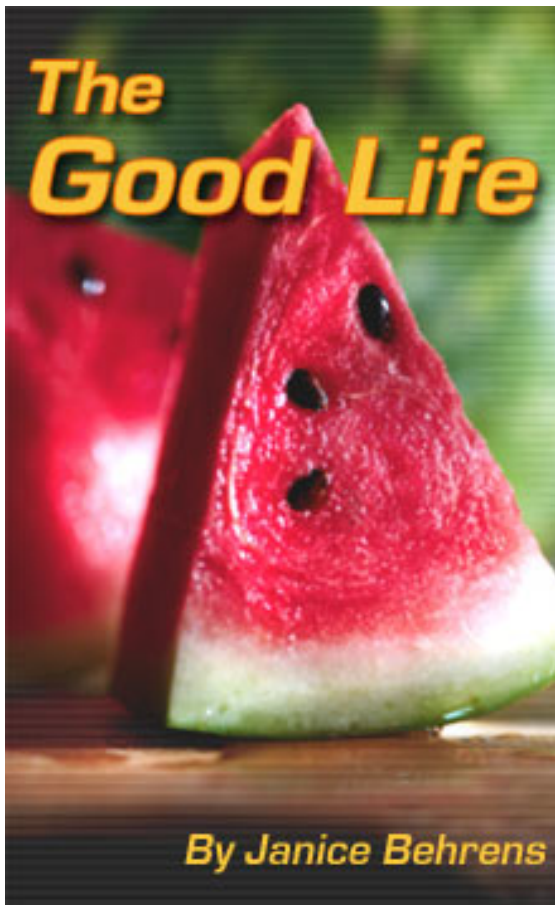
With vigour, I prepare to write eight to ten pages on Confucius and Chuang Tzu. I sit at my computer. I thumb through the pages of my *Study Guide*. I've got two sentences and a blinking cursor. I start to take offense at each blink of the smug, little cursor.

I'm waiting for the pot of rice simmering on my stove to overflow as I talk to my Dad on the phone. I've called a friend back, passed judgment on her ex-boyfriend and polished off the reading I needed to do for another class. As soon as I get off the phone and have dinner, I'm going to lock myself in and write my philosophy essay. Right now, my Dad is asking me about working out. I'm so happy he's trying to take care of himself that I don't have the heart to cut him short.

It's 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday night. I've been reading and re-reading the *Study Guide* write-up on Taoism. I'm making notes on the differences between Confucius and Chuang Tzu (For someone who didn't feel like language had much use, Chuang Tzu sure had a lot to say). I've made an outline of my essay. I haven't made an outline since high school! The worst part is that it is helping and I'll probably start doing outlines for all of my papers now. The house is quiet. I fold up my books and place them on the kitchen table, so I won't be able to walk past them tomorrow without feeling guilty.

George Orwell made a good point about insincerity, but Confucius says, "it is not the hide that counts" (Waley, 1989, p. 98). Confucius isn't as goal-oriented as student-life demands me to be. But I understand now that philosophy is more about the process than the outcome. It's the journey, not the destination. And now I wonder how Confucius would feel about me chalking up his wisdom to a bumper sticker. Or, more importantly, how my instructor would feel. Oh yeah, that essay...

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## Two Sides of Vancouver

I have lived in Vancouver for fifteen years now, and although I'm no jet-setter, I have spent enough time in other cities across the country to confirm that I would no longer consider moving to any other place in Canada. For me, that means no other place in the world can measure up to Vancouver. Simply put, Vancouver has too much to offer such as: hiking in the forests and skiing moonlit cross-country runs twenty-minutes away from downtown; miles of long stretches of beach on the west side of the city, many of the miles all but deserted on rainy winter days; a cornucopia of fresh and delicious seafood and vegetables locally available; fabulous restaurants, many of them serving very affordable Asian and uniquely West Coast dishes, accessible; and spectacular holiday destinations within only a few hours drive of the city.

As far as most of our tourists are concerned, Vancouver is a shining city of gleaming skyscrapers with snow-topped mountains off in the distance. What is often missed by these tourists on their way to Stanley Park, as they are hustled down the corridor of gleaming skyscrapers with snow-topped mountains in the background, is the hidden side of Vancouver. This is the Vancouver in which a lack

of provincial funding for mental health patients ensures that many of the mentally ill and others of the most vulnerable among us lead an existence of extreme poverty and life-crippling alcohol and drug abuse. Rather than treating these citizens of Vancouver with the dignity and respect that all citizens should be entitled to, our provincial government has responded by cutting back or completely eliminating funding for a variety of social programs that attempted to provide safe shelter, food, counselling and medical treatment for these people. To boot, the province has been attempting to enact something called the *Safe Streets Act*, which effectively puts the boots to panhandlers.

Nor is it only the poor, the ill and the weak who are suffering behind the shiny advertising-projected holographic walls of our city. Soaring local real estate prices have ensured that Vancouver is by far the most expensive city in Canada to live in. In disregard of this, provincial legislation has enacted inadequate minimum wage legislation, including an absurdly low so-called *training wage*, supposedly to make it affordable for employers to hire and train inexperienced workers. What has happened in effect, though, is that some unscrupulous employers have hired workers and then fired them once they have reached the limits of their legislated training period.

As the flagship city on Canada's *Wet Coast* gears itself up to host the 2010 Winter Olympics, there is much chatter from our local politicians, business leaders and other civic types about the fact that Vancouver is now a *World Class City*. Let us hope that we also strive to become a city known for its conscience and its heart. To achieve this goal, we need to take some proactive measures to lend a helping hand to those amongst us who need it the most.





*Dear Barb: My husband and I are planning a family road trip next month. We have a seven-year-old daughter and a nine-year-old son. We have never taken our children on a road trip and we have heard horror stories from our friends who have taken road trips with their children. Do you have any tips we could use to make our trip memorable and enjoyable? Unfortunately, we do not have a DVD or VCR in our van, so watching movies is not an option.*

*Desperate in P.E.I.*

Hi desperate, what a great question! You didn't say where you are going, or how long you will be on the road, but I assume it is a long road trip that you have planned. Road trips can provide a great opportunity for families to spend quality time together. Although, as you say, it can easily turn out to be an unpleasant experience if it is not planned properly.

No matter how long your trip will be, plan to stop every three to four hours, just to go the bathroom or take a little walk and maybe have an ice cream or other snack. Children will do better if they are allowed to get out and stretch at regular intervals. As I'm sure you know, it is difficult for young children to sit in one position for long periods of time.

During the hours between these breaks you need to keep the children busy. Start planning activities before your trip that you can do with your children while on the trip. Sometimes simply having one parent sit in the back seat while the other parent drives is an enjoyable seating arrangement for the children. Perhaps you and your husband could occasionally change roles between driver and back-seat passenger. It's a special treat for children to be able to have the undivided attention of either of their parents. While sitting with your children you can engage them in card games or other activities. If they don't already know how to play cards, you can teach them *Go Fish* or *War*. These are easy games that can be a lot of fun for kids to play with mom, dad, or each other.

Another activity all children enjoy is telling jokes. Take turns making up jokes. The jokes don't even have to make sense. Sometimes the less sense they make, the funnier they can be. You can also purchase joke books for kids at most bookstores and take turns reading the jokes. Your kids will sharpen their reading skills as well as sharing a good laugh.

An old standby is to purchase travel versions of games for kids. These are usually available at a discount store like the *Dollar Store*.

A fun activity that will get your kids interested in the scenery is to plan a scavenger hunt. You can do this by making up a list of items for each child to lookout for in the landscape as you are driving. The list is endless when you include such things as a red barn, a house with a green door, a black dog, a convertible car, etc.

Also, kids love counting games. For example, have the children count all of the pick-up trucks that pass you on the highway, or all the white cars, or even all of the cows in a pasture.

These are just a few of the activities that you can do while traveling with your children. So try not to be too desperate. It is possible to have a fun and memorable road trip with your children. Good luck. I hope I was able to help.

*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.

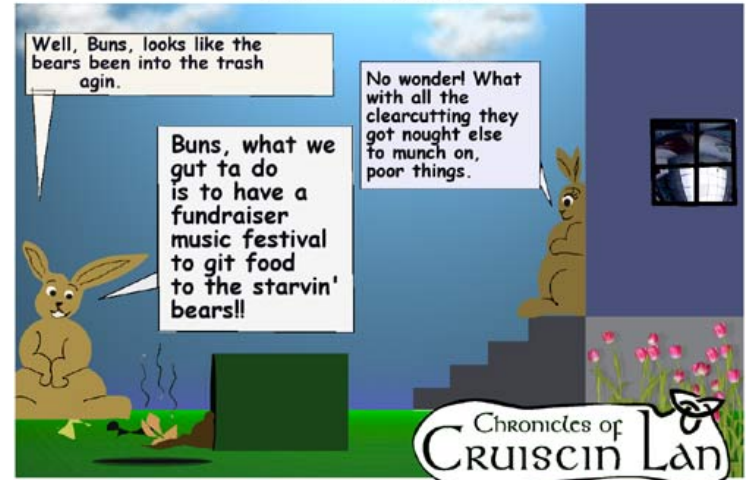
## AUSU Discussion Forums and Chat

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.

## 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>

~ Live Bait Concert ~





## Of Coyotes and Pigeons

In the July 10th edition of *The Vancouver Courier*, a community newspaper, there was a story about a woman whose cat was injured and nearly killed by two coyotes. The woman's response was to immediately call for a culling of coyotes in the area, in order to make nighttime prowling safer for domesticated animals. "I paid four times as much for my house to live in a city," the woman complained, "because I don't want to walk around the street with a rifle like a country bumpkin every time I go out for a walk at night to protect myself against wildlife." It is interesting to note, as the article points out, that the last time a human being was bit by a coyote in this city was in 2001.

One of the defining characteristics of modern human beings is the extent to which we have cut ourselves off from the natural world. We anthropomorphize animals in children's cartoons and stories. We drive through Yellowstone Park in our air-conditioned SUVs, and insist on feeding the bears in the Rockies. But when our encroachment on nature causes nature in some way to become inconvenient to us, our response is to eradicate the problem.

Likewise, we simply cannot turn down the opportunity of exploiting nature to turn a profit.

In his book *The Clouded Leopard: Travels to Landscapes of Spirit and Desire*, celebrated ethnobotanist and author Wade Davis recounts the chilling story of the extinction of the passenger pigeon, a bird which once "accounted for 40 per cent of the entire bird population of North America." There is an account from the year 1870, "at a time when their numbers were already greatly diminished," of approximately two billion passengers passing over Cincinnati, comprising a formation about 1.5 kilometres wide by 500 kilometres long - a miraculous sight that must have been staggering to the imagination. A mere twenty-six years later, though, "fifty years after the first serious impact of man," the entire population of passenger pigeons had been reduced to approximately 250,000 birds. The reason for this startling depletion? Irresponsible human hunting arising from the fact that during the nineteenth century pigeon meat was a "mainstay of the American diet." As Davis explains, the term "stool pigeon" derives from the practice of pigeon hunters sewing together a live bird's eyelids, attaching it to a pole driven into the ground, and waiting for its cries of anguish to bring other birds to it. Of course, these birds would be easy prey for the waiting hunters, armed with clubs. By 1914, "as the Battle of the Marne consumed the flower of European youth, the world's last passenger pigeon died in captivity." In our own day, in the depletion of and extinction of fish stocks and the destruction of countless wild habitats, we see numerous echoes of this atrocious violence and waste.

Obviously, we see ourselves as being something apart from and above the so-called "natural world". Because we don't feel any real connection to the universe beyond the self, we feel that we can use and manipulate it any way we like. For all of our consciousness and intelligence, when we pollute a stream or contaminate a gene pool we consistently fail to see that we are hurting, diminishing, and ultimately destroying ourselves.



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



### PHD GRADS PLAN TO LEAVE CANADA

*Debbie Jabbour*

The first national census of PhD recipients in Canada, Statistics Canada's Survey of Earned Doctorates, has revealed that of 3600 doctoral graduates produced last year, one in five say they plan to leave Canada to work or to continue studying. Life science and physical science graduates were the most likely to leave the country, accounting for one in three PhD graduates in these programs. Although the good news is that of those grads intending to leave Canada, almost half say they plan to return, this may not be enough to sustain Canada's universities. With a 9.5 percent decline in doctorates awarded and a need to replace up to 20,000 retiring professors in the next decade, Canadian

universities are facing a serious shortage of professors.

Foreign students represent nearly one-quarter of all doctoral graduates, and are the most likely to report plans to leave Canada. With countries like India and China able to retain their own PhD grads and lure students back who study overseas, greater pressure is being placed on countries like Canada to produce even more PhD graduates.

On average, doctoral graduates were about 36 years old, and took almost 6 years to complete their programs, with those in humanities and social sciences taking slightly longer. About half were able to finance their studies with scholarships, or teaching or research assistantships, and among those who did incur debt to finance their graduate studies, 41 percent owed less than \$10,000, and 32 percent owed more than \$20,000 (Schmidt, 2005).

Schmidt, S. (2005). 1 in 3 PhD science grads plan to leave country, StatsCanada finds: first such census hints at coming shortage of profs. CanWest News Service, July 6, 2005. <http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=0d4e271b-bfd0-430f-a362-6ab279e73305>

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

*Compiled by Barbara Godin*

**Ella Jane Fitzgerald, (1918-1996)**

Ella Fitzgerald was born on April 25, 1918 in Newport News, Virginia. Throughout her outstanding career, she became known as "The First Lady of Song." It has been said that she began singing by accident. In 1934, Ella entered an Amateur Night competition at the Apollo. She had planned on dancing during the competition, but at the last minute, decided instead to sing. It was a good decision, as she won the competition. Subsequently, her talent was discovered and thus began a career that would include 13 Grammy awards and sales of over 40 million albums. Ella's remarkable voice brought her an audience as diverse as her music. Her amazing talent touched many generations, beginning in the 1930s and flourishing through to her death on June 15, 1996. Ella's final concert occurred in 1991 at Carnegie Hall, New York. The renowned venue is a fitting location for such a renowned jazz performer. Ella was the first woman to receive the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award, which is awarded to those who build bridges among races and generations. As well, she was the first woman and the first pop singer to receive the Lincoln Centre Medallion, previously awarded only to internationally famed classical musicians. In 1995, one year before her death, Ella was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

### **Sources for Additional Information**

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### Aboriginal Students in Saskatchewan Receive Boost

The provincial government of Saskatchewan is partnering with the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation in order to create a new scholarship specifically for aboriginal students. Over six million dollars is being put into the new Millennium Aboriginal Access Bursary. This initiative will provide bursaries of \$2,000 for 2,500 aboriginal post-secondary students. Designed to provide aid for those aboriginal students in need, they'll be considered for the award simply by applying for student financial assistance in Saskatchewan.

This is particularly relevant for Athabasca University, as Alberta is also looking for ways to encourage aboriginal students to attend post-secondary studies. Partnering with a federally-funded organization like the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation seems to be a good way to do it for a much smaller cost than a purely *made-in-Alberta* type of program. Combine that with distance education providing a good post-secondary education for those in rural locations, results in an accessible means to provide post-secondary education to those individuals who normally would not consider pursuing the opportunity.

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### Brain Drain History

The Canada Foundation for Innovation announced on June 29, 2005, funding of over 25 million dollars to support 132 research projects across Canada. These projects are designed to attract and retain 181 leading-edge researchers from around the world. While heralding this as helping Canada's *brain gain*, I still find myself wondering why the federal government is not doing more to support Canada's *brain growth*. It seems strange that we're spending money to attract researchers from outside of the country and at the same time tuition fees for post-graduate courses are continuing to rise.

This is especially concerning when you look at the most recent Statistics Canada data that shows that Canadians who earn doctoral degrees in Canada are likely to stay in Canada. That same report also shows that while 56% of doctoral degree graduates had no debt upon graduation, scholarship and fellowship programs from the universities and government supported over half of those students. What you have to wonder is how much money is wasted on the overhead for administering these scholarships and fellowships. Would it not be more effective to provide the funding directly to universities in order to lower tuition fees?

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### Everyone and their Dog Condemns the Bombings in Britain

On July 7, 2005, London, England was the sad target for more terrorist activities, with several bombs going off on the mass-transit system. Shortly thereafter, condemnations of the terrorist attack were issued by the Prime Minister, the Governor General, quasi-governmental organizations, the leaders of the G8, the Premiers of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland & Labrador, etc.

While some of these news releases also contain condolences for the people in Britain, something I'm sure is appreciated, many of them are simple condemnations of the terrorist attacks. I find it kind of funny that all of these people feel the need for some reason to stand up and say "Yes, we recognize that bombing innocent people is a bad thing and shouldn't be done." Shouldn't that be taken as the default position? After all, just because Premier Klein hasn't done up a press release saying that he condemns the attacks, would anybody assume that this means he's actually in favour of them? Furthermore, considering that what terrorists want most is publicity and fear, doesn't this outpouring of "shock and anger" toward their acts actually serve their purposes far better than simple silence would?

Instead, more politicians should follow the approach taken by Wayne Steeves, the Minister of Public Safety in New Brunswick. The news release expressed the government's condolences to the people in the United Kingdom, but also took the opportunity to reassure citizens of the province that there was no direct threat to them. In essence, Wayne Steeves is working against the very goals of the terrorists who are seeking to inspire fear not only in London, but across the globe.

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## Newfoundland and Labrador Freezing

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the recent release of their provincial post-secondary White Paper has prompted several actions from the provincial government. Of particular interest is the recommendation to implement a three year tuition freeze. Over \$25 million has been allocated by the government to offset this tuition freeze. At the same time, the government is also introducing nearly \$22 million for grants-in-aid to needy post-secondary students. In total, the provincial government will invest nearly \$90 million over the next three years to implement the strategies outlined in the White Paper.

It should be pointed out that Newfoundland and Labrador do not have their provincial debt fully paid off, the province is not running a \$5 billion surplus, nor do they have the lowest business taxes in the country. Yet, still they've set their priorities on making sure that their citizens have access to affordable post-secondary education. I wonder if and when Alberta will follow the lead of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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## From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

### Strange But True

Anyone wishing to stay on top of world happenings can now easily do so through television, radio, Internet and newspapers. In typical double-edged-sword fashion, this is both good and bad. Sixty years ago, people's worlds were smaller and more insular. It took days, weeks or even months to hear what was happening in the next town -- never mind across the country or around the world. Sometimes that's a good thing. Particularly when people do strange, crazy or criminal things. Here's a collection of recent news tidbits.

1. Customs officers in Melbourne, Australia discovered a woman on a Singapore flight smuggling 51 tropical fish in a specially made apron under her skirt (*BBC News*, June 6, 2005). The officers became suspicious when they heard "flipping noises from the vicinity of her waist" (*Ibid*). If convicted of smuggling wildlife, she could spend up to ten years in prison and pay over \$80,000 (US dollars) in fines. Sheesh!

2. Researchers trying to understand autism and phobias have experimented with an *oxytocin* nasal spray (*BBC News*, June 2, 2005). *Oxytocin* promotes social interactions by stimulating bonding between males and females and also between mothers and infants. What they discovered was that trust levels in test subjects rose considerably after inhaling the spray. They stress that the idea of releasing it through air vents in political rallies or lacing investment bankers' cologne with the molecule remains science fiction. Doesn't it seem that if there's a way to exploit this, it's only a matter of time until it happens?

3. A sicko from Fort McMurray was recently charged with molesting a young child live on the Internet (Brethour, June 4, 2005). An American woman, her boyfriend and his male roommate were engaging in sexual role-playing on the Internet when she observed the abuse. She ended her phone call with the man and used the call display on her phone to alert police. Is there no end to the brazenness of these perpetrators? The very technology that titillates these people involved in this risky behaviour is being used to catch them. Are the penalties harsh enough to stop these destructive, soul-destroying acts?

4. The home improvement craze sweeping the country has convinced even the most inept amateur that he or she can take on projects. Incidents of amputated fingers, eye injuries and broken bones are on the rise (Power Tools,

June 30, 2005). Failing to take precautions or use protective gear like goggles, dust masks, gloves, and hearing protection increases the risk of injury and separates the amateur from the pro. Apparently, circular saws are especially dangerous. Personally, I wouldn't allow the risk of death and dismemberment to get in the way of a good project, but hey that's just me!


5. In the United States, Medicaid will no longer pay for Viagra for convicted rapists and other high-risk sex offenders after their convictions (Jones, May 23, 2005). Well, duh! I'm no expert, but is erectile dysfunction in convicted sex offenders really a bad thing?

Would our grandparents have believed this stuff? Are we better off or worse off for knowing these news tidbits? Life in 2005 -- strange but true, from where I sit.

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# 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*

## CUPE Alberta scholarship

The application deadline for the CUPE Alberta scholarship is approaching.

Applicants have until September 1st to apply for the \$1000.00 scholarship awarded to a CUPE Alberta member or a member of their immediate family who is pursuing post secondary labour oriented studies.

CUPE Alberta Scholarship is open to applicants entering undergraduate or graduate studies in one of the following areas of study:

- Labour Studies
- Industrial Relations
- Social Science related to Labour or Labour movement
- Labour Law

Further information is available at:

[http://www.alberta.cupe.ca/02about\\_us/scholarship.htm](http://www.alberta.cupe.ca/02about_us/scholarship.htm)

## 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.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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