

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*August 12, 2005*  
*Volume 13 Issue 31*



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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  
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## Photo Feature

### Ulm Cathedral

### Text and Photos by John Buhler



Many Canadian tourists who have visited Germany may not be familiar with the town of Ulm. It happens to be the birthplace of Albert Einstein. Its most outstanding architectural feature is its legendary Gothic cathedral.

Ulm Cathedral faces onto a large central square located in the heart of the town. The cathedral is an imposing structure, at once massive and yet ornately detailed. The west tower of the cathedral is 161 metres (about 530 feet) tall, making it the tallest church steeple in the world.

Built in the Gothic style, Ulm Cathedral features flying buttresses, stained glass depictions of Bible stories and saints, peaked Gothic arches, and honeycomb-like exterior stonework carved in ornate detail. These architectural elements help to fragment the incoming light, remove the distinction between the exterior and interior of the building, and create a sense of bringing the outside into the interior space.

Construction on the Ulmer Münster began in 1377. The stones, carved and placed by human hands, are a testament to the many generations of workers who laboured to build the cathedral knowing

that they would not live to see its completion. Almost five hundred years after the cathedral's foundation was set in place, sandstone for the steeple's facade was quarried in Alsace to pay France's war reparations to Germany after the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. Although built according to the plans of the early architects, the steeple was not finished until 1890 when its stone pinnacle was lifted into place. Given the cathedral's centuries long construction, one is reminded of Ken Follett's book entitled *Pillars of the Earth*, with a character named Tom Builder who did not live to see the completion of the Medieval church that he helped to create. The cathedrals of the Middle Ages reflect something greater than the span of a person's life, indeed greater than the span of many generations.

Of course, the sight of this historic and massive cathedral leaves a lasting impression on tourists. The Ulmer Münster, however, allows visitors to have the extraordinary opportunity to travel up inside its acclaimed steeple. I paid the three Euros charge in order to climb a series of stairways to a height of 143 metres (around 470 feet) within the steeple, view the Gothic-style gargoyles up



close through the open frame of the tower, and have a bird's-eye-view of the city, the Danube, and the countryside beyond.

Along the way, the cathedral's staircases, some circular and some straight, led along stonework that was open like lace-work. Moving higher and higher up the tower's 768 steps, portals in the masonry offered views of smaller and smaller versions of the city of Ulm. An assortment of grey stone guardians on the



facade marked my passage up the tower. Saints stood reverently, and hooded monks jutted from the tower corners. Lions clung to the sandstone and snarled at the city below, while winged dragons were ready to spring from their perches overlooking the red rooftops of Ulm.

As I continued to climb, the sky became black and a strong wind suddenly began to push between the pillars, through the Gothic arches, and around the finials. As if reflecting the mood of the menacing gargoyles clinging to the face of the tower, rain began to lash at me and the few other travelers making the same climb. The steps, worn smooth by countless visitors before us, were now slick from the sudden deluge. Thrashed as we were by the wind and the rain, it soon became difficult to maintain balance as we continued upward. Sometimes it is unfortunate that Gothic architecture brings the outside into the interior space, as I described previously.

The storm seemed to be at its worst when I found myself surrounded by a ring of blackened stone arches that formed a spider's web overhead, and running upwards through its centre was another length of narrow staircase. Still struggling against the wind, the rain, and the slippery steps beneath my feet, I reached the top of the staircase that opened onto a small platform, similar to the crow's nest on a ship.



And then, as suddenly as the storm began, it stopped. The wind no longer blasted us, and the rain no longer pelted us. There were a few blue patches of sky, but it was still too cloudy to see the distant Schwabian mountains. I stayed in the tower for a short while and enjoyed the view of the town far below us, the not-so-blue Danube, and the green of the German countryside.



Later, from the city square in front of the cathedral, I noticed that the figures on the tower above no longer appeared to be the distinct and detailed creatures that had marked my progression up the steeple. But I had the good fortune to see them up close, in what felt like an authentic medieval experience.

Reference - Follett, K. (1989). *Pillars of the Earth*. 1st ed. William Morrow and Company.





**This week's Sounding Off column is a continuation of last week's column in response to Peter Tretter's guest editorial about tutor vacations. Thank you to everyone who shared their views on this issue!**

I agree with Ms. Neuman's comments [see last week] that as students we need to be organized enough to not be in a crisis state during crucial times such as exam preparation. I also want to add that since AU does not require the assignments be completed in an order, the schedule supplied is a 'suggested' one, so we can move ahead on our reading and other assignments in a course while a tutor is on holiday.

Further, I was unaware I could contact the course coordinator as a source of information when my tutor is unavailable. AU should include that tidbit in the course material.

Now as to her other comments, we are not all able to organize to that same level and/or we have outside obligations (e.g. work, family, etc.) that mean our schedules are more rigid and we do have time to do outside research and hope to heaven it's what we need for our course.

AU should implement a program where there is a "back up" tutor for all courses while tutors are on holidays. Other options would be to reduce a tutor's workload as holiday time approaches and then increase it once they return and to require tutors to give a month's notice and not two weeks or less before going on holiday. Notification could be sent by e-mail and 'snail mail' so no one could say they were not informed and allowed to have questions answered, etc.

In a brick and mortar school, tutors would not go on holiday mid-course. AU prides itself on being able to deliver the same services as schools with a physical home and should do so.

Lance Bevan-Herringshaw

[Editor's note: In last week's Sounding Off, reader Teresa Neuman suggested that students contact their Course Coordinator when their tutor is on vacation. However, AU tutor services has noted that "If a tutor is away for 10 business days or less, no alternate tutorial support is provided. The students should not contact the course coordinator as the coordinators do not necessarily tutor the course and would not be able to provide support. The policy is no support for this period of time." Suggestions made by readers in comment columns and letters only reflect the experience of that person, and do not necessarily reflect university policy.]

I couldn't agree with everyone more; yes, it is expected for tutors to go on vacation, but we must have the opportunity to speak with another tutor if we need help in the course! I received a notice five days before my tutor went on holiday from June 22 - July 10 of this year. And I was not given another tutor whom I could contact. I ended up having to pay for an extension because my end date was June 30th and I could not do the final before June 22.

Nadine Boulos-Jarvis



## Re-Generation X: Writer displays his use of the other 3Rs

Sara Kinninmont

### Souvenir of Canada 2



Douglas Coupland

In November of 2003, Douglas Coupland was given the keys to a house in his hometown of Vancouver, Canada. The place had been uninhabited for two years and was slated for demolition. Coupland was given only two weeks to take full advantage of the space. The result was one part home makeover show, one part artistic expression, and one part patriotism. He named the instillation Canada House.

To the majority of the world, Coupland is best known as the writer of *Generation X* (1991), *Miss Wyoming* (2001), *All Families are Psychotic* (2002), and, most recently, *Eleanor Rigby* (2005), to name only a few. Truth is, he was originally an artist and ended up writing as a result of a lucky coincidence when an editor happened upon a postcard that he had penned while living in Japan. The rest, as they say, is history. Before seducing the world with the written word, he specialized in sculpture at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, followed by studies at the European Design Institute in Milan and finally studies at

the Hokkaido College of Art and Design in Sapporo. Canada House isn't simply an attempt at a medium change by a writer deciding to try his hand at something new, but instead a case of Coupland re-exploring his first love.

In Coupland's book, *Souvenir of Canada 2* (2005), there is a 30-page layout dedicated to the house and its contents. In it, he writes, "For years, I've been collecting images, objects, scraps and ideas with the end purpose of using them to build a uniquely Canadian environment" (p.41). The first step in achieving that goal involved painting the entire inside of the house white, creating a blank canvas to work from. Nothing was spared. The appliances, the fireplace, and the windows -- everything was blanketed in white leaving only a fresh space as a stage for his many pieces. The instillation featured various forms of lighting, textiles, furniture, photography, and visual art. Initially, Canada House may seem primarily to have been an exercise in ardent patriotism, but it was, in fact, as much an exercise in eco-conscious expression. The 3Rs that enabled the creation of the space were reclaim, reuse, and regenerate. It's Douglas Coupland. What did you expect for the 3Rs? Reduce, reuse, and recycle? Too predictable!

From the dozens of lamps made of old fishing floats to a large Inuit formation, called an *inuksuk*, fashioned out of foam that had washed up on a beach near the writer's home, many of the pieces on display in the house were comprised of found objects. Coupland reclaimed them from the environment and made them his own. His reaction to finding the materials was mixed. At first, it was "Wow! All of these beautiful treasure-like things just lying here, free!" (p.44). Then after, "Holy crap! All of this plastic junk littering these otherwise pristine beaches!" (p.44). Garbage and litter may seem trifling to some, but not to Coupland. He explains, "Canada is a northern country, and because of this, plastics can take tens of thousands of times longer to decompose than they might at the Equator with all its heat, sunlight and bacteria. Plastics discarded in the far Arctic will remain intact until, scientifically, mathematically, our universe ends." (p.48). His scavenging and reuse not only breathed new life into the discarded objects, but his efforts also helped regenerate, albeit on a small scale, the beaches and water that had been burdened by the trash.

A house just wouldn't be complete without furniture and Canada House is no exception. Coupland constructed cabinets and chests of drawers out of random objects like a collapsed box of Kraft cheese Singles, an incomplete Wayne Gretzky puzzle, and even a freezer door. There were no beds, but plenty of quilts on hand, one of which was made up of reused materials including an old T-shirt with a picture of a wolf howling at the moon, an empty package of Tater Tots, a container of de-icing road salt, and, of course, squares of lumber jack-style plaid flannel. Certainly a quilt unlike anything granny ever made!

There were also things that, though not made up of found objects, fit under the eco-conscious umbrella by virtue of drawing attention to practices and objects that threaten our environment daily. One such piece



was a ladder painted a rainbow of salmony-pink colors that Coupland dubbed "the spawning ladder" because "the colours come from a scientific measuring system that allows fish farmers to pre-select the flesh tone of their fish" (p.64)-- a fitting addition to the kitchen since it's a place where many people devour filets of the faux fabricated fish, for the most part completely unaware of the havoc reeked on the surrounding waters and sea life on their behalf.

While there may not have been a huge budget, a nauseatingly cheerful host, or the ubiquitous product placement of some sort of cleaning supply, unless you count the empty packet of Ivory Snow laundry detergent holding court on the previously mentioned quilt, Canada House did have one commonality with those insanely popular home makeover shows, the shared goal of regenerating a tired space. In the end, it may have only been open for five days, but for that short period of time it was transformed into a house of ideas. And somehow Coupland was able to create it with the use of the 3Rs and a little *eh*.

Note of interest: Coupland's latest exhibit entitled "Super City" opens at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal on June 9, 2005 and runs through to November 20, 2005. See this site for photos from Canada House: <http://www.coupland.com/art/art08.html>

### References

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## 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>

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# CANADIAN FED WATCH!

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NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



## Government Finds Taxation Affects Wealth

The Government is strangely pleased to announce its findings that the National Child Benefit program, a program that gives extra tax benefits to low income families, is working to help these families avoid poverty. Apparently the people in the government weren't exactly sure that giving people more money would help them avoid poverty. Perhaps they were unclear on the definition.

To satisfy themselves, though, they commissioned a report which came back with findings that, remarkably enough, support the theory that taking less money from people enables them to have more money. Happily, for those responsible for the National Child Benefit program, the report that they commissioned and paid for has come back with glowing reviews about the program, and suggests that the funding to the program should continue to increase, which is good news if you're someone who's hoping to get paid for writing a report about the National Child Benefit program.

While I'm happy that they are at least attempting to be accountable, I have to question the reliability of a non-independent report, and whether the money might better have been put into the National Child Benefit program.

## The Perks of Being Premier

It's not a vacation. It's work. Honest.

At least that might be what they're telling themselves, but when over 400 delegates, including Premiers, officials, and their families, gather in Banff from August 10-12 for the Council of the Federation meeting, the question of how much work will really get done has to be an issue.

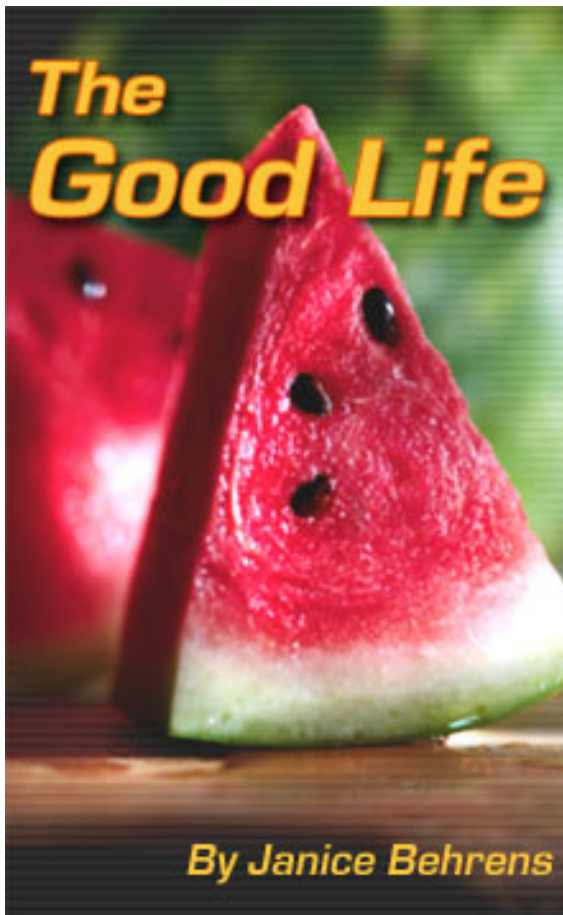
For example, their busy work itinerary starts with a ride on a historic Canadian Pacific Railway steam engine from Calgary to Banff on the tenth, supplemented by a stop in Kananaskis Country for a special Rodeo from the Calgary Stampede Association, and goes on to the Premier's traveling in vintage automobiles from the train station to their meeting place at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.

Sounds like a nice job, if you can get it.

## U.S. Still Acting Illegally

Even though the BSE restrictions are slowly being lifted (despite the American cattle ranchers fighting against it tooth and nail), the softwood lumber dispute continues on. Once again the WTO has ruled that the United States is illegally imposing countervailing duties on Canada, and has not yet complied with the things they agreed to.

The change now is that Canada has applied to the WTO to retaliate against the United States with duties of up to 200 million dollars. So it seems like things are entering the penalty phases now and hopefully the entire case will be wrapped up shortly after I retire. It certainly seems like it will last that long.



## Wabi Sabi: Everything Old is New Again

When I first discovered Asian cooking ingredients like lemongrass and ginger, it was as though I were a child who had found a whole new spectrum of colours inside her paint box. Ingredients like galangal and tamarind, found in the bins and on the shelves of Asian grocery stores, are inexpensive, packed with exotic flavour, and have a transformative effect on noodles, seafood, and vegetables. Old, familiar foods such as chicken and pork became exciting again, and capable of surprises.

Just as new flavours can alter and enrich our appreciation of the food that we put in our mouths, new ideas and philosophies can give us a new insight and appreciation for the every day world around us. One new way of seeing things that has caught my interest over the past couple of years is the Japanese philosophy of wabi sabi.

Although difficult to explicitly define in Western terms, it is a philosophy about embracing the imperfect nature of life. According to Wiki Wiki Web (<http://c2.com/w4/wikibase/?WabiSabi>), the central concepts of wabi sabi "correlate with the concepts of Zen Buddhism, as the first Japanese involved with wabi-sabi were tea masters, priests, and monks who practiced Zen." Although difficult to precisely define in Western terms, it is a philosophy that

teaches us to appreciate the value and beauty of "things imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete." In a refreshing change of pace from the values most of us have been brought up with, it teaches the value of being "modest and humble," and the mysterious beauty of things that are "unconventional," "irregular," "intimate," "unpretentious," "earthy," and "simple."

According to Japanese friend of mine, wabi sabi teaches us to see the extraordinary quality inherent in ordinary things. It is a way of seeing the unique beauty in a shabby, threadbare couch, and the amazing complexity in a gnarled and twisted tree trunk. The spiritual guru Jiddu Krishnamurti has said that each of our souls is made of the same paper, but it is our individual experiences, the folding and crumpling of this paper that occurs over a lifetime, that gives each of us our unique character. Wabi sabi teaches us to love the lines, cracks and imperfections that make each of us, as well as the objects that surround us, in some way special. Imagine how much richer and more contented our lives would become if we truly took this way of thinking to heart. What a different relationship we would have, for instance, to the physical "imperfections" and emotional "oddities" of ourselves and others.

Too often we live our lives searching for beauty and excitement. We wait for the next spectacular, breathtaking experience to come our way. We live our lives with blinders on for most of the time, going about our daily chores and activities, then spend two weeks driving off to the Grand Canyon or hiking up an volcano in Hawaii in search of the spectacular. Too often, we see laugh lines in our faces as a loss of youth, rather than a gaining of experience. What wabi sabi teaches us is that inner and outer beauty surrounds us all the time, wherever we are. What we need to do is develop an eye for appreciating it.





*Dear Barb,*

*my husband and I are considering adding a pet to our family, but we are not sure whether we should get a dog or cat. Our three-year-old son loves the neighbor's dog and he thinks we should get one. While I was growing up we always had dogs, so I know they require a fair amount of care. My mother was a stay-at-home mom, so most of the care for the dogs was left to her. My husband has never had a pet, so he is pretty flexible as to either a dog or cat. We were wondering if you could advise us on what type of pet would best fit into our busy lifestyle. My husband and I both work full-time and our son is in day care all day. Another factor to consider is that we live in a different city from our families and often spend weekends visiting them. Thanks for your help.*

*Christina in Athabasca*

Hi Christina, you obviously realize adopting a pet is a serious undertaking. I will start out by giving you a little information on the different characteristics of dogs and cats.

Both dogs and cats are hunters by nature. Before becoming domesticated, their basic purpose in life was to hunt for food. The dog has been domesticated for at least 14,000 years, while earliest

evidence indicates the cat has only been domesticated for about 4,000 years. This history helps to understand why the cat remains a more independent animal than the dog.

The dog is a highly intelligent animal and has the ability to learn a lot more than basic commands. Dogs have been trained to be eyes for the blind and ears for the deaf. However, for most of us, a dog is a companion considered simply another family member. Because dogs are social animals they require more care and companionship than cats. I know a lot of people who work full-time and have dogs that they keep in a crate 8 to 10 hours a day while they are at work. They claim their dogs are happy and content, but I wonder if this is the best treatment for such a social creature. Moreover, I question how healthy is it for a dog to be forced to hold its bladder for such a long time.

Cats on the other hand are more self-sufficient animals that are just as happy to be on their own. When you are home, cats hang around wanting some attention, but when you are gone, they sleep or find other ways to amuse themselves. Cats are easy to litter train; usually putting the cat in its litter box a couple of times will suffice. Dogs (puppies) on the other hand can take many months to be completely housebroken. Dogs need exercise daily, whereas cats will find their own level of exercise within the house. Cats can live happily indoors for their entire lives. A pinch of catnip will stimulate cats enough to get the exercise they need. Both dogs and cats need regular checkups from a veterinarian and routine grooming.

I think you already know what my advice will be. Considering the fact that you both work full-time, I think a cat would make the best addition to your family. I know your son wants a dog, but I'm sure he will be happy with a cat, providing you are careful and choose a cat that will suit your household.

*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.*



## Some Facts About Light

There are thousands of qualities of light that need to be identified and categorized. This work is being carried out by physicists and poets around the world. From the nightlights plugged into the electrical outlets of our childhood bedrooms, to the candles that burn at our funerals, light provides primal solace in the face of fathomless mystery.

Children have been known to write their names and curse words in the residual light of Hallowe'en sparklers.

A composer I know, who writes disturbing hymns, is working on a suite of pieces for the cello composed only on nights when the moon is full.

When choking on a chicken bone, if at all possible, ignore the voice that may be telling you to "head toward the light."

Some time ago there was a news story about a woman, in Norway, whose skin emitted a slight but measurable luminosity every time she read aloud a passage from the *Bible* or the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*.

To ward off doppelgangers and poltergeists, hang hurricane lamps from the tree-house ceiling.

When navigating across time and space, the Perseid meteor shower can be a handy source of light to read your charts by.

Kiss a woman with six fingers at the outer circle of a bonfire on the dunes of the beach, where the shadows play across your bodies on a hot moonless August night, and you will finally realize the meaning of enchantment.

Whether conducting a dinner party, a seance, or an autopsy, proper lighting is integral to the mood.

Any given passage from Tolstoy can take on radically different meanings, depending on whether it is read by the light of a desk lamp, or the faint glow from the instrument panel of a disabled Russian submarine. Discuss.

In ancient villages, it was possible for a traveler on a dark night to locate the house of the firework maker by following the stream of coloured sparks pouring from his chimney.

When the moon is at its smallest and darkest, that's when werewolves and witches are able to go about their daily affairs as transit operators and mutual fund representatives.

To avoid awkward pauses in first date conversation, Martha Stewart suggests wrapping your naked body from head-to-toe in flashing Christmas lights.

Scientists don't know why microscopic sea-life have developed bioluminescence. Since these life forms don't reproduce sexually, there is no need to attract a mate. Discuss.

In the end, it will turn out that the most important books of your life have been the ones you read with a Canadian Tire flashlight in a tent of bed sheets.

If you chew Clorets in a dark bathroom, and look in the mirror, you will see tiny blue sparks flickering in your mouth. This is really true. [this works with Wint-O-Green LiveSavers too!]



## Women You Should Know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Barbara Longhi (1552-1638), an artist and painter, was born in Ravenna, Italy. She was the daughter of a famous painter, Luca Longhi. Barbara's paintings were largely religious in nature as were her father's. Barbara also assisted her father with his creation of Church altarpieces. Perhaps explaining why much of her artistic work resembled her father's. As well, Barbara's profound religious faith was mirrored in her paintings. Many of her paintings were of the Madonna and child, representing their close, loving bond. Though she was not as widely known as her father, she was acknowledged by Giorgio Vassari, a renowned Italian painter and biographer. Barbara Longhi died at the age of 86.

Source for additional information

World Wide Arts Resources: Artist Barbara Longhi - <http://wwar.com/masters/l/longhi-barbara.html>



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~ Didn't I Tell Youse? ~



I feel like such a dildo. I wanted so bad to somethin' nice an' it all went to hell on me. Oh, an' Judas Priest, here comes Christy Minstrell!

Chronicles of **CRUISCIN LAN**

Oh, Hello, Lardbucket! My, oh my, look at all this lovely sound equipment and this fancy stage here. By the way, how did the "concert" go? Oh wait a minute, I already know! It was an unmitigated disaster! Now let's see what lesson we can draw from all of this, shall we?

Sugar Buns, I feel like takin' to my bed until I forget what a failure I am.

Oh, poo, dearie. You ain't no failure t'all. What was it you was settin' out to do?

Why, to feed the bears, of course!

An' did the bears get fed?

I'd say!!!

So where's the failure?

Buns, you always manages to make things look sweet.

It's called "framing," sweetie-pot.





# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.

## alberta

### FRINGE A-GO-GO

Edmonton, Alberta - 18-28 August 2005

For information: 780 448 9000

[fta@fringetheatreadventures.ca](mailto:fta@fringetheatreadventures.ca)

<http://www.fringetheatreadventures.ca/index.php/fta>

### BANFF SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

Banff, Alberta - On now until August 26 2005

For information: 403 762 6100

[box\\_office@banffcentre.ca](mailto:box_office@banffcentre.ca)

<http://www.banffcentre.ca/>

## saskatchewan

### SASKATOON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - 4-14 August 2005

<http://www.25thstreettheatre.org/>

## manitoba

### FOLKLORAMA

Winnipeg, Manitoba - 7-13 August

For information: 204 982 6210

<http://www.folklorama.ca/folklorama.php>

## ontario

### OSHAWA JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Oshawa, Ontario - 8-13 August 200

For information: 905 986 0666

<http://jazzandblues.eclipseconcerts.com/>

## quebec

### INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL OF SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec - Aug 13-21

For information: 450 347 9555

[festival@ballooncanada.com](mailto:festival@ballooncanada.com)

<http://www.montgolfieres.com/>

## maritimes

### ATLANTIC SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Moncton, New Brunswick - August 18-21

For information: 506 384 8585

<http://www.atlanticseafoodfestival.com/>

### ATLANTIC THEATRE FESTIVAL

Wolfville, Nova Scotia - 27 June - 1 Sept 2005

For information: 902 542 4242

<http://www.atf.ns.ca/>

## international

### NISEI WEEK JAPANESE FESTIVAL

13-21 August 2005 - Los Angeles, California, USA

For information: 213 687 7193

[niseiweek@niseiweek.org](mailto:niseiweek@niseiweek.org) - <http://www.niseiweek.org/>

### KITSAP DESTRUCTION DERBY

Now until 10 Sept 2005 - Bremerton, Washington

For information: 360 337 4595

<http://www.kitsapdestructionderby.com/>


### TWIN PEAKS FESTIVAL

15-17 August 2005 - North Bend, Washington, USA

For information: 360 753 5601

<http://www.twinpeaksfestival.com/festival/>

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with "events" in the subject line.



# Searching for Internships

**Lonita Fraser**

## INTERNSHIP

**Schools Without Borders - 3490 Aylmer Montreal, QC Canada**

internship types: Accounting, Social Work, Theater, Drama, Dance, Urban & Regional Planning

Qualifications / skills needed: To be eligible to participate in a SWB seminar; - Applicants must be within the required age range (Kenya: 14-20 & Brazil: 15-20) at the time of the seminar, hold a valid passport; Be in good physical health.

If you would like to apply to participate in a SWB seminar, please complete the online application form.

Description: Canadians place great importance on learning, and have developed a first-rate education system with high standards. The country spends more on education. For nine consecutive years (1994-2002), a United Nations survey found Canada to be among the top three places in the world to live. Conducted every year, the survey evaluates quality of life in 174 countries, using over 200 performance indicators. Canada earned particularly high marks for its access to education, high life expectancy (due to universal health care system); and low crime and violence rates. In addition, Canada's largest cities -- Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal -- have been recognized as world class cities in which to live and work, for their cleanliness and safety and for their cultural activities and attractive lifestyles.

Almost all of the world's ethnic groups are represented in Canada. As a result, most ethnic foods and recreational activities associated with specific cultures are available in Canada. Clubs, informal clubs and associations representing a multitude of ethnic backgrounds are also easily accessible. International student advisors at schools can help students get in touch with such groups. All major urban centres have a variety of shopping malls, restaurants, theatres, art galleries and museums. Canadian cities provide numerous parks, gardens and beaches for public use, as well as excellent sports and recreation facilities.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**Work in a Mobile Dental Clinic in Nepal - Central Nepal (Bagmati): Kathmandu**

<http://www.humanitariantraveltours.com/>

Durations of Program: 1-2 weeks and 2-4 weeks - Work in a mobile dental clinic in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal. Group volunteer dental projects focus on providing first time dental care to orphans, monks and children in need. Projects combine the opportunity to volunteer in a stationary or mobile dental clinic, with an opportunity to trek along the Everest trail up to the village of Khumjung at 13,000ft. The project includes 7 days working in a dental clinic followed by 7 days trekking, plus travel time. In addition to setting up and managing a fully operational dental clinic, volunteers have the opportunity to provide oral hygiene education to children visiting the clinic. In a period of seven days, our dental clinic treats more than 500 children. Over the past three years, our dental clinics have provided first time care to more than 8,000 children in Nepal and surrounding countries. Come and change a child's life!

Qualifications:

- \* You do not need to be a Dentist or Dental professional to volunteer
- \* Dentists, Dental Hygienists and non-medical volunteers are accepted on this project
- \* Willingness to offer your skills and interests to a community requesting help; Flexible and open-minded attitude
- \* Ability to accept direction from Global Humanitarian Expeditions program leaders and local staff leaders
- \* Ability to work as a team member and place the interest of the team ahead of your personal interests
- \* Ability to acclimate to unfamiliar settings and unknown circumstances
- \* Interest in new cultures and unfamiliar lifestyles

Cost in US\$: \$3500 - includes round-trip air from LAX to Kathmandu via Bangkok. Two meals per day during the clinic and all meals during trek around the Everest Region; other days, breakfast only. 3-star hotels (except while trekking / Tea House Accommodation); all air tickets within Nepal; all transfers and sightseeing as listed in detailed project itinerary. Salary / Pay: GHE provides a fundraising kit to help guide volunteers in raising money to pay for their project fee. Contact us to receive a fundraising kit.

This Program Is Open to Families and Couples. Participants Travel to Nepal Independently Or in Groups. Typically Participants Work in Groups of 10-12

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

### Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarships

Funds for these awards are sponsored by Alberta Lottery Fund and administered by Alberta Scholarship Programs. The scholarship was established in honour of Jimmie Condon.

Value: \$1,800

Applicants must be Alberta residents and be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate, professional or graduate program at a university, college or technical institute in Alberta. Students in upgrading programs may qualify after completing one semester of upgrading. A nominee must be a member of a designated sports team or a member of Provincial Disabled Athletic Team recognized by the Alberta Athlete Development Program.

Selection: Students must be maintaining a practice or training program acceptable to their coach. Applicants must have maintained a minimum average of 65% in their previous semester. Students entering the first semester of post-secondary study do not have to meet this requirement.

Application: Individual coaches nominate students.

Deadline: November 1

Disbursement: Two disbursements of \$900 each. The first one in December, the second in March.

Web site: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=30>

### Fellowships for Full-time Studies in French

This program is funded by the federal department of Canadian Heritage and administered by Alberta Scholarship Programs.

Purpose: To assist Albertans in pursuing post-secondary studies taught in French.

Value: \$500 per semester

Applicants must be Alberta residents, Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants, and plan to register full-time in a post-secondary program of at least one semester in length. In addition, applicants must be enrolled in a minimum of three courses per semester which have French as the language of instruction.

Application forms are also available from Alberta Scholarship Programs, and from the Student Awards Office at Alberta post-secondary institutions that offer programs taught in French.

Deadline: November 15

Web site: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/pdf/scholarships/StudiesFrench.pdf>





#### **WIPCE 2005**

Nov 27-Dec 1, 2005 - Hamilton, New Zealand  
<http://www.wipce2005.com/>

Te Wananga o Aotearoa is dedicated to promoting inspirational ideas and practices from Indigenous communities that can be applied on an international scale. It is pleased to host this world renowned gathering of indigenous educators, researchers and students. The 2005 conference is an opportunity for honouring all previous hui (gatherings.) It also creates an occasion for bringing interesting and innovative ideas that evoke inspiration and pride as indigenous peoples.

#### **Cultures of eBay**

August 24-25, 2005 - Colchester, England  
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html>

#### **2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum**

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

#### **The IASTED Conference on Computer Graphics and Imaging CGIM 2005**

August 15 to 17, 2005 - Honolulu, USA  
<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/2005/hawaii/c478.htm>

#### **Nanocomposites 2005**

August 22 to 24, 2005 - San Francisco, CA, USA  
<http://executive-conference.com/>

#### **4th Annual Executive Assistants Forum:**

Maximizing Your Performance and Productivity for Professional Success  
August 16 to 17, 2005 - Toronto, Ont.  
<http://www.insightinfo.com/>

#### **Cultures of eBay**

August 24 to 25, 2005 - Colchester, Essex, England  
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html>

#### **Infectious Disease Review**

August 6 to 13/05 - Cruise sails from Vancouver, BC  
<http://www.continuingeducation.net/>

#### **2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum**

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

#### **National Student Government Summit**

September 8 to 11, 2005 - Washington, DC, USA  
<http://www.asgaonline.com/conferences/national>

### **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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