

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 25 Issue 04 2017-01-27

Meeting The Minds

AU's Writer in Residence, Part II

I Am AU

And so are You

History: Live!

Something Momentous Happened

*Plus:
The Creative Spark!
Dear Barb
and much more!*



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***The Voice
Magazine***

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The Voice is published
every Friday in HTML and
PDF format.

For weekly email
reminders as each issue is
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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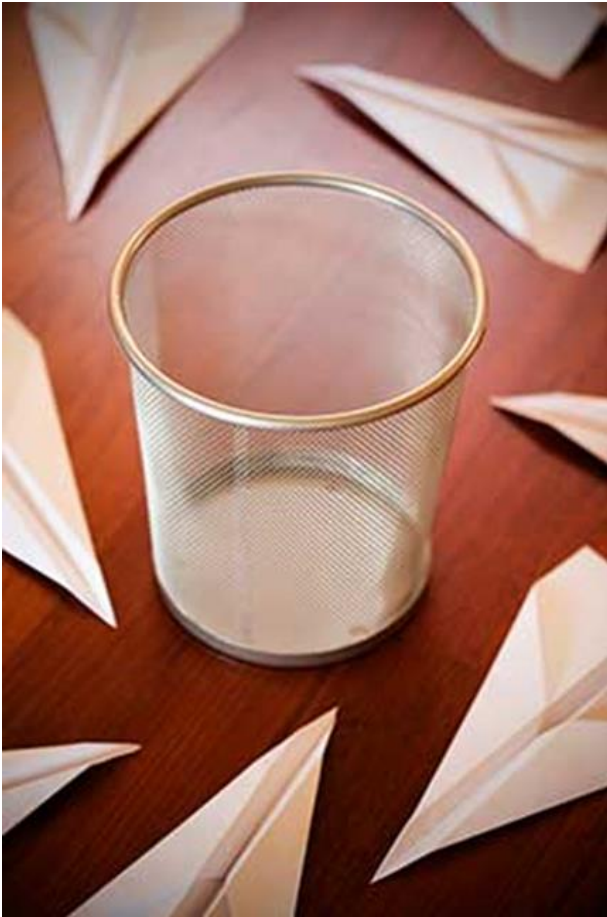
Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a [Facebook](#) page?

No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.

EDITORIAL

Tired of Trump

Karl Low



I'm tired of Trump watching. If you're a news junkie like me, you know there's been wall to wall coverage of pretty much everything the new President does, as well as the reaction to his latest proclamations, but, honestly, I can't be bothered to care anymore. He's evidenced so little knowledge of anything at a broader scale, and his own staff, cabinet, and aides are spending so much of their time busily contradicting him that it's become apparent he's simply a bull in a china shop. Yes, damage is going to be done—but after the initial excitement, it really becomes an issue for animal control. His own staff, cabinet, and aides are busily contradicting him on the worst of his ideas, such as torture. And the world's nations are already taking steps to organize in such a way that the absence of the United States as a force for good in the world is of little consequence, such as Canada and the Netherlands discussing ways that the two countries could make up for the funding for reproductive health that Mr. Trump has threatened around the world.

China is also already taking steps to move forward into a moral leadership role in the world, as bizarre as that may sound, by moving ahead even more strongly with their commitments to address climate change. Admittedly, China has significant incentive to do so, considering that one of the primary causes of unrest in the country is the quality of the air. However, it shows that even if the United States chooses to abdicate its leadership role in the world and concentrate on itself, the world will get along just fine. What changes President Trump will introduce that have lasting consequence outside the United States' borders remain to be seen, but given what the American people, from government employees to cabinet members, to people on the street, have all shown, it seems likely that any damage will be contained.

Some have suggested, that, in line with Canada's 150th birthday this year, if the United States becomes far more protectionist (as an aside, it's always "if", isn't it? That's one of the things that's tired me, because, as with anything coming from President Trump, there are no promises he makes that aren't subject to later "clarification") this may be a time for Canada, a well-developed nation with ample resources and a highly-educated populace to step forward on the world stage. But I'm not sure I agree. It would be nice, but we lack certain things to become the leading force in the world.

Our Prime Minister, for instance, once said that there's no core identity in Canada, only shared values. Much of the media in Canada gaped in horror at such a statement, but is he wrong? Ask an American what makes them an American and you'll likely be told that "being American" does. Ask a Canadian what makes them Canadian, and you'll likely get a list not of geography, but of the things we value – mutual respect, peace, health-care, freedom, etc. However, that very notion makes the idea of Canada being a leader in the world unlikely to me. Leading requires a sense of superiority. Those who choose to lead do so because they believe they have the answers to make things better, but also, that their answers are superior.

As Canadians, I don't think it's a stretch that, like many nations of the world, we're fairly confident that we know how to make the world a better place. At the same time, however, we don't hold that our way is for everyone. In part because, as pointed out above, we don't really have a singular way. To put it another way, we think the world would be better if more people lived like we do in Canada, but do not necessarily think that people would be better off if they became Canadian.

Which is convenient, because even if we were so inclined, our smaller population would make leading on the world stage difficult. We just can't bring the type of economic clout to bear that other, more populous nations can.

However, just because you aren't the lead doesn't mean you're not an important player. And as (or if, grr) President Trump isolates America through protectionist action and stepping back from international involvement, Canada, with its lack of hubris, is excellently poised from being the solid friend and ally of the United States as the world leader to becoming the solid friend and ally of the next nation (China?) or group (EU?) that takes on that mantle. The bottom line is that, for Canada, anyway, I don't expect President Trump will have much of a negative effect on us. So I think I'm going to give up Trump watching. I've got better things to do with my time.

And speaking of those better things (how's that for a segue) this week's issue of *The Voice Magazine* certainly counts as one. Not only do we have the second part of our interview with AU's Writer In Residence, we have a look at what makes an AU student (and when you read it, you'll see what inspired this editorial), a second-look at the new trend of bullet journaling, this time with an eye toward the history and the groups that have formed around it, a question as to when is a book not just a book, and a look at how the women's marches that happened the day after the inauguration may well be setting the course of history for the future.

But if that all sounds too deep, we also have a smattering of lighter stuff, including our humorous look at the letters you wish you would have sent after your last break-up, and of course advice to help your essays stand out, or just to help you get through the day. That, plus news, scholarship, and updates all here to keep you connected with what's going on at AU.

Enjoy the Read!



Women of Interest

Barbara Askins was born in 1939 in Belfast, Tennessee. In 1979, Askins was the first individual woman to be named National Inventor of the Year. She developed a method to enhance underexposed photographic negatives that were basically useless by using radiology. Askins process was employed by NASA, as well as by the medical industry in the development of X-rays. NASA was able to use this process to gather data from underexposed images such as those from deep space. Within the medical industry, physicians were able to read X-rays that were previously unreadable, and, in addition, patients were exposed reduced amounts of radiation. Askins received a patent for her invention in 1978. This invention continues to be used extensively by NASA in their research and development departments.

Further information about Barbara Askins can be found at the following websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Askins

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasacommons/16384897768>

<http://lemelson.mit.edu/resources/barbara-askins>

MEETING THE MINDS

INTERVIEWS with AU's EDUCATORS



Photo by John Sinal

This is part two of The Voice Magazine's Barbara Lehtiniemi's interview with AU's 2016-2017 Writer in Residence, John Vaillant. You can read [part one of the interview here](#).

Mr. Vaillant will give his first AU presentation on February 2, entitled "Reckoning the Present: Mediating the tension between the muse and the news." AU Students are invited to attend in person, by phone, or online.

Your books so far revolve around the intersection of man and the environment. What particularly attracts you to that theme?

I just think it's the dilemma of our times. It's our relationship with nature that keeps us alive. If we don't come to some accommodation with nature, our experience of life is going to change dramatically. There's tension between human goals and the pressing need to maintain natural systems so they can sustain us. I find it the most compelling, powerful issue.

Your last book, *The Jaguar's Children*, is your first fiction book, and in an interview with AU's Heidi Staseson you mentioned another novel in the works. Do you see yourself moving more into the realm of fiction rather than non-fiction?

I really admire Peter Matthiessen, who goes back and forth between fiction and non-fiction. Some stories lend themselves to fiction rather than non-fiction. I'd like to be a competent fiction writer as well as a competent non-fiction writer—both have their place. I think each medium resonates with readers in different ways. It's like taking a boat rather than a car—different vehicles, different ways of approaching a story, and moving through it.

As AU's Writer-in-Residence, you'll be available to give feedback to students on their own writing. What would you personally like to have achieved by the end of your residency?

I would love to connect with students. It would be wonderful if students choose to share their writing efforts. I hope to meet some students February 2 when I'm at the Edmonton campus.

Have you been contacted by any Athabasca University students yet?

One so far.

What is a question from students you don't want to get?

I'm pretty open to questions. Doesn't mean I'll answer, though! I don't have a no-go zone in advance.

How valuable is it for writers to find mentors early on in their career?

I think it really depends on the person. Some prefer to work privately out in the woodshed. Assuming it's work to be shared—to bridge a gulf between people—then you eventually have to show it. It needn't be another writer. Just someone with intelligent interest, someone who can value what you write, be moved by it, be interested in it. If you're an aspiring writer, find someone like that, it doesn't matter whom: a family member, a friend.

If you have a particular goal in your writing, if you want to focus on writing op-eds, or sonnets, or short stories, for example, find a writer who has that skill. Ideally, find someone who can appreciate what you're trying to do and hopefully has the breadth of experience to give you guidance. Above all, read.

The first part of your recent interview with AU garnered a number of harshly negative comments for your views about President-elect Donald Trump. Is that type of criticism something you need to pay attention to as a writer?

Well, if you're going to express opinions, you have to be prepared for that. I haven't seen those comments yet. But I'd be happy to engage anyone in rational dialogue.

How closely do you follow Canadian politics?

Selectively—some issues more than others. For example, I tend to follow policies that affect immigration and the environment. And of course I follow issues on energy for my book.

I'm a bit split between the two political scenes. I was born in the U.S. and many of my views were developed there. But they have evolved a lot since I moved to Canada.

What kind of books do you usually read?

There's not a particular kind of book I read. Right now, I'm reading a biography of Alexander von Humboldt, a late 18th-century explorer. Von Humboldt was one of the first Europeans to recognize that nature was an enormous, integrated system. I'm quite interested in his views and I've been reading some of his original writings, too.

I read poetry often, for its phrasing, structure, and economy of language. And I usually have a novel on the go. But right now, I'm reading mostly about fire and oil.

For more information about John Vaillant, visit his website at www.thetigerbook.com, or visit AU's Writer in Residence [biography page](#).

AU-thentic Events

Upcoming AU Related Events

Critical Thinking Strategies for Graduate Assignments

Tuesday, January 31, 3:00 to 4:30pm MST

Online, Adobe Connect

Hosted by Athabasca University's Faculty of Graduate Studies

fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/

e-mail fgseducation@athabascau.ca to register

Reckoning the Present: Mediating the tension between the muse and the news

Thursday, February 2, 3:00-4:30pm MST

AU-Edmonton, 1222

In-person, teleconference, and online

Hosted by John Vaillant, AU's 2016-17 Writer-in-Residence

writer-in-residence.athabascau.ca/news

no pre-registration required; see link above for connection details

AU Open House Webinar

Thursday, February 2, 10:00-11:00am MST

Online

Hosted by Athabasca University

athabascau.ca/discover/open-house/

register to attend at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8617936234438628611>

second session: Thursday February 2, 6:00-7:00pm MST; register for this session at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7618764938301829123>

Fly on the Wall

What is a Book?

Jason Sullivan



"What is a book?"

"What do you mean, what is a book, it's wood pulped and pressed and imprinted with ink. Your philosophizing is always so preposterous."

"Ok, well, get this. I know a recently-retired professor who cleaned out his office and tried to give away some of his books. Yet neither the local library nor the local used book store would take them. Why? Because they were textbooks. They said they don't 'take' textbooks. So, either textbooks aren't books or there is more to what defines a 'book' than one might assume."

"Huh. Or it's just that no one likes textbooks. Personally, they make me wanna cut class and go ride bikes. Let's go!"

Quotations or no, the above anecdote is true and bears further consideration. Is a 'textbook' not a book? This is a particularly curious question for us as distance education students. We at AU live a double life, in a sense. Family and friends and coworkers all read books, yet, as students, we also read textbooks, and do so with less interruption or instruction from tutors than students from traditional universities. This suggests a unique interaction with our course material. To many, a textbook is different and, being educational, our peers may even classify it as boring. Yet these same peers may spend hours reading about how to undertake a new hobby. But how do textbooks differ from other books? Perhaps textbook/book dualism reflects the subject/object divide; we seek to be the subject of our own lives (for instance by reading books of our choosing) rather than the object of authority (as implied by textbooks in a context of institutionalized education). Perhaps AU students live in the best of both worlds, being as how we interact with course material largely on our own terms and, in a sense, make the textbooks our own.

A brief history is in order. Textbooks, in the modern sense, began to proliferate after 1436, when Joseph Gutenberg created a printing press that drastically increased the speed at which the written word could be produced. As it turns out, he created the printing press to offset a lack of profits in his other business venture, the sale of metal mirrors (Lilly, online). From mirrors to expression, the world appears to have become less about gazing inward and more about pushing oneself out into the social sphere. Certainly we live more in an expressive world in 2017 than ever before; the blogosphere and social media allow anyone to express anything to anywhere.

Simone de Beauvoir, in her classic feminist book *The Second Sex*, suggested that "whatever we perceive, including other people, is rendered as an "object"" to our gaze and is *defined* by us. The very concept of "woman", de Beauvoir argues, is a male concept: woman is always "other" because the male is the "seer": he is the subject and she the object – the *meaning* of what it is to be a woman is given by men (Joseph, online). It could be that a textbook places readers in the "object" position; it demands that we accommodate it on its own terms, and see ourselves as mere receptacles of external information with limited space for creativity or pleasure. For de Beauvoir, "no subject will readily volunteer to become the object, the inessential; it is not the

Other who, in defining himself as the Other, establishes the One. The Other is posed as such by the One in defining himself as the One. But if the Other is not to regain the status of being the One, he must be submissive enough to accept this alien point of view" (de Beauvoir, online). In a struggle for self-definition and autonomy, books as leisure activities appear as effective illustrations of our identity in a way that mandatory textbooks fail to match. While a textbook leads to an exam, a pleasurable read permits the reader to say "I just liked it" rather than explain how or why. The meaning and pleasure of a non-textbook remains a private and internal, and therefore self-defining, aspect of its experience.

So, besides the separation of inward and outward (subject/object) orientation, why does this bifurcation within the world of books exist? It could be that one type receives social sanction and another approbation; after all, isn't school boring? Doesn't it, to use the vulgar term, "suck"? Incidentally, Gutenberg published the first printed version of the *Vulgate Bible*, a version written using the common vernacular of the people. It was termed the "vulgate" because "vulgaris" is Latin for "common" (Stack Exchange, online). Ironically, the term "vulgar" today commonly means uncouth while the term "common" means typical or boring. In a sense the common has become less vulgar while the vulgar has become less common. Perhaps there is a fissure between the common definition of a book and a definition that includes even those "boring" textbooks.

We all know the phrase "you are what you eat" and, depending on the cuisine, the truth of that seeps out of our pores. Perhaps we are also what we read, and, indeed, our essence may be expressed by what literature we imbibe. As distance education students, our academic reading functions primarily to attain a degree and secondarily to attain a job or grow as an individual; it makes us who we are in conjunction with our leisure reading. Lifelong learning has a structure for us, compared to the self-taught student who, though often glowing with knowledge, may have meandered between subjects somewhat haphazardly. Many of us at AU fit both categories; we wouldn't return to school after years or decades away from it if, in our hearts, we did not have a desire to glean knowledge. So we read textbooks for school and enjoy them to various extents. We are what we read in a way that surpasses a simple division of "book" from "textbook".

Casual readers may read fiction for entertainment, self-help books to learn to love themselves or technical books so they can renovate their bathroom. The latter category is of particular interest, given that a book of do-it-yourself instructions bears a striking similarity to a textbook. The cleavage between "book" and "textbook" now seems to narrow.

Robert Pirsig's classic 1974 book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* aptly differentiates two ways of looking at the world: the first technical, the second philosophical. His book combines the vocational abilities of tending to his motorcycle on a father-son road trip with the philosophical considerations of Zen Buddhism and an overall appreciation of nature. Pirsig writes "what we have here is a conflict of visions of reality. The world as you see it right here, right now, is reality, regardless of what the scientists say it might be. But the world as revealed by its scientific discoveries is also reality, regardless of how it may appear ... what you've got here, really, are two realities, one of immediate artistic appearance and one of underlying scientific explanation, and they don't match and they don't fit and they don't really have much of anything to do with one another. That's quite a situation. You might say there's a little problem here" (Pirsig, 1974, p. 51) His solution to the problem is to synthesize these two approaches into a flowing unity. The phrase "wherever you go, there you are" comes to mind: even if you drop your wrench there will still be a mountain vista, even if you miss the boat there will still be a wonderful sunset.

Inhabiting two spheres of mind is nothing new for distance students. We have the external worlds of work and family while also existing in a relatively insular, private, landscape embodying our educational journey. Likewise,

the line between book and textbook is blurred, if not smudged. To anyone who has found time to finish an AU essay before leaving for their day job, this sounds familiar. Our lives are a meeting of realms. In this way, too, the meeting of our minds and bodies represents a dualism within philosophy and thus within life itself.

It seems clear that differentiations between textbook and book are arbitrary and socially-constructed; if we enjoy a book we say we are reading it, if we find a certain book tedious we may ascribe it with the term "textbook". In the end, there are not many types of books but one; our labels are our own, as personal as our choice of school courses or leisure reading. Being as many of us alternate high-minded study of a text to pass a quiz with ostensibly-vulgar activities, like reading a recipe to make a grocery list, we AU students are well-equipped to ascertain the reality of the nebulous realm of what defines the academic versus the practical. What is a book? A book is what we make it out to be, what we think of it. Any reading is better than none, after all, and it's hard to conceive of bad learning. We learn to define ourselves, our subjectivity, by what we read and whether it agrees with us or makes us feel like a mere object of institutionalized knowledge.

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Jason Hazel-rah Sullivan is a Masters of Integrated Studies student who loves engaging in discourse while working in the sunny orchards and forests of the Okanagan.

Student Sizzle AU's Hot Social Media Topics

Following what's hot around AU's social media sites.



AthaU Facebook Group

Megan wants to know how much time she has to re-write an exam. Nadine is seeking an Ottawa-area study partner for 4th year Criminal Justice. Rema wonders what to focus on for the HUMN 201 final exam.

Other posts include NAIT courses, supplemental exams, AU third-party review, ID for exams, and courses ACCT 253, GEOL 313, IDRL 308, NUTR 406, and PSYC 289.

reddit

The Athabasca University subreddit page bursts back into activity with new moderator jacxy. New thread by user cnx35P asks if job prospects change after AU graduation.

Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "Application deadline for the #AthaU 'First in Family to Attend University' award is approaching: <http://ow.ly/KwuB308aKsk> #StudentAward."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Getting your degree parchment soon? Get an @AthabascaU Frame for it! <http://bit.ly/2k0vZBF>."

The Fit Student

Work and Study Nerves

Marie Well



Has work stressed you to the point of quitting?

At work, in the past two weeks, I've sobbed, cringed, laughed, and loved. In the past two weeks, I've worked in marketing, HR, design, and IT. In the past two weeks, my boss threatened to fire me.

But I love it. Previously, career-preference-tests ranked marketing as my dream career. Now I see why. And, I felt no panic—until just a few hours ago. Stress. You see, at my last job, multi-hour panic attacks struck me daily. Devastated, I lost hope—until I discovered a cure: cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) otherwise known as self talk.

Once I discovered the cure—after a year of no anxiety—I returned to work. Now, every lunch hour, I read *CBT at Work for Dummies* by Gill Garrett. With CBT, I talk myself down from daily work stressors. I journal my heartaches at night. I prevent panic from making me a spacey wreck.

My best advice for anxiety? Take those career preference tests seriously—and use CBT. So, what does this have to do with you? Well, I'm going to show you how CBT can help you both at work--and at school. If you let stressors pile, you may find yourself stricken by anxiety. Take care of yourself while you can.

Gill Garrett's work advice appears in bold below. My advice follows.

Comfort of commute can lead to job satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

Use the exam proctor at Athabasca so you can stay at home while writing tests. The thought of traveling to a stuffy exam location stifles and stresses me. You too? Then write exams from home.

Personalize your work area if you can.

Make your study area your own. Hang a picture of your beloveds. Burn aromatherapy. Post a motivational quote.

Write a list about the things you love about your present work. Then make a list of the things you'd love about an ideal work environment. Notice the mismatches.

Similarly, what do you love about your present studies? What would your fantasy study situation look like? I love reading linear algebra on the beaches of Mexico—but you couldn't bribe me to read Bronte or Canadian history. To combat stress, compare the gap between your fantasy and present study situation—adjust accordingly.

You have a mismatch between your values and actions? Stress!

If you value top notch essays, embrace them. But if you write less than your best, watch for stress. Rationalize the mismatch. Say to yourself, *I feel bad, but I'll do better next time. No-one does everything 100%. Besides, I can cope.* Destress yourself.

Take breaks and weekends off. Don't go to work sick.

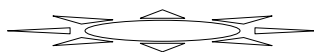
If studies excite you to the point that you pop out of bed in the wee hours, you're on the right track. But if studies threaten your wellbeing, you're ripe for CBT.

Say to yourself, *I feel bad and I don't like my studies. Life isn't fair, but I do have choices. I can try to make things better or I can just accept things as is. Either way, I know I can cope.*

Also, take at least half-a-day off from your studies each week. Go for a thick-topping pizza. See a show. Read Bronte. Every day, get a refreshing dose of sleep. Several days a week, exercise. Every year, travel.

Don't think in "shoulds" or "musts." Don't impose unreasonable demands on yourself. Whenever you stress over a "should" or "must," calm yourself down with CBT. If you get a low grade, say to yourself, *I don't want to get stressed. I don't like my grade, but I can accept that life has pitfalls. Besides, I can still improve on other areas—and, most of all, I know I can cope.*

The more you use CBT self-talk, the calmer you feel. So, destress with CBT to relax jittery nerves.



I am AU



Barbara Lehtiniemi

In her January executive blog, AUSU president Shawna Wasylyshyn asks, "who are the students of AU?" In her capacity as student union council president, Wasylyshyn interacts with countless people in the post-secondary education community. Some, she feels, view AU students as "disadvantaged", "marginalized", or people with "no other choice" but to attend AU.

Like Wasylyshyn, I attend AU by choice. I am surrounded by several worthy universities: McGill, Concordia, Carleton, and the University of Ottawa are all a reasonable commute away. I was accepted by and registered to attend one of those institutions before deciding that AU was a better fit. Far from having no choice, I had my pick and I picked AU.

So, who am I? I'm a mature student—so mature that I'm the parent of a mature student. I've had several careers over my working life. Right now I work part time while I study at AU. I volunteer. I read. I travel. I write. I dream. I'm complex and unique.

As an AU student, I'm motivated. I'm responsible for my own timetable, my own deadlines, my own course in life. I'm independent. I'm focussed. I'm also a procrastinator. I get distracted. What keeps me going? My determination to succeed. My drive to meet my goals.

Am I a typical AU student? There's no such thing. You can analyze the statistics and find the average student but not one single student is average. AU students represent the widest possible demographic. We're everywhere. We're everyone. We're working; we're unemployed. We're successful; we're struggling. We're single, married, childless, grandparents—you name it and we are it. We are each complex and unique.

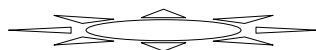
I have no idea who those people are who think AU students are disadvantaged or marginalized—although we can be that too. I've had the privilege of meeting and speaking with many AU students and we resist narrow definition. Wasylyshyn has met many more and finds AU students, "successful, intelligent, entrepreneurial, self-motivated, and driven toward success." It would be difficult to be an AU student without these qualities, yet these are only a small sampling of our attributes.

AU is great for a lot of reasons, and one of those reasons is that AU does not judge anyone. Anybody (over the age of 16) who wants to go to AU is accepted. That's exactly the kind of university I want to go to. If that means that some AU students are "disadvantaged" or "marginalized"—whatever that means—then I celebrate it. Everyone should have the same opportunity for education and AU makes that possible. Maybe some students have "no other choice" but that's the whole point of an open university and doesn't diminish the decision of those who do.

So if someone wants to know who I am: I am AU. And you are, too.

Want to share your thoughts on what defines us as AU students? Visit AUSU's [January executive blog](#) to post your comments.

Barbara Lehtiniemi is a writer, photographer, and AU student. She lives on a windswept rural road in Eastern Ontario.



Canadian Education News

Scott Jacobsen



The Accidental Brain Drain of Canada

According to [University Affairs](#), Adam Crymble described developing in a small town in Ontario, Canada. He felt as though Canadians who moved abroad were traitors in some sense.

"They had shunned our country for monetary gain, or sunshine or fame." Crymble said, "But I've become one of those people – part of the nation's brain drain – and I can assure you that it was entirely accidental."

Hundreds of Canadian citizens travel abroad each year. Some don't come back. In short, we undergo a Canadian

brain drain to other countries. We lose some of our brightest.

U.S. applicants at Canadian universities on the rise

[The Globe and Mail](#) reports that Canadian universities have been a "surge" in applicants from the United States. It is not "that today's students are dodging Donald Trump the way their grandparents dodged Vietnam, university admission experts say."

Rather, according to many Canadian universities, U.S. applicants for the 2017-18 academic year increased by 20% to 80% based on an informal survey by The Globe and Mail. For example, "Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., say they have seen applications from the United States increase by more than 60 per cent."

The source of the uptick in applicants appears to be the successful efforts for recruitment of American students to come to Canadian universities. Also, the drop in the Canadian dollar appears to be an incentive too.

Even with higher education credentials, Asian job seekers face challenges

The Toronto Star notes that a recent study found job applicants with "Asian names and Canadian qualifications" are called less for interviews compared to "their counterparts with Anglo-Canadian names even when they have a better education."

The study examined "interview callback rates for resumés with Asian and Anglo names." Those with Asian names were called less. The size of the company applied to did not affect the outcomes for the number of calls.

A master's degree can increase the Asian candidate opportunities for a callback. However, Anglo applicants with equivalent undergraduate qualifications received much more callbacks. They were better off.



Canadian Science News

Scott Jacobsen



A promising year of science ahead

According to The Manitoban, 2017 is looking to be a promising year for science. Canada will be beginning its search for the Chief Science Advisor. Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, said, "This search for a chief science advisor is a historic moment." The position is critical because of the necessity of science in numerous domains of Canadian science including "health and well-being of Canadians" and "the economy and the environment."

In addition, Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, said two new Canadian astronauts will begin training in August. Also, the Canadian Science and Technology museum will be opening in November.

Science part of Canada's 150th anniversary celebration

The Canadian News Wire (CNW) reports that inventions from Canada have been "changing the world in profound ways." Our brightest scientists have been supported by the Government of Canada whether discovering insulin or stem cells or even the "development of revolutionary smartphone technology."

The Honourable Minister of Science, Kirsty Duncan, along with many thinkers and scientists from Canada, helped launch the Innovation150 at Science World in Vancouver. Minister Duncan talked about the importance of science to the future of Canada.

The Government of Canada wants to "support and celebrate researchers whose contributions help create healthy communities, a strong economy, and a growing middle class." This year-long program will assist in highlighting innovation, science, and technology throughout Canada and in its 150th year.

Science part of Canada's 150th anniversary celebration

CBC says, "A researcher identified a new species of small palm that once grew in Canada after examining a fossil that had been part of an Alberta museum collection for decades." It was a surprise for the researchers.

David Greenwood, Biology Professor at Brandon University in Manitoba, noted that 'We see palms and we think, 'Oh! It was tropical' Well, maybe not.' Palms, typically, are associated with warmer climates such as tropical ones, but these grew "much farther north" than was considered possible.

Apparently, palms lived in temperate rather than tropical "climates 20 million years earlier" than prior records indicated before. Greenwood said there were two levels of specialness to the findings, which were the science interest in climate records via palms and having palms in Canada at all.



History: Live

Deanna Roney



Over the weekend history was made. Millions of women and men marched in solidarity against the threat of oppression. This movement did not only occur in Washington, but around the world. It was reported that groups marched on every continent, including Antarctica where a ship of researchers took pause and gathered in protest, sending pictures to family members who marched in the crowds.

This movement was awe inspiring, to see so many people come together around the world and support this

cause. But it raises the question, where were all these people before? When other rights were being challenged? When minorities were facing subjugation. Perhaps one of the most powerful things were those who stood up and said, thank you for being here, thank you for standing up, now, please stand with us when we need help. Everything within the group (that I saw) was respectful. If anything, it seems that this turmoil in the USA has brought people together. Different minorities are no longer standing alone while trying to change the way the world views them, but are now working with each other. It may be terrifying to witness what is happening in the USA, but maybe *this* is the silver lining.

Throughout history the fight for exposure has been the issue. The suffragettes were silenced by the media, and it took drastic measures to get their word out there. But today, in the world of social media, nothing can stop it. I watched live videos taken during the march. I saw pictures from Antarctica, Paris, Toronto; these images that can be shared immediately give strength to the movement; the ability to gather so many and bond so many together. This weekend was history, history was made, and I hope someone makes a book out of all the signs (or some). Something big needed to happen to incite change, and this may have been the catalyst.

With the power of social media though there is always the other side, the side where marchers are attacked, mocked, or shamed. It is an unfortunate part of being in the spotlight and taking a stand. Things people would

say behind closed doors are aired on social media for everyone to see. Some are vulgar, and some include death threats. However, even in the dreaded comment section, support outweighs hate.

I couldn't help but consider the history I had learned through my *Women's and Gender Studies* courses. The images that felt so powerful, the statements and the hard truths in the flaws with the movements. And I found myself wondering how this was going to be written, what are some of the hard facts that we are missing right now? What are some of the truths that will only be brought to light years down the road? Are there groups that aren't being properly represented? I find the conversations around these (the productive ones) interesting, the acknowledgement of errors made in the past, and apologies for making anyone feel unrepresented.

This moment, like so many that have come before it—though in other forms—is going to continue to grow, change, and teach us. To show us a darker side of society and likely ourselves. Some of change that this movement elicits will be unseen until years later when people are studying it from all angles, with information that we can't hope to see all sides of now. We need to recognize that this movement is important, and should be watched closely.

Deanna is an AU graduate who loves adventure in life and literature. Follow her path on the writing journey at <https://deannaroney.wordpress.com/>



Behind the Bullet Journal

Carla Knipe



January is a time for goal setting, and perhaps one of your goals is to finally get organized. Perhaps you're tired of the fact that your ever-growing list of tasks gets lost among a stack of sticky notes and you're frustrated at losing important bits of information. Or maybe you keep meaning to document all your flashes of genius but those moments end up evaporating before you can write them down. You might think, "if only there was an app for that." But the latest trend in getting organized has gone old-school—in the form of a notebook and a pen. This might seem a step backward, but people are realizing that apps can't do everything. The practice of bullet journaling is filling the void to organize people's lives in a fresh and trendy way.

Bullet journaling is an amalgamation that combines the versatility of the day planner or personal organizer (something that the Filofax craze of the 1980s capitalized on), the practicality of a to-do list, the personality and flair of writing in a journal, and even the documentation of blogging and scrapbooking. The official system for bullet journaling was created by Ryder Carroll, a New York-based designer who has struggled with ADHD since childhood. In interviews, he says that the bullet journal (known as BuJo for short) was developed out of necessity. He struggled to cope with trying to remember and complete daily tasks, so he created an analog planner that let him make visual connections at a glance to simplify what he needed to accomplish. He spent years tweaking his system before launching the trademarked Bullet Journal system about five years ago. Since

then, thousands of people have embraced it with gusto. Ryder's system involves techniques like Rapid Logging, Indexing, Daily and Monthly Logs, Tasks (accompanied by specific symbols called Signifiers to denote the level of completion of that task) and Notes. To understand how to use this system, there are many YouTube videos and online tutorials available to help. Adherents say that it is an effective tool that lets them organize their lives with clarity and direction.

The official system works well for many people and lends itself to a myriad of applications, from artists who are planning projects to career professionals who need to juggle a lot of information at once. But it also works for anyone who wishes to give it a try. There is a huge and unofficial offshoot of the official system where people have taken what works for them from Carroll's techniques but then they customize what they need to find a system that works for them. Bullet journaling has also become a catch-all phrase used to mean any form of journaling that emphasizes condensed information. This short-form of documenting daily life is used in a myriad of ways and new uses are being found all the time. Notebooks have become fitness trackers, reading and television logs, pregnancy records, and even meal plans. They contain inspiration for creative writing or visual art projects, not to mention a place to record those random deep thoughts and doodles that occur throughout the day. People are also free to use their notebooks to write longer paragraphs, but the point is that bullet journaling implies something that is fast and short. It borrows from the micro-blogging world of Twitter and Snapchat and encourages entries that are as short as a sentence or even just a few words. Journaling in short form goes against "traditional" lengthy journal entries but the main advantage for writing little and often is that it takes off much of the pressure of trying to write something profound each time. Short-form journaling can be done on the go and whenever a small amount of time can be found to write, something that appeals to those with busy lifestyles. The requirements are basic, but BuJo'ers say that the choice of both notebook and writing utensil is important. Finding the right tools can make all the difference in sticking with it long term.

But the greater appeal of bullet journaling is that it allows for wide scope for creativity beyond the basics of the plain page. Fine-liner or gel pens, washi tape, stickers, and other embellishments are great additions for those eager to show their creative side, but there is no requirement to get fancy. In fact, getting too artistic might even end up becoming intimidating and a hindrance to those who are new to journaling, which goes against the original intention of making it easy. A quick internet search on bullet journaling will bring up a myriad of examples of how short-form journaling can be used. The community aspect of bullet journaling is revealed through Pinterest, internet forums and online articles. Bullet Journal writers often post examples of their layouts and create printable pages for others to use.

Ultimately, what matters most about this practice is that is not about creating pretty pages but establishing a regular habit. Life coaches and psychologists say that writing in a journal can promote mindfulness, clarity of thought, purpose, and direction. Journaling can also increase mental health and well-being because the act of writing down thoughts and feelings brings them to the surface, which decreases worry and anxiety.

Although the beginning of January is the obvious time to start journaling, it can be started at any time. A notebook and a pen are simple tools on their own but they contain a lot of power to explore new possibilities.

For further reading:

<http://bulletjournal.com>

<http://www.tinyrayofsunshine.com/blog/bullet-journal-guide>

<https://bulleteverything.com>

<http://www.thelazygeniuscollective.com/blog/how-to-bullet-journal>

Carla loves all things paper. She has a habit of impulse buying washi tape, patterned cardstock and other crafty items. She swears she will get around to using her stash...one of these days.

The Creative Spark

Fight for What Matters

Marie Well



Are you a saint at heart?

Sadly, actors shouldn't be saints. You see, when actors do saintly things, they need a motivation: a deep desire, usually selfish or competitive. Why? The silver screen aims for tension, hence the crazy emotions.

As a student, you want to add competitiveness and selfishness (and love) to your essays. Also, sprinkle importance into your essay; in other words, bubble over with emotion for each citation. Why? These tricks create lively writing—like the scripts of blockbusters.

Only plagiarists seek to read your dull essays, but everyone loves to go to the cinema, right? So, if you liven up your essays with dramatic tension, your professors will grade you with gold. The takeaway? Act saintly in real life, but in your essays, unleash your inner martyr.

Michael Shurtleff, author of *Audition*, shares acting advice in bold below. I follow with tips to primp essays for the prima donna performances.

Use subtexts. The actor says one thing, but feels and thinks another way. Try to find the subtext in citations. Maybe a female author says, "liberalism marks a movement of peace," but you see her mugshot setting fire to a Chevrolet and kicking a bank's glass wall while carrying a placard that says, "Love Trump's hate." The author's use of "peace" conceals subtext. Uncover the subtext.

Unselfish motivations create dull scenes. If you selflessly help a fellow student with homework, Mother Teresa may approve, but movie directors won't. Actors want selfish motivations—desires or dreams—to spur them to action, according to Shurtleff. Similarly, when writing your essays, don't selflessly argue that "environmentalism marks the wave of the future." Instead, figure out what benefits environmentalism holds for you personally. Selfish motivations help answer the "so what?" questions.

Games lack fun if void of competition. The same holds with acting scenes. Similarly, your essays should have an element of competitiveness. Compete with the authors you cite. Try to one-up their best ideas. Prop yourself up as a coming expert. Does this seem too harsh? Welcome to the cinemas.

On a brighter note:

Write plays about the most exciting points of the character's life. In your essays, too, focus on the highlights, not the humdrum. Write about Hitler during a battle, not about his preferred brand of deodorant.

But if you must write about his deodorant, then you need the next idea.

Make significant the trivial. Good actors throw fits over missing toothpaste lids. In your essays, shed tears and shout about the cardiovascular system. Have a temper tantrum over an amoeba's life span. A professor threw chairs across a classroom to highlight his key takeaways. Adrenaline? Give your essays equal push.

Remember: great actors find the love. Love the lovable—and the unlovable. Once, I watched a crazy professor dissect a human brain. After he sliced the brain, he laid out human intestines, stretched from one end of the room to the next. His eyes bugged. He frothed. To him, brains and intestines looked like ribeye steaks after weeks of starvation.

I would sign up for his class. So, find the love in your essays. No love? Then discover the tricks to good acting: importance, competitiveness, and selfishness.

A paradox? I call it a creative spark!

Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: Edgar Kerstan Memorial Scholarship, Frank & Betty Woodhams Memorial Scholarship, Mensa Canada Scholarships

Sponsored by: Mensa Canada

Deadline: January 31, 2017

Potential payout: from \$1000 to \$3000

Eligibility restriction: Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a program at a Canadian university, and must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

What's required: A maximum 250-word essay describing your career goals. One essay submission is considered for all three scholarships.

Tips: Read the rules carefully so your application doesn't become one of the 25% disqualified for not following instructions. For inspiration, read the past winners' essays.

Where to get info: www.mensacanada.ca/index-e.html



Dear John: I So Admire Your Big Heart (Passive-Aggressive Break-up Letters)

Wanda Waterman



Dear John,

I'm sorry to have to tell you that this is the end.

I'm breaking up with you because I now know that your heart isn't with me— it's with Annabel. This became glaringly clear tonight at Soupy's after several attempts at a romantic discussion were interrupted by her texts— texts that apparently had to be answered right away. I felt like a fool sitting there all gussied up with my carefully engineered cleavage while all your spellbound attention was being funneled into a little black smartphone.

But I must say, I so admire your big heart! You've fallen for a woman with an anteater's nose, little red pig eyes, and a

shapeless body, a woman who doesn't know who Tolstoy was, a woman who's been deliberately unemployed for the last ten years and who does nothing but whine about her revolving-door love life. It takes a very special man to love a woman like that.

You've done a wonderful thing by being her shoulder to cry on, her savior, her faithful knight. I see it as just one more sign of your generous nature. I do hope that you and Annabel will be very happy together.

Gorgeous, affluent, and brilliant,

Jane

Conspicuously positive outcome: *Jane moved to Toronto, where she quickly climbed to the top of the career ladder. She soon cultivated a small circle of the most enriching friends imaginable, all of whom thought the world of her. When John saw vacation photos of her on Facebook, surrounded by beautiful people in Cuba, he went on a bender. He went to Annabel for sympathy, but things got awkward fast. As usual he blamed his troubles on God, asking, "Why me, Lord?" until his friends were sick of hearing it.*

Dear Walt,

So sorry, darling, but this just isn't working for me. The fact that my birthday, our relationship anniversary, and Valentine's have passed without so much as a bouquet— well, it kind of says something, doesn't it?

But you know what else says something? Your good manners. You're so kind and considerate of others that it blows me away sometimes. For example, when Shirley waits on us you always smile and joke with her, and then when we get up to leave you stand close to her, lean in, joke some more, and give her a huge tip; all of these things just go to show how very gracious and thoughtful you are.

Apparently Shirley also thinks highly of your thoughtfulness because last night when we were sitting there talking and eating our gumbo she stared at us constantly. And when she came over, interrupted our discussion, and began talking to you, completely ignoring me, it was clear that your charm and politeness really meant a lot to her.

You allowed her to stand there and talk with you for twenty minutes. Amazing! What kind of man has that kind of patience? I thought it as good a time as any to go to the loo, but when I came out she was still there. Afterward, when I asked you what she talked about you told me she was sharing her frigidity issues. When I pointed out how inappropriate it was for her to be discussing this with a man she barely knew, a man who was *en couple* to boot, while ignoring the other customers, you quickly came to her defense, saying she was suffering, the poor thing, and that I was being a battle axe. My hero!

I respect your compassion. I don't think I've ever met someone who could be so considerate of others, with your kind words, tender smiles, and big tips. It's not many men who would care about a bubblehead waitress who clothes her obscenely gargantuan derriere in leopard pattern stretch pants. But *you* do, Walt— you alone seek to understand her and listen to her problems while keeping your girlfriend waiting.

Smiling approvingly as I head out the door,

Ethel

Conspicuously positive outcome: *After reading this letter Walt went to the restaurant alone. He found tons of sympathy from Shirley and the two of them felt much better after ripping Ethel apart for her selfishness, jealousy, and lack of understanding. Soon Shirley left her unemployed husband for Walt, but when she discovered that his income was only enough to pay for rent and smokes she started nitpicking about little things. And contrary to both of their expectations, the iceberg didn't thaw with a change of current. When Walt heard about how happy Ethel the nymphomaniac was with her new Latin boyfriend he wanted to kick himself.*

Dear Gerald,

Yes, you're a regular Jean-Claude Van Damme, but sorry, finding hardcore porn on your smartphone— well, that's a dealbreaker.

At the same time, kudos to you! For a guy that can get his rocks off almost every month you still have enough strength leftover to drive you to porn sites. So much testosterone, so little time!

I can't fail to marvel at the libido of a guy who can engage in occasional sex with a real woman and still have enough fire left in the furnace for virtual online B&D orgies. What a man!

Gaping in admiration,

Suzette

Conspicuously positive outcome: *Suzette remained celibate until she met an ex-Doukhabor who'd never seen pornography. They married and got their rocks off three times a day. Gerald's porn habit left him impotent and so dullwitted he lost his data-handling job and had to move back home with his parents.*

Dear Bob,

I'm breaking up with you, honey. Yes. Why? Because every single time your "buddy" Natalie finds us she snubs me, throws her arms around you, holds you close, kisses you, and calls you her "poopsie-pie" while both of you giggle.

Yesterday when I blew up at you about this, you said, "But it's okay, because you're right there! At least we're not doing it behind your back!"

I was so glad to discover you felt that way, because for the longest time I've felt guilty about making out with your friend Brad in secret. That's why I'm enclosing this video.

Now that I know how you feel about these things, I'm fine. It's okay because you can watch us. Enjoy.

Rollin' in my sweet baby's arms,

Emily

Conspicuously positive outcome: *Jim went over to Brad's place in a rage. He didn't find Emily there, but he did find Natalie. He tried to give her a hug but she waved him away, saying, "Oh, no, I couldn't do that in front of Brad. It would hurt his feelings."*

Emily continued to play the field.

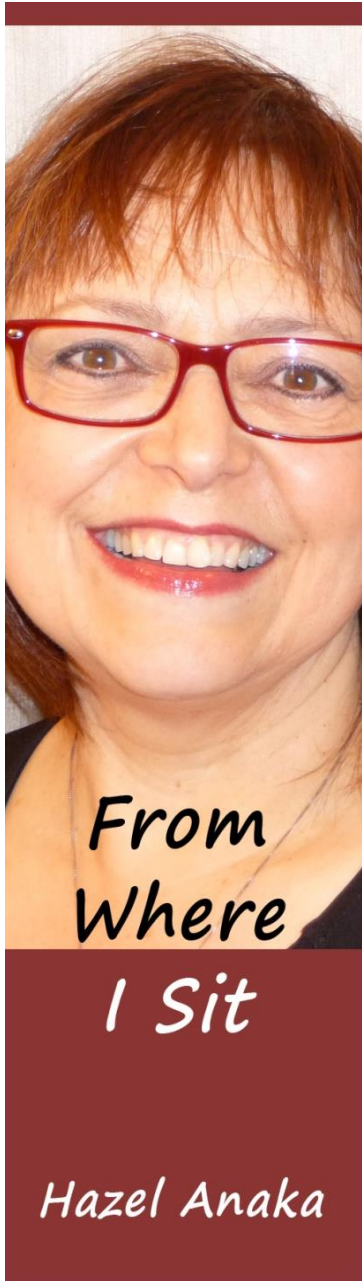
Wanda also writes the blog *The Mindful Bard*: [The Care and Feeding of the Creative Self](#).

From the PSE Newsdesk

What's making the news in Post-Secondary Education.



Truth and Reconciliation. University of Toronto is contemplating recommendations to increase the number of indigenous students, hire more indigenous faculty, establish indigenous spaces on its campus, and boost indigenous curriculum. As reported in a recent Toronto Star [article](#), the U of T's Truth and Reconciliation Steering Committee recently completed a [125-page report](#) which includes recommendations prompted by the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report. Some of the TRC report recommendations were directed squarely at post-secondary education institutions in Canada; U of T is one of several Canadian universities considering or implementing positive changes in response to the TRC.



Shhhh!

I don't often get to read *The Globe and Mail* but a lifestyle piece in the March 1, 2016, issue grabbed me by the lapels. Could this woman's simple story provide another clue into my own makeup and very being? Naturally, I couldn't leave it alone and like so many times in life, one thing led to another.

The piece referenced a 2012 bestseller by Susan Cain called *Quiet*, which I promptly bought. That purchase led to two others, an awakening, and several "well, duh" moments. Over several months, I read all three and began seeing myself in a new and kinder light.

Frankly, I'm both shocked and relieved that parts of my essence are still being revealed to me at this point in my life. I'm well past the coming-of-age age. Maybe, if we're lucky and stay alert, revelations continue until that last deathbed moment.

The books I read were *Quiet-The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*, *Introvert Power-Why Your Inner Life is Your Hidden Strength* (Laurie Helgoe), and *The Irresistible Introvert-Harness the Power of Quiet* (Michaela Chung).

So, my secret's out. Despite doing some very extroverted activities (speaking to large groups as a marriage commissioner/funeral celebrant and appearing on TV and radio through my festival coordinator duties) I skew to the introvert end of the personality continuum. According to Helgoe, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator model shows 57% of people are introverts. Yet, we are marginalized and made to feel weird. In fact, in 2010 attempts were made to "include introversion as a diagnostic indicator for certain mental disorders" in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*.

Cain says, "Introversion—along with its cousins: sensitivity, seriousness, and shyness—is now a second class personality trait, somewhere between a disappointment and a pathology."

To be clear, all of us have both introvert extrovert aspects to our personalities. Those of us who are drained versus energized by social interaction are introverts.

Those of us, who love our own company, choose reading over partying, and need to retreat to recharge are introverts. We tend to be innovators, thinkers, creators. We don't hate people. We simply do better in small gatherings or deeper one-on-one conversations than in large groups. We prefer email to the phone. We prefer offices to open concept cube farms. We are more sensitive to smells and noise. We are sensitive, period. We reflect, see patterns, are drawn to the inner world of our own minds.

Despite all that, society pressures us to "loosen up, have a little fun, come out for a drink, don't think so much, stop being so sensitive." I've said and thought the same, to and about myself (and others). That's bullshit.

But, that was then. Now, I find myself working introversion into conversations or writing this column in another attempt to spread the word. Regardless of where you fall on the spectrum, give yourself the gift of awareness. Treat those who are different than you with new insight. And now, if you don't mind, I'd rather be alone, from where I sit.

Hazel Anaka's first novel is *Lucky Dog*. Visit her [website](#) for more information or follow her on Twitter @anakawrites.



Dear
Barb

Barbara Godin

In the Long Term

Dear Barb:

I am a part time student at AU and I work part time and have two children. I have been taking courses for five years and I'm only half way to earning my degree. To be honest, I'm starting to burn out. My parents help me out financially, and I receive child support payments from my ex, but I'm still struggling. Some days I just feel like giving up and going to work full time. I know I could get a job that would double my income right now. Everyone says I'm just going through a low period and that I need to stay on track towards my goal, that's easier said than done. I have been considering taking a year off and going to work full time. The extra money will make my kids lives easier as well as mine. I'm sure there are other students in the same situation, how do they get through these rough spots. Thanks, Pam.

Hi Pam:

What you are feeling is perfectly normal, but you need to stay on track towards your goals. I'm sure you are right that you could get a job that would make your life easier now, but you are sacrificing your long term goals. Statistics show people who have college or university degrees earn a considerably higher income than those without a degree. Perhaps you could cut back the number of courses you are taking. Give yourself a bit of a break, but I would not advise you to completely stop taking courses for a year. It will be too easy to give it all up. Stay on course, I think it's just the halfway point that you are finding difficult.

Soon you will be closer to the end than the beginning. Maybe some students could write in with some tips on how they are managing to get through these rough spots. Good Luck Pam.

Dear Barb:

The husband of a very good friend of mine recently passed away and no one let me know. I am just devastated that the wife did not call me to tell me he had passed. I knew Gerry was sick, but I didn't think he would go this fast. Can you believe someone would be so inconsiderate? Tracy.

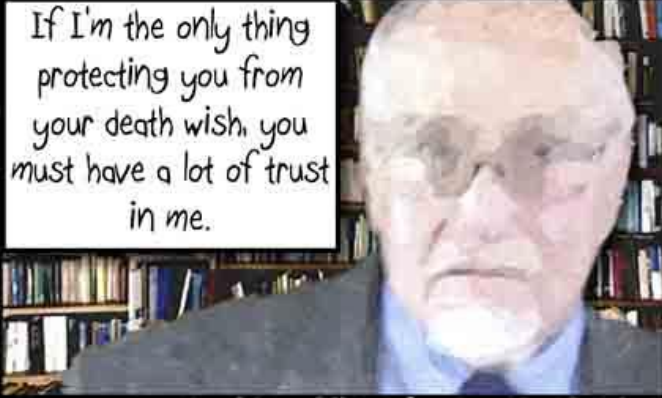
Hi Tracy:

When a family member is very sick, those closest to them are often completely focused on caring for them, and keeping others informed is not foremost in their mind. Frequently families will appoint someone to keep friends and family up to date. Obviously this didn't happen in this case. Do not consider your friend inconsiderate for not informing you of her husband's passing. I'm sure it was not intentional, as she was consumed with more serious things at the time. Let it go and offer support to her and her family, as this is a very difficult time for them. Thank you for your letter Tracy.

Follow Barb on twitter @BarbGod

Email your questions to voice@voicemagazine.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.

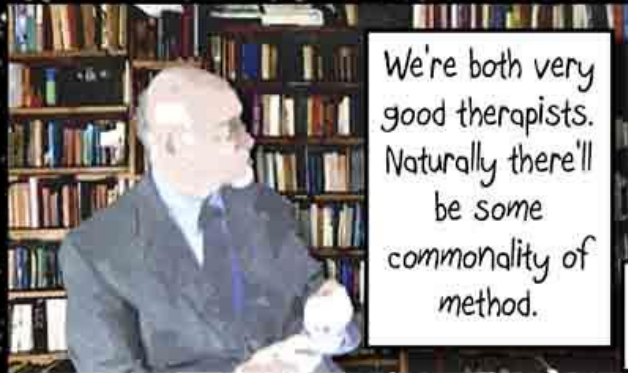
If I'm the only thing protecting you from your death wish, you must have a lot of trust in me.



Of course he has. What kind of intelligence?

Indications of a strong connection between all you holoshinks.

And why do you find that so surprising?



We're both very good therapists. Naturally there'll be some commonality of method.

Yes and no. Dewey's been picking up some rather surprising intelligence on his ham radio.

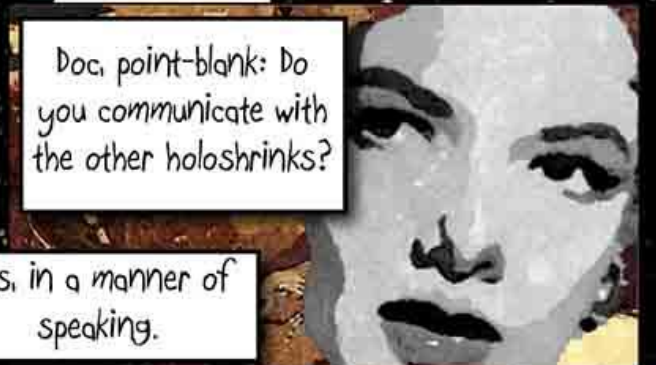


You're supposed to be products of our individual psyches, but you and Dr. Ekberg hand out the same advice!



Doc, point-blank: Do you communicate with the other holoshinks?

Yes, in a manner of speaking.



In exactly what "manner of speaking?"

You'll understand soon. Do you still trust me?

I have to. You're my lifeline.

Good.

In our next session I'm going to begin pulling you to safety.

Bring your cello.





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Staff and Council Fun Facts

AUSU currently has 8 councillors and 4 staff members. Here are some fun facts about the people who represent you!

AGE: The average age of AUSU staff and council is 34.

LOCATIONS:

Alberta (Calgary, Edmonton, St. Albert, Duffield);
British Columbia (Fort Langley, Prince George);
Ontario (Ridgeway)
Nova Scotia (Barton)

FAMILY AND PETS:

Children: 17
Dogs: 5
Cats: 6
Birds: 1
Guinea Pigs: 2
Rabbits: 2
Lizards: 1
Fish: 37



COURSES:

AU Courses Completed: 196;
AU Courses in Progress: 16

CREDENTIALS: Administrative Assistant Diploma, Associate Degree in Audio Engineering, Bachelor's Degree in English (x2), Bachelor of Applied Science in Geological Engineering, Business Planning Coach Certificate, Certified Associate in Project Management, Certified Association Executive, Certified Professional Bookkeeper Designation, Child and Youth Care Diploma, Management Diploma, Music Diploma, Ontario Land Surveyor designation, Police Foundations Diploma, Social Media Marketing Certificate (x2),

Visit our website [here](#) for more info about staff and council!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jan 31:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for March](#)
- **Feb 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Mar 1](#)
- **Feb 15:** [February degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Feb 16:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)
- **Feb 28:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for April](#)
- **Mar 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Apr 1](#)
- **Mar 15:** [April degree requirements deadline](#)

Bursaries Available

AUSU has numerous [bursaries](#) that are available year-round to AUSU members in financial need.

Computer Bursary - Do you need a new computer to do your AU studies, but cannot afford one? The AUSU Computer Bursary provides students in need with brand new laptops worth up to \$800!

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AUSU Bursary

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THE VOICE

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www.voicemagazine.org

The Voice is published every Friday in HTML and PDF format.

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