

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 25 Issue 30 2017-07-28

### Minds We Meet

Interviewing Students Like You!

### Appealing the Unappealing Grade

The Undeserved Mark

### Street Food Concept

A Pictorial Look at Asian Street Food

Plus:

*Council Connection, July 11*  
*Green Alleys in Pictures*  
*and much more!*



# CONTENTS

*The Voice's* interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.

## Features

Minds We Meet: *Leah Campbell, Future Lawyer* ..... 5

## Articles

Editorial: *Breaking News* ..... 3

Appealing the Unappealing Grade ..... 7

Don't Reinvent the Wheel ..... 10

Street Food Concept..... 11

In Praise of Green Alleys..... 20

## Columns

The Fit Student: *Beaten by Big Bucks* ..... 9

Fly on the Wall: *The Few, the Proud, the Essence of AU* ..... 14

Council Connection: *July 11, 2017 Meeting* ..... 17

The Creative Spark: *Flashy Trash*..... 19

From Where I Sit: *Gotta Love It*..... 23

Dear Barb: *Temporary Relationships*..... 24

## News and Events

AU-Thentic Events ..... 15

Women of Interest ..... 18

Scholarship of the Week..... 22

Student Sizzle..... 25

AUSU Update ..... 27

## Graphic

All the Music be Happenin' Now: *pg 5* ..... 26

***The Voice  
Magazine***

[www.voicemagazine.org](http://www.voicemagazine.org)

301 Energy Square  
10109 – 106 ST NW  
Edmonton AB  
T5J 3L7

Email  
[voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org)

**Publisher**

AU Students' Union

**Editor-In-Chief**

Jodi Campbell

**Managing Editor**

Karl Low

**Regular Contributors**

Hazel Anaka  
Barb Godin  
Barbara Lehtiniemi  
Scott Jacobsen  
Carla Knipe  
Deanna Roney  
Wanda Waterman

View and articles presented  
here are those of the  
contributors and do not  
represent the views of AUSU  
Student Council

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

For weekly email  
reminders as each issue is  
posted, fill out the  
subscription form [here](#).

*The Voice* does not share  
its subscriber list with  
anyone. Even I don't look  
at it. It's all on auto.

© 2017 by *The Voice  
Magazine*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

***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

### Breaking News

Karl Low



Just today, the new AU Executive blog was put up, and in it, President Shawna Wasylyshyn outlines a couple of upcoming changes to the fees that AU students will have to pay. The first is that the tuition for international students is being given a "market adjustment", which essentially is business-eze for "significant price increase because we think people will be willing to pay that much more." AUSU used its presence on the committee to amend the increase so that it at least did not apply to international students already enrolled in an AU program.

The second, more substantial change, is a change to the learning materials fee. In the past, AUSU has argued on multiple occasions against AU's one-size-fits-all learning resources fee. The arguments against it have been multiple.

First, that the fee, being required, limits student options in finding cheaper options for their texts. This became more acute once AU moved to e-texts, an option that many students find difficult to use, forcing them to purchase their own text anyway.

Second, it limits options for educators, as there is pressure for them to ensure that the costs of the textbooks they use are as

low as possible, rather than simply being the best text to aid in teaching the material.

The third argument made was that the one-size-fits-all fee was essentially forcing students taking courses that have lower-cost course materials to subsidize those students in courses where the texts are more expensive.

AU has always been reluctant to go this route, however, as part of the learning materials fee also goes to cover the AU produced materials, such as your study guide. In addition, I always thought that part of their reluctance was knowing that some courses made a notable profit on the learning materials, and it would be difficult to give that up.

Until now, that is. AU has finally decided to stop including text-books in its learning materials fee, and has reduced the fee by \$50 as a result. This means that we now pay \$130 for the AU produced materials, but are free to seek out the texts from any provider we can find. No doubt that some students will see this as a bad deal, especially those students in disciplines where the normal cost of their textbook is higher than \$50.00. Many others, however, will find this to be a boon, especially those who would be purchasing a paper text in any event, or those in courses that have limited outside materials used.

I expect there will be a secondary boon that many students will not notice. With the separation of learning materials and textbooks, we can be hopeful that this will allow AU to update courses more frequently based

on changes in knowledge, and so no longer will we have courses trying to teach us using technologies that are already obsolete and difficult to find.

This will also free course designers to consider the full range of texts that are available when creating courses, and not be constrained to those that can fit within the learning fee. With the constantly rising cost of textbooks, this is something that will become increasingly important if we want AU to continue to deliver a top-quality education, and I expect was at least a portion of what has caused AU to finally change its tune on this matter. It also become more difficult to have a one-size-fits-all learning resources fee if AU follows the advice of the *Independent Third Party Review* and starts creating a larger variety of courses rather than the current standard of every course is a six month course with a certain number of educational hours expected.

Overall, I think the change is a necessary one, and while some students will undoubtedly find their education is going to cost them more than they previously expected, I hope that the benefits students will see in the quality of their courses following this change will make up for the difference. I had some truly bad text-books throughout my degree (usually they were computer science texts for some reason) and if paying a bit more means students get a text-book that's helpful in the learning process, as opposed to one that's simply frustrating, that may well be worth it.

Meanwhile, our feature in *The Voice Magazine* this week is an interview with Leah Campbell, Bachelor of Arts student, former police liaison, and future lawyer. She explains why AU is the right fit for her and how her favorite book is a recipe book. Once you read this week's "Minds We Meet", you'll understand why.

We also have a look at the grade appeals process, from someone who's been through it, successfully. If you received a grade you really think you didn't deserve (as opposed to simply didn't want), this may well be the article for you.

But what this issue really has is pictures. Xin Xu gives us a literal look at street food from the far east. Including a drinkable soup-bun that, to me, looks like it's slightly obscene. Perhaps that says more about me than the bun, but there it is. Also, Wanda Waterman also gives us a number of pictures showing off one of Montreals' Ruelle Verte, or green alleys.

On top of that, we have the usual selection of thoughtful and thought-provoking columns, from a Fly on the Wall exploring the essence of what it is to be an AU student, to a Dear Barb letter from someone who's taken up being an escort to pay for school, and worries about what repercussions this might have with friends and family. Plus we look at the AUSU Council Meeting of July 11th and the new pharmacy plan AUSU is bringing forward, a hidden scholarship treasure for AU students, some new AU events for next week, a Creative Spark! that trashes trashing anything, and more.

But I should note that next week, I'll be taking a short break to recharge the creative batteries and get some long-delayed chores taken off the plate. This means that there'll be no new issue of the Voice Magazine for August 4th. But since August 7th is the civic holiday for much of Canada, I expect you'll be out camping or doing other things that wouldn't let you read it anyway.

We'll return the week after, with the next issue of The Voice Magazine coming to you on August 11th.

So, until then, enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

# MINDS WE MEET



*Leah Campbell is finishing up her first year in the 3-year Bachelor of Arts program through AU. She was born in Brandon, Manitoba, the second largest city in Manitoba and a constant list maker for one of the top 10 places to live in Canada. She has lived in Brandon almost her entire life, except for the last year, which she spent on a farm in Austin, MB.*

## **What has your post-secondary journey looked like?**

This is my first ever post-secondary experience. I graduated high school in 2004 and finally made the decision that it was time to pursue bigger and better things. My goal is to complete my 3-year program and then apply to law school at the University of Manitoba. I have wanted to become a lawyer since I was around 18. Straight out of high school I landed an awesome job at the Brandon Police Service, where I rose through the ranks as a civilian member and ended with a senior specialist position in the Court Unit. I was the liaison between the police service and the Crown Attorney's office. It was an awesome job, but after 10 years there I knew I had maxed out my potential and reached the top.

## **Who in your life has been the greatest influence on your desire to learn?**

I was very fortunate growing up, both of my parents were school teachers. My brother and I had strong values entrenched in the gathering of knowledge because of this. But if I had to pick one person, I would say my mom. She has been the biggest influence on the person I have become. We lost her to a 7-year battle with cancer in 2011. She was the toughest, sweetest, and most loving

person. She wanted nothing more than for my brother and I to reach our highest potential, and, of course, be happy.

## **Why did you choose AU?**

Choosing AU was easy. I am a single mom of two beautiful children and could not have gone to university any other way! AU is the only online university in Canada at this level!

## **What parts do you like about online learning through AU?**

The best things about AU online is the fact that you can work school around a hectic schedule. I often find myself dividing my studying time into chunks of the day when the kids are at school, or asleep, or playing with friends. I have always preferred to work at my own pace and AU allows me to do that. I love myAU portal—all

the information needed is right in front of you and easy to find. I was so nervous in my first semester to apply for exams and submit assignments, but any questions I had I could find the answers to in a second!

**How do you motivate yourself when it comes to studying?**

Motivation is probably the thing that distance education students struggle with the most. I have a knack for organization, and, before starting any course, I go through the study guide and my calendar and make a plan. I always make sure I leave some wiggle room for the unexpected, and lots of time for assignments so I don't get frustrated or discouraged. Time organization is key! If something happens one day that impedes my ability to study as planned, I schedule myself in for extra time the next day.

**What has been your favourite or most memorable AU course?**

So far, I'd have to say that my favorite course is Psychology of Criminal Behaviour (CRJS360). I'm not done it yet (still have my final exam to write), but the units have been so interesting, and I have gotten my best marks ever on the assignments! It's the first class where my worst mark so far is 91% (not to brag or anything, but I'm super proud!). My good marks are a reflection of how interesting I find the course material and my ten years at the Brandon Police Service definitely gave me a leg up!

**Describe your relationship with AU tutors.**

I've really lucked out with nice, professional, and efficient tutors thus far. I don't usually have to wait more than a few days to get assignments marked, and the feedback has always been really helpful. They have a tough job to do! I don't bug them too much with questions but I'm sure other students do and they deserve our appreciation for the job they do.

**What do you like to snack on while studying?**

I love to cook and bake for my family so there is always an array of goodies to snack on from the kitchen! But my ultimate study snack is coffee with some sort of flavoured creamer in it. I would not be able to start my day without a nice cup of joe!

**What is your mantra in life?**

I don't know if this counts as a mantra or not, but it is my favorite and something my mom always taught us to live by. I know it is actually a prayer found in the Bible, but we just omitted the word "God" from the start. "Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". After my mom died, I actually got that tattooed on my back in her honour.

**What is your favorite book and why should everyone read it?**

I honestly don't think I'd be able to pick just one book, or even a top five! I have a big bookshelf collection of books I've read and I spent some time scanning the titles and I don't think I could pick a favorite. I love cookbooks, and gardening books, and fantasy-style books and spy books and non-fiction, etc. I read a lot! I guess my favorite book, of sorts, would be the book of recipes my mom wrote out for me when she started to get towards the end of her battle. She wrote out all my favorite recipes that she cooked while I was growing up and some family recipes that she wanted me to have. I try to cook something from it at least once a week. It is a beautiful thing to have and a great memory of my mom!

**Book or movie – which is better?**

Depends on the mood I'm in. A movie is great when you're tired and don't want to really think - just want it to "happen" to you. Books are more often my choice because it's a workout for your imagination! I also like to have read the book first, and then see the movie, but I often find that I am disappointed, in casting especially.



When you read the book, you have a picture in your mind of what all the characters look like, and movies usually don't live up to the standards of my imagination!

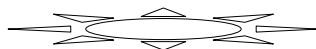
### **Where is the furthest place you have traveled?**

The furthest place I have traveled is Jamaica and I loved it. Rich culture, beautiful beaches, and my favorite thing: the ocean! My favorite place I have traveled to is in Canada: Prince Edward Island. I went out there for my cousin's wedding and, wow! The seafood, the beaches, the lighthouses, and best of all, you can cover the entire province in a few days by driving. I recommend spending at least a week there. There is so much to see!

### **If you won the lottery and could only spend on items that started with the same letter as your first name, what would you buy?**

One word – luxury -- Luxury car, luxury house, luxury vacation! Just kidding - I would say "land" - would love to own a parcel somewhere and have a hobby farm.

*Laura Nelson is a marketing analyst by day and a bibliophile by night. She is in her final stages of completing her BA with a major in English through AU.*



## **Appealing the Unappealing Grade**

**Barabara Lehtiniemi**



Have you ever received a mark that you thought was low? Not just disappointingly low, but undeservedly low?

I received a mark like that recently, a dismal 70% on an essay, which was worth 25% of the final course mark. I've written many essays for many AU courses. Usually I have a good sense of what mark an essay will garner when I submit it. The first essay for a course is the most difficult to gauge, but once I get to the third essay, as in this case, I've figured out the tutor's marking style and the marks an essay is likely to produce.

When my essay came back with only 70%, it was far below my own assessment. While I knew it was not my best essay, it was a far cry from my worst. I'd never received a mark so low for that type of assignment.

After carefully reading the tutor's comments on my essay, reviewing the course manual and the assignment instructions, and re-reading the essay itself, I decided to appeal the mark.

AU's Student Appeals Policy allows students to appeal a mark they believe is inappropriate. Students can appeal their marks for course components which contributed to the final grade, including essays, assignments, exercises, and exams.

Appeals can be made on substantive or procedural grounds. Substantive grounds means the student believes the mark was based on something other than academic achievement, that the evaluation standards applied



differ from those in the course syllabus, or that the evaluation standards applied are unreasonable or differ from those described in the course manual. Procedural grounds means the student believes a university policy or procedure has not been followed in the assignment of a grade. Most appeals are on substantive grounds.

An appeal on substantive grounds is not something undertaken lightly. It's not whether or not you're happy with the mark you received, but whether you truly believe the mark is out of step with the value of the work you submitted. When considering an appeal, keep in mind that the result may not be a higher grade: the grade could remain the same or even be lowered.

The appeals policy lays out the steps a student can take when appealing on substantive grounds:

**Step 1 - Request for an Informal Review by Marker.** Within 30 days of receiving the grade, contact the person who marked it and ask for a review. You must explain on what grounds you are appealing, so read the policy carefully. If the marker doesn't believe you've established sufficient grounds for the appeal, they can decline to proceed with the appeal. If the marker accepts your appeal, they will re-mark your coursework and assign a grade which can be higher, lower, or the same as the original grade. The marker has 10 business days to respond to you with a decision.

**Step 2 - Appeal to Course Coordinator.** If you are not satisfied with the decision arising from step one, you can go up the chain of command. You have 30 days after receiving the step one decision to pursue step two. Look up the [course coordinator](#) for the course and contact them with your reasons for making a further appeal. The course coordinator can review and remark the coursework under appeal, assign another marker to remark it, or decline to proceed if they believe sufficient grounds have not been established. The course coordinator has 10 business days to provide you with a decision.

**Step 3 - Appeal to the Dean.** If you're still not satisfied after step two (and you're really confident your appeal has merit), you can appeal to the top cheese. Look up the [dean](#) responsible for the course, and contact them in writing with your reasons for making a further appeal. As with the first two steps, the student can expect to receive a decision within 10 business days. The decision of the dean is final, and no further appeal can be made.

For my appeal of an essay mark, I went through steps one and two. The result of step one was an increase of the assigned mark from 70% to 75%. After careful consideration, and feedback from a non-AU-related reader of my essay, I made a further appeal to the course coordinator. Step two resulted in a minor boost to 76%.

While the ultimate mark my essay was awarded is still unsatisfying, 76% is still better than 70%. After careful consideration, I decided not to appeal further.

I'm glad I pursued the appeal. I found the process a bit time-consuming, but fair. The appeal process was easy to follow and those involved were respectful.

The decision to appeal a mark is difficult. When a student makes an appeal, they are, in effect, questioning the marker's judgement. If you plan to appeal, take the time to understand the process and the possible outcomes. Avoid firing off your appeal in a huff after receiving a disappointing mark. You have 30 days to launch your appeal, so you have ample time to reflect. Read and follow the [Student Appeals Policy](#) carefully. And good luck!

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

## The Fit Student Beaten by the Big Bucks

Marie Well



Have you felt torn by dollars? Have you ever got stuck with so much cash that you lost zest? Well, many have been beaten by the big bucks.

I landed a job that paid handsomely. So handsome, my belly protruded. My brand-new clothes no longer zipped. My face popped with double-layer butter and double-scoop butterscotch cones.

At nightly movies, I crashed. I slept through Bollywood, through Hollywood, through Korean subtitles. I opened my eyes just to fetch refill tubs of coke. Another source of guilt.

With so much cash, I lost my sparkle. New books no longer thrilled. The Steve Martin Masterclass failed to lure. What I once awaited with baited breath, I now got with a dull sigh.

But I'm not alone.

Depression strikes many who win lotteries, who claim inheritances, or who sell businesses, says Shane Snow in his book *Smartcuts*. In other words, too much cash can choke your mojo.

In a Buddhist audiobook by Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, the narrator spoke of the worried wealthy. He said the rich panic over threats of theft, over stocks and bonds, over stock prices plunging. The simple life leaves less to lose.

Even MJ DeMarco (author of *The Millionaire Fastlane: Crack the Code to Wealth and Live Rich for a Lifetime*) argues that problems stem from poverty *and* from wealth. He prefers the problems wrought from riches.

But sometimes poverty reaps rewards. When my job ended, I lost weight. My size 5 closet once again fit. A single Amazon book delivery felt like Christmas Eve. And, yes, the hunger returned—for the little stuff, not the non-stop buffets.

But we also hunger for pleasures Amazon can't deliver: goals we failed to achieve. That PhD. That win on the wrestling team. That documentary film project. Yet, they're all still doable.

But once we achieve our goals, the hunger fades. So, pursue new goals, says Shane Snow. New hobbies. New businesses. New trophies. Snow shares how fame and riches can crush you in his book *Smartcuts: The Breakthrough Power of Lateral Thinking*:

- The wealthiest own cash that could last ten lifetimes. Yet, many of the wealthiest are depressed. In other words, they lost momentum.
- Isaac Newton's law of motion says moving objects stay in motion. And "once you start swinging, it's easier to keep swinging than to slow down" (p. 144). Yet, many of the wealthiest stagnate at the top.

- Wealth sparks problems. Even fame can lead to suicide.
- A former astronaut Buzz Aldrin became a depressed alcoholic. His momentum stalled once he met the moon.
- We all need momentum—even baby steps. We're meant to move, to strive, to struggle. If your feet move forward daily, destiny favors you.
- To tackle depression, the wealthy or famous need to take up new businesses, hobbies, or philanthropic causes.
- "Momentum isn't just a powerful ingredient of success. It's also a powerful predictor of success" (p. 150).
- Tiny wins turn into trophies. Build up backlogs of tiny wins. They'll thrust you forward on your big day.

So, make your bed. Brush your teeth. Eat a healthy breakfast. Ah, now you've got momentum. What's next? Burn off more than you can chew.



## Don't Reinvent the Wheel

Deanna Roney



Regardless of what field you are in, there are a few conventional words of wisdom that get thrown around. You must do X if you want to succeed. For writers it is, "you must read if you want to write. You must read widely and within your own genre. This way you are able to learn from those who have had success, and you can learn as much from a bad novel as a great novel. There is no sense in recreating the wheel when the blueprints are already there—you can redesign and play with it, but you don't need to start from scratch."

I have been struggling with a point in my current manuscript. I didn't want to flesh out the character to the point of giving him his own story line, the focus needed to remain on the main character. But it needed something more to read plausible. I make time to read for pleasure, it is time I guard because I believe it is important (and also because I just love to read). The other night I was reading *Himself* by Jess Kidd and there was one line that perfectly summed up the skewed relationship between characters. It was in this line that I

realized I would be able to craft something simple and short to flesh out what I need for the relationship to feel deep without getting sidetracked. That line reminded me that every time I pick up a book I am working on my style; I am researching how to write effectively.

Whether you're a visual artist, writer, psychologist, mathematician, or performing artist it's important to observe others within your chosen field. Whether you go to learn or just to enjoy, you never know when you might have that moment that clarifies a problem you're having. And in surrounding yourself with the work of others, in a more relaxed and pleasurable environment, you keep the passion alive within you. If you give up reading for pleasure and read only to write or critique yours or others' work you will lose a bit of that pleasure. Losing sight of why you started in the first place can have an impact on the quality of work you produce.

You don't need to devote hours a day to reading for pleasure, taking in performances, or whatever is involved in your choice of industry, but you do need to maintain a grip on it. There needs to be some time dedicated to simply enjoying the path you have chosen through others that are on it. Through the observation of others who have achieved success (or not), we can always learn.

Reading is vital if you want to write and this translates into all other fields, be a part of the world you want to be in, learn from those around you and never lose sight of why you started.

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



## Street Food Concept

**Xin Xu**



I returned home from my two-and-a-half-week vacation in Southeast Asia about a month ago. Since returning, I am nostalgic for the local street food. If you are unfamiliar, street food is exactly what it sounds like - ready-to-snack food served to you on the side of the pavement. Having grown up in Shanghai, street food was never foreign to me but I am still impressed by the broad range of diversity and culture waiting behind every vendor in almost every major city in Asia. Unfortunately, with the pace of development in these cities, many of these cherished local vendors are disappearing, and the age-old tradition is gradually becoming obsolete.

There's a certain nostalgia as I reflect fondly on the memories of growing up surrounded by mouth-watering street cuisine, soon to be replaced by corporate franchises. As a tribute to street food, I dug up some of my favorites from my trip this summer.





### Drinkable Soup Buns: Shanghai

Rating: 7/10

Walking through Yu garden, I saw many tourists carrying colorful straws and drinking from a doughy bun. Enter: the soup *bao*. Soup *bao* along with other *baos* are an integral part of Shanghainese cuisine. I found the soup hearty, aromatic, and fresh. Although I admit, I'm not a huge fan of *baos* without some solid protein in it.

### Beef Vermicelli: Huainan

Rating: 8/10

The city itself is known for beef vermicelli. Every street features their own rendition of the dish. Beef vermicelli has a flavorful beefy broth with clear, -glass noodles that's perfect for the summer. The spiciness of the broth helps you sweat off the summer heat, leaving you cooler and fresher than before. Having tried the authentic version, it's hard to be satisfied with this dish outside of Huainan.



### Crispy Chicken Schnitzel: Taipei

Rating: 9/10

The last time I tried schnitzel was in Austria. Schnitzel refers to thinly sliced pork lightly coated with batter and fried to produce a crispy texture. Unlike its Austrian counterpart, often served only in restaurants, Taipei's night markets are swamped with local vendors selling massive slices of fried chicken. The chicken is often coated with five spice seasoning and features a crispy outer shell and tender chicken on the inside.

**Stinky Tofu: Hefei**

Rating: 8/10

I knew my southern China trip would not be complete without this local speciality. Its infamous stench would waft through the air as I walk down alleyways in my hometown. However, I was pleasantly surprised by the tender texture, and the spicy, hearty flavor of the tofu. It was freshly fermented and lightly grilled on the side of the street by a local family.

**Peppery Beef Buns: Taipei**

Rating: 8/10

One of the first vendors you see walking into Raohe Night Market in Taipei makes these juicy, peppery beef-packed buns baked outdoors in makeshift ovens. The crunchy smoky texture of the dough paired with the fragrant beef tastes like a restaurant delicacy rather than a night market staple.

**Watermelon Juice: Taipei**

Rating: 6/10

Luckily after exhausting my supply of water, I found a watermelon juice vendor in a nearby night market. Despite the hype with this drink at night markets, I found the juice to be less refreshing and more watered down than what I anticipated. I would have preferred going with purchasing a whole watermelon instead.





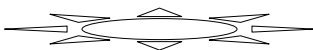


### Egg Waffles: Hong Kong

Rating: 7/10

Let's be honest, who doesn't love waffle that look like a portion of a gigantic bubble wrap? I tried these for the first time in Hong Kong after an exhausting day of hitting up popular tourist attractions. These egg waffles taste fluffier than the typical Belgian waffles with a strong eggy flavor that could only be experienced but not described.

*Xin Xu is a post-graduate health-science AU student, aspiring clinician, globe-trotter, parrot-breeder and tea-connoisseur.*



### Fly on the Wall

The Few, the Proud, the Essence of AU

Jason Sullivan



What elements compose your essence? Beyond essential oils and soaps from a farmer's market, colognes and perfumes from a pharmacy, and the distinctive aroma attained from a weekend camping, the philosophical concept of *essence* has been discussed for as long as education has existed. Academies in ancient Greece held philosophy in high regard. Those such as Plato discussed the essences of things in terms of absolute archetypal forms while others, such as Sappho, discussed the essence of love as a power both captivating and delightful. We can each speak for our personal essence as citizens while, at least in theory, we may hold something uniquely in common with our

fellow AU students. The question here is whether distance students at AU have an essential difference from traditional University students.

Why should we have an essence that we share with others, though? We often resist characterizations at the best of times, especially when it involves lumping us in with strangers, so perhaps it is better to heed Bertrand Russell's statement that "I do not myself believe that the term 'category' is in any way useful in philosophy, as representing any clear idea." (Russell, 192). Maybe the assumption of a shared essence is muddled and illogical. Yet we have much to gain by realizing that we are not alone in our academic travails and even, perhaps, that we are part of a unique social grouping.

Our membership in the institution of AU can remind us that we are stronger than many challenges we face as we pursue our betterment. Russell claims that "if Socrates is ill, we think that Socrates, at other times, is well, and therefore the being of Socrates is independent of his illness; illness, on the other hand, requires somebody to be ill." (Russell, 193). While setbacks in our coursework may make us *feel* ill the process of betterment that AU provides surely brightens our beings in a tangible way. An essential way, to be bold. It helps to remind ourselves that, when time constraints squeeze our study time right out of the day, there is always tomorrow. That is the heart of the matter; at AU we never miss a class because class is always in session.

Finding an essential core of our selves, let alone the part of us that we share with others as AU students, may seem like a fruitless or even misguided task. David Hume (1711-1776) claimed that "for my part, when I enter most intimately into what I call myself, I always stumble on some particular perception or other, of heat or cold, light or shade, love or hatred, pain or pleasure. I never catch myself at any time without a perception, and never can observe anything but the perception" (Hume in Russell, 602). Hume suggests that we have no essence, only bundles of perceptions glued together by our consciousness for expediency. Yet intuition is a perception too; we intuitively sense things about ourselves that are hard to categorize with our sense, that is *sensibly*. Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) famously noted that "the heart has reasons of which reason does not know" (Pascal, Church). Perhaps our AU experience forges or reveals something in each of our essences of which we were previously unaware.

However, if we share an essence as AU students, then there ought to be attributes that we share. Christian Wolff (1679-1754) stated that for things to be ontologically identical (ie to share an essence, such as students who are all being educated in the same way) "no being can have and have not a given characteristic at one and the same time" (MacIntyre, 542). His "principle of non-contradiction" began with the view that the "universe is a collection of beings each of which has an essence that the intellect is capable of grasping as a clear and distinct idea" (MacIntyre, 542). We probably all share the fact that we work on course material from home and not in a literal university, for instance. This could manifest our essence. Yet some of us are simultaneously classroom students at traditional universities. Such a contradiction suggests that Wolff's tenet of non-contradiction is too strict if we look for statistical facts as the basis of our essence as AU students. A definition of essence is needed that includes the *essential meaning of being* an AU student while still including the panoply of *practical ways of being* an AU student.

I would suggest that succeeding as an AU student essentially involves *temerity in the face of long odds*. It's not easy to achieve success at this level while setting one's own schedule. Whether we also attend classroom courses or have jobs or raise families or write books is moot in the face of the singular fact that we are resilient enough to succeed at (hopefully all!) of our courses. To be an AU student means to have the mental stamina to succeed in at least one AU course. Those who have dropped out of courses are no longer students and those who may fail in the future are, at least for the present, still swimming the good swim towards

## AU-thentic Events

### Upcoming AU Related Events

#### AU Open House & Info Session

Tuesday, August 1, 10:00 to 11:00 am MDT  
Online

Hosted by Athabasca University

[www.athabascau.ca/discover/open-house/](http://www.athabascau.ca/discover/open-house/)  
register online at above address

*second session:* Tuesday, August 1, 6:00 to 7:00 pm MDT

#### AU Library Orientation Webinar

Thursday, August 3, 5:00 to 6:00 pm MDT  
Online

Hosted by AU Library

[library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html](http://library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html)  
pre-registration not required



the home stream of academic success. We may be unaware of those around us, given spatial and temporal distances embedded in the medium of distance education, yet we are bonded by the fact that we are all heading toward the same goal.

Even if we theoretically have much in common despite the isolation of our studies, why attempt to define the essence of something so personal as our educational experience? The journey is ours and ours alone, private even. A fair case can be made that it's a stretch to try and discover an essential common denominator between the experiences of a student body as disparate as AUs. Why not just post some age, major, and gender statistics and say 'there, I've represented the essence of what it is to be an AU student'? Gilles Deleuze (1925-1995) provides fodder to criticize the statistical view as well as my somewhat more esoteric philosophical approach to a possible essence of being an AU student. For him, "identity works against and covers deeper pure differences. It does so because of the dominance of the demand to represent in the history of philosophy" (Williams, 124). Deleuze might claim that I'm squirming down an impossible rabbit hole and that I'm trying to group things into bundles of absolutes as Plato did and, like the Roman fasci consisting of a bundle of sticks representing the bearer of the laws, my attempts lead inexorably to a fascistic desire to speak for others rather than give them space to speak for themselves (Cartwright, online). Yet, and here is where AU studenthood is essentially a unique process of insurgence and growth against the forces of stagnation and failure, Deleuze crucially believed that "reality is a process of becoming, which involves pure differences that cannot be represented." (Williams, 124). Statistics nor definitions can bring to light the essence of being an AU student. Our essence, I argue, is a *matter of will* unique in that we struggle not alongside physical classmates but along with invisible members of our academic cohort. We are becoming ourselves alone simultaneously, and paradoxically, with others.

James Williams asks the rhetorical "Do we not need to be able to represent something in order to be able to talk about it in an open and effective manner?" (Williams, 125). Considering the personal implications of our AU experience and what this means for our sense of self, it is surely a just reason to attempt to describe this essence. Our AU experience is one component of our life journey. Hopefully it is one that alters us fundamentally for the better.

Properties coinciding with our AU student status are ephemeral; the tenuous reality of our (usually) part-time status means that we may fail or, through extenuating circumstances, be forced to drop out at any time. When our time is done we will look back at our experience, to be sure, and that is where we may discover just how essential our AU experience was. Was it fleeting or indelible? Russell notes that "among the properties of individual things, some are essential, others accidental; the accidental properties of a thing are those it can lose without losing its identity-such as wearing a hat." (431). Only time will tell whether our time at AU serves as a mere footnote in the book recording our personal ascendancy to career and personal flourishing. I'd wager that the fortitude we hone as we succeed alone can only serve us in good stead, and that essential resilience is something we will proudly affix to our identity for years to come.

#### References

- MacIntyre, A. (1967). *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Paul Edwards (ed.). Macmillan Publishing Co. and the Free Press: New York.
- Cartwright, M. (2016). Fasces Definition. Retrieved from <http://www.ancient.eu/Fasces/>
- Church, J. (2005). 'Reasons of Which Reason Knows Not'. In 'Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology'. Vassar Collge Retrieved from: [http://faculty.vassar.edu/church/REASONS\\_OF\\_WHICH\\_REASON.pdf](http://faculty.vassar.edu/church/REASONS_OF_WHICH_REASON.pdf)
- Russell, B. (1996/1946). *History of Western Philosophy*. Routledge Classics: London and New York.
- Williams, J. (2005). *The Deleuze Dictionary*. Adrian Parr (ed). Columbia University Press: New York.

*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.*

## Council Connection

Karl Low

### July 11, 2017 AUSU Council Meeting



The AUSU Council Meeting for July 11, 2017 started soon after 5:30pm. President Shawna Wasylyshyn was not present at this meeting, being on holidays, so Vice-President External, Julian Teterenko, chaired the meeting.

After the standard coming to order, approval of the agenda, minutes, and a review of any outstanding action items went by fairly quickly, bringing us to the first item of new business.

This piece was an interesting one, as AUSU has been approached by a company, CharterRX Inc., looking to sell pharmaceutical products to AUSU members through the Alliance Pharmacy website. Their offer is that they can sell these products cheaper than many students would be able to find at their local pharmacy, and AUSU Council would assist them by helping to market their service to students. Julian Teterenko explained that the Executive group looked into their claims and verified that their prices generally were cheaper than other pharmacies they could access, but renegotiated with the company for a percentage return based on AU student sales. I asked what this percentage was, but was told that this could not be divulged under the terms of the contract. It was noted however, that this service will allow AUSU members to "fill their prescriptions from Alliance Pharmacy, and have them mailed to their homes for the next business day (some remote areas may take longer). It will also provide a flat dispensing fee of \$7.00 and a reduced markup on all medications." The motion proposed that AUSU council approve the agreement between CharterRX Inc. and AUSU regarding pharmacy services for AUSU members, and passed unanimously. AUSU will announce when the service is in operation for members.

The next item of business was for changes to the election policy. The changes, from what I can tell, do not significantly effect how the elections are run, other than providing a little more leeway for appeals to be considered, should they be brought forward. However, there was some significant discussion about whether it should be only the Executive who determines if a member remains in good-standing should they bring forward an appeal which was declared by an independent auditor to be frivolous. After a significant amount of discussion, it was concluded that the policy would be amended to refer to the current policy 4.08 about members in good standing, and that changes be made to that policy to ensure any use of the policy is reported to Council. It was also noted that for all policies or documents where changing them require notification to the membership, those changes should be announced through as many channels as AUSU has available to them at the time. The resolution then passed unanimously.

At this point, it was about 6:00pm and Council moved to an in-Camera session for a discussion regarding Councillor attendance. The public meeting resumed at about 7pm, and it was noted that a motion to remove Andrew Grey for being absent from more than two Council meetings over the past year; with an absence on January 10, 2017, and from the Councillor retreat in June, as well being late during the October

13th meeting; had been considered by Council and was defeated. Given the length of time that the meeting had remained in Camera, it seems as if there had been some significant discussion over the matter.

This brought the meeting to the report stage. Most reports passed without comment, and are available on the AUSU website. But two items of note were brought forward. The first, that Jody Wattle, an AUSU member at large on the Membership Engagement and Communications Committee had resigned due to a lack of time to serve on the committee. The position had been opened up to Councillors first, but as none desired it, the seat was going to be opened back up to the general membership.

It was also noted that the Communication and Member Services Co-ordinator's Reports indicated that there had been no graduates in June. This seemed odd, but it was confirmed that Athabasca University does not proceed with its normal graduation process in June as this is supplanted with the convocation ceremony.

There was also a question as to how many people had signed up for the new AUSU forums, and while the answer wasn't known, it was expected the number was quite low, somewhere around 20. Since then, the forums have been scaled back, losing some of the discussion areas that were reported on previously in The Voice Magazine. Specifically, the "Introductions", "Course Discussions", "Off-Topic Student Chat", and "Questions for AUSU" sections have all been removed. On later questioning, AUSU has said that those sections were removed because they had not gone through any approval process of Council to be established. Personally, I question whether Council should bother itself with something that seems should be left for staff, unless it can be shown it really was not working best for the students. Given that there were some small conversations happening in a couple of those areas, however, it did seem to be working to some extent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

### Women of Interest

**Lyda Newman** was born in 1885 in Ohio. She received a patent November 15, 1898, for an improved hair brush design that was very hygienic: it could be taken apart for easy cleaning. Newman was an African-American hairdresser by trade. She was also a Women's Rights Activist and was instrumental in organizing the African-American Branch of the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Not a lot is known about Newman's personal life; however limited information can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.biography.com/people/lyda-newman-21071221>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyda\\_D.\\_Newman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyda_D._Newman)

[http://www.aaregistry.org/historic\\_events/view/black-woman-patents-hair-brush](http://www.aaregistry.org/historic_events/view/black-woman-patents-hair-brush)

## The Creative Spark!

### Flashy Trash

Marie Well



Have you ever saw greatness in something useless?

Nothing is trash. Not people. Not rotted food. Not foul words. Trash amounts to mere misuse of something valuable. Or mere misunderstanding. After all, someone's trash is someone's treasure.

In genetics exists something called "junk DNA." In other words, part of your DNA is misunderstood as worthless. But new theories argue that junk DNA contains hidden treasures. As I say, nothing is trash.

Years ago, I threw out junk during a move. At the back-alley trash can, an old woman fondled a garment I had chucked. Her eyes wide, she sighed, hugged the cloth, and tucked it in her bag. She muttered, "Beautiful," and nodded at me. As she strolled away, I could see more of my trash poking out of her oversized handbag.

Maybe my junk held value. So, let's look at something with no apparent value: vomit. On a stroll in the park, a woman unleashed her dog. He ran headlong toward a puddle of puke, and snacked away. The woman felt sickened for hours. As for the furry guy, he gobbled gourmet gumbo.

Even mold in petri dishes once got trashed. That is, until someone saw its value: Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin (as cited in Ness). Fleming found usefulness in the gross. Because of Fleming's discovery, your chance of surviving pneumonia shot sky high.

A decade ago, I found value in a devastating flood. Water rose halfway up my calves. Traffic jammed. Cars crashed into sound barriers. But I stumbled on science. Mad science. Refractions and reflections of street lights excited me. Long ribbons of light laced every road-lane. Some saw doomsday; I saw a Christmas lightshow in summer.

Over time, I saw opportunity in mere reflections. You see, reflections behave like gizmos. For one, some reflections hold color and throw heat. For another, reflections sit in physical space—locatable when they move in harmony with, say, a tree as you sway side to side. But most of all, reflections brim with untapped power. Let me explain. On a rainy day, I saw a handrail's reflection on a sidewalk morph into a sine wave as I moved. This wave glowed and flowed like electricity as I pedaled over it. Solar power on steroids, anyone?

Observe what others overlook. That's one way to find value in the useless, the gross, or the scary. After all, nothing is junk.

Dr. Rebecca Ness exposes the power of observation in her book *Innovation Generation: How to Produce Creative and Useful Scientific Ideas*. Learn how to look for discoveries; discover what others overlook. Ness show how:



- To stumble on discovery, you need more than everyday observation. You need to see like a star.
- Your senses get bombarded every day. Hundreds of colors, sounds, and moving things surround you always. Yet, you focus on a few at a time. You see, if you ride a Volvo, you might notice many Volvos, but few Mercedes. If your house is built from boulder rock, you might see many boulder rock buildings, but few glass towers. In other words, you see from your "frames."
- But when you travel abroad, your senses heighten. You soak up details you'd normally overlook. [When you go hard in the gym, colors and sounds intensify. Food tastes more tantalizing, too.]
- So, learn to observe better. Do so by learning to draw: turn a photo upside down and draw it. Or draw an object's outline without looking at your paper. Or draw the negative space around the object—and not the object itself. Train your eyes.
- Flemings noticed that mold dissolved bacteria. Others saw the petri dish mold, but they took no heed. Instead, they trashed the petri dishes. Yet, Flemings took his finding further, and discovered penicillin.
- When you find something unexpected, pay attention. Or when something bugs you, fix it.
- If you want to win a Nobel prize, look closer at your surroundings.

And don't overlook trash.

Once I found a broken pair of glasses on a sidewalk. I wore them. Later I went to a comedy club and got ushered on stage. The glasses? A smash hit. A paradox? I call it a creative spark!



## In Praise of Green Alleys

**Wanda Waterman**



*The official Ruelle Vert logo, posted at the end of many green alleys*

City life can be hard on a body. The tyranny of the urgent makes us forget the urgency of the deeper need, the cacophany of enterprise, engine, and emergency distracting us from the kind of healing we find so easily in the natural world.

This is why parks are so vital to city life, the scarcity of them a signal of a decadent apathy (as both source and outcome). We can't always walk through parks to get to our destinations, but in Montreal, at least, we can nearly always find a shortcut through an alley, and when denizens take the time to plant, water, and prune the modest plots they've been granted, a walk down the lane is like a stroll in the country, and nearly as uplifting.

Montreal's *Ruelle Vert* (Green Alleys) movement began to sprout in the sixties but really blossomed (sorry!) in the last twenty years, with nearly a hundred official green alleys (and many more unofficial) having been formed since 1997. Local eco-districts provide assistance in the form of advice and financial aid, but it's volunteer residents who put in the toil.

The best alleys are found in neighborhoods inhabited by immigrants, mostly peoples from the Mediterranean countries, who deserve hearty



bravos for successfully transferring their sunny-clime gardening practices to cold and rainy Montreal. I've been staggered to find, in cramped little spaces hedged in with asphalt and brick walls, lush branches heavy with pears, apples, and plums, and vines sagging with grapes. I've even seen the odd fire escape transformed into a mini greenhouse, wrapped in plastic to protect hanging baskets of tomatoes, herbs, and peppers.



And it's not just the green stuff. The playful sense of *joie de vivre* spills into colourful painted hopsotch grids, murals, and metal sculptures.

The experience is further enhanced by the fact that encounters with humans are far different here than in the streets—warmer, gentler, more relaxed. There's an understanding that the green alley is slightly more sacred than the "ungreened" spaces, and it changes how people relate to each other.

To anyone who has ever planted, decorated, or tidied a Montreal alley, thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. You've done a very good thing.







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

## Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

**Scholarship name:** BedtimeDeal.com Scholarship

**Sponsored by:** [BedtimeDeal.com](#)

**Deadline:** August 31, 2017

**Potential payout:** \$1000

**Eligibility restriction:** Applicants must be at least 18 years old, be enrolled in college or university, and have a GPA of at least 2.50.

**What's required:** An e-mail with contact and school info, along with a 300-600 word essay on "The Importance of Education in Today's Society", and proof of student status.

**Tips:** Read the instructions carefully and make sure you include all the required info with your e-mail submission.

**Where to get info:** <http://www.bedtimedeal.com/scholarship/>





## Gotta Love It

It's no secret I love words. I know they can be used to inform or mislead, to uplift or destroy, to amuse or annoy, to clarify or obfuscate. A hundred years ago when I was an elected official, I believed that if I chose the right words, tried different ways of saying something, spoke at the level of the listener, I could make anyone understand anything. Unfortunately, it ain't so. Some can't understand, others don't want to understand.

So, for someone who loves words and is fascinated by politics, today offers a perfect storm. Not only is there a bizarro world unfolding daily south of the 49<sup>th</sup>, there are potentially exciting days ahead in Alberta politics. Based on vote results within both the Wildrose and PC parties this weekend, it appears the United Conservative Party will come to fruition as a merger party. In addition, municipal elections across the province will happen October 16<sup>th</sup>. Let the games begin.

Effective speakers are warned not to use jargon or acronyms because it distances the speaker from listeners who aren't in on it. Communications pros and spin-doctors protecting politicians and others under attack have turned speaking without saying anything into an art form.

So naturally, I started a list. A list of the most clichéd, offensive, condescending, muddying phrases, or outright alternative facts that are so insidious and common, we no longer recognize them for what they are: bullshit. Here are a few weasel word doozies, with context, where possible:

- "Let me be clear" (actually, anything but)
- "We are bending the spending curve"
- "A lot of work is still to be done"
- "We're smoothing out the costs" (Ontario minister trying to fix hydro bill costs)
- "I am unable to comment" (US Attorney General Jeff Sessions during his confirmation hearings)
- "We're working very hard to resolve insert crisis here. Let the committee, commission, board do its work." (usually Liberals justifying yet another study or

consultation process)

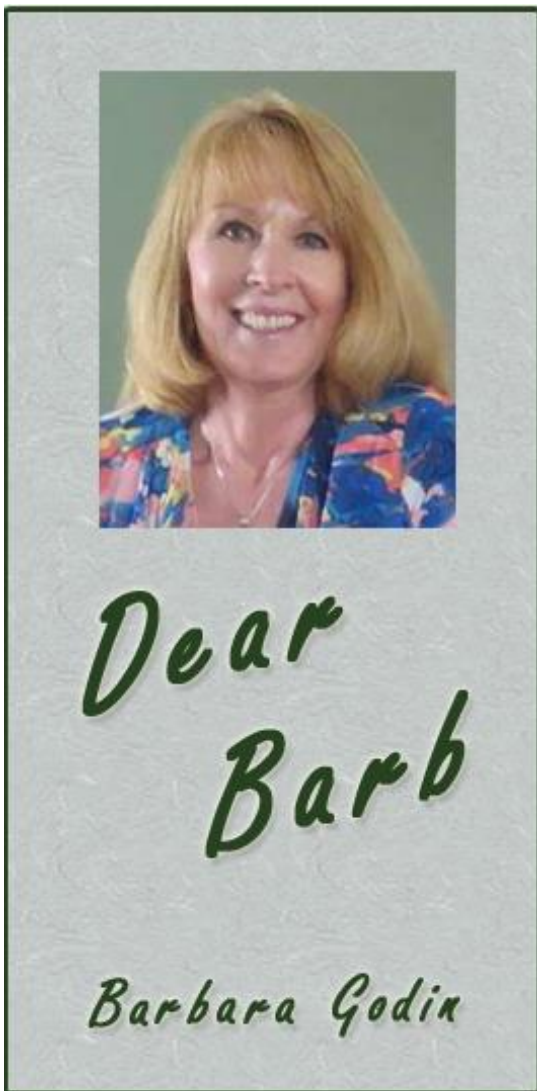
- "We're getting into the weeds" (usually US political news hosts)
- "Speak truth to power" (Can't those damn Republicans rein Trump in?)
- "We're going to invest in the things necessary." (provincial treasurer Joe Ceci before budget)
- "Green shoots" (ahhh, look signs of something new and oh, so good)
- "This government thinks it can tax its way to prosperity." (opposition parties everywhere)
- "At the end of the day" (maddening in its frequency)
- "Binary choice" (decision between two alternatives)
- "We're creating jobs, good jobs" (every government all the time)
- "We want to change the narrative" (no kidding)



- "Fundignation" (used by columnist Graham Thomas meaning increasing the level of indignation also increases the fun, usually by opposition members)
- "Relitigate" (favourite phrase of US political hosts and pundits as they regurgitate whatever the topic at hand, ie: number of people at the inauguration, how many illegal voters there were, etc)
- "We need to chart a way forward" (in an Athabasca University report)
- "They are trying to thread the needle" (maneuvering a dicey political situation)

Words like contemporaneous (former FBI director Jim Comey made these kinds of notes), emolument (Trump's personal enrichment by virtue of his office as president), memorialize (Comey documenting the substance of meetings right after they happened) drove me to the dictionary. Gotta love it, from where I sit.

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



## Temporary Relationships

**Dear Barb:**

*I am in my early twenties and just finishing university. I've had the same boyfriend since high school and I always thought we'd end up married. Recently I've noticed he seems to be spending a lot of time with my roommate. They go out together or hang out at home when I am working. They get along better than me and my boyfriend ever did. But, to be honest, it's not really bothering me. I think they make a much better couple than we do. I feel really weird saying this. I want to breakup with him, but I'm afraid I might regret it. Maybe this is just a something I'm going through. I'm not sure what to do, need some advice. Thanks, Janet.*

Hey Janet:

Thanks for your letter. I think your relationship with your boyfriend has run its course. If you can look at him and your roommate and see that they make a good couple and you don't have any jealousy, it's time to end this relationship and move on. When couples begin dating at a young age, they often outgrow the relationship as they mature and change. I believe this is what's happened to you. Time to move to the next chapter of your life.

**Dear Barb:**

*I'm in my third year of university. Finances have been very difficult for me. I never seemed to make enough money to pay for my education until I joined an escort service. Now I am able to make enough money to afford school without going into debt. Plus I have more time to spend on my studies. I usually just go out for dinner or a show with*

***these gentlemen. They are paying good money for my company. The dates rarely become sexual unless I want it to. I haven't told my family what I'm doing but have told a few friends. My friends are shocked and not supportive. In fact my best friend said what I am doing is prostituting myself. I really don't think there is anything wrong with what I'm doing. As soon as I'm finished school I will stop escorting and find a real job. How do I handle this criticism? Because of their reactions I'm not sure I want to tell my family, for fear of what they will say. Help! Andrea.***

Hi Andrea:

Without a doubt university tuition is very expensive and many students are going to extreme means to fund their educations. Governments have been talking about free tuition for years, but this never seems to materialize and students are ending up with enormous debt by the time they graduate. I find it sad that you have chosen to be an escort to fund your education. Escorting is a risky profession, which could affect your overall sense of well-being. Whatever choices we make in life, especially something as controversial as escorting, we have to be prepared for other's reactions. If you are happy with your choice, then all you can do is make this known to your critics and move on. As far as telling your family, I don't know a lot of families that would be happy to hear their daughter is engaging in this type of behaviour. Sorry I couldn't be more helpful. Thanks for your letter, Andrea.

*Follow Barb on twitter @BarbGod*

Email your questions to [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto: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.

## Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

**Following What's Hot around AU's Social Media Sites.**

### AthaU Facebook Group



Brittany is considering a Masters in Counselling but doesn't know how to find out if that will qualify her as a registered psychologist in SK. Responses flood in with advice, links to websites, and e-mail contacts.

Isabella asks for help choosing her next course, a toss-up between LBST 332, POLI 350, and WGST 401. So far, LBST 332 is winning the informal poll.

Other posts include perks of being an English major, and courses COMP 378, and PSYC 304.

### reddit

bluecat79 is looking for input on French 301. No responses yet; can you help out?

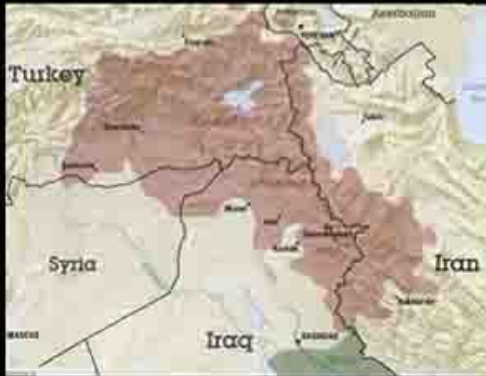
### Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "Did someone say 20% off? Buy all AU apparel at a discounted price before it's all gone! <http://ow.ly/S41x30dU68t>."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Trouble navigating the AU website? Check out AUSU's quick links - easy access to the info you are looking for! <http://bit.ly/1r2DFn1>."



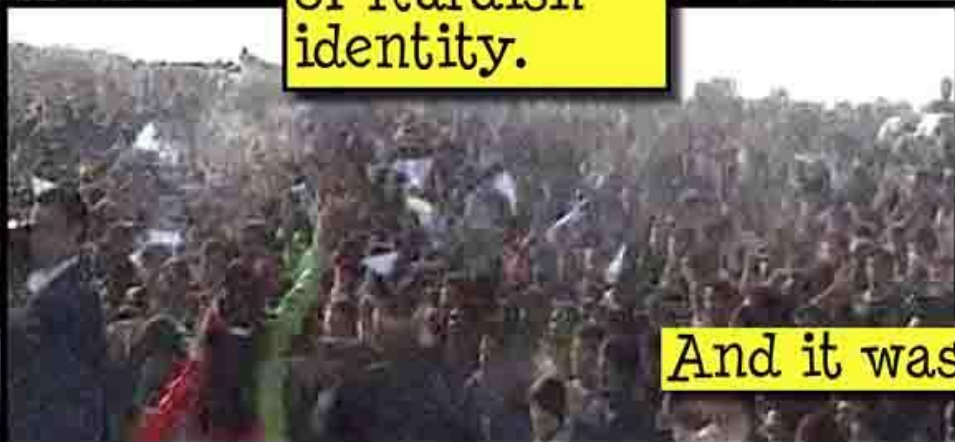
The Kurds are a fierce and tender folk living in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria.



In spring of 2010 the Kurds of Kobani, Syria, celebrated themselves. Mallabozan played bouzouki with his friends before a great happy crowd.



It was a glorious affirmation of Kurdish identity.



And it was illegal.

The next day the law was heavily enforced. After three months Mallabozan left prison with a shattered knee, having lost his hair and his mental health to torture, abuse, and malnutrition.

All the Music Be Happenin' Now: The First Two Decades of the 21st Century ~The Mindful Bard~

Apparently the voluntary music of a free people was a serious threat to power.







**AUSU**  
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS' UNION

This space is provided free to AUSU. The Voice does not create or edit this content. Contact [services@ausu.org](mailto:services@ausu.org) with any questions.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jul 31:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for Sept](#)
- **Aug 8:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)
- **Aug 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Sept 1](#)
- **Aug 15:** [September degree requirements deadline](#)
- **Aug 31:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for Oct](#)
- **Sep 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting Aug 1](#)
- **Sep 12:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)

## Year-Round Bursaries

AUSU has numerous bursaries available year-round for students in financial need.

### Emergency Bursary

Emergency Bursaries can pay for course extensions of supplemental exams needed due to unforeseen circumstances and urgent financial need. *(Note: AUSU pays the fees to AU directly.)*

### Health Care Bursary

Health Care Bursaries can pay up to \$1000 towards a health care plan for members who have no other reasonable access to personal or group health care benefits.

### Travel Bursary

Travel Bursaries help pay travel costs for members who need to travel for their AU studies, such as to attend exams, labs, practicums, or related conferences. *(Note: AUSU pays travel costs directly. Students must apply at least 30 days before travel.)*

Find out more or apply online [here](#).

**NOTE:** AUSU also has a computer bursary, however all computers for the 2016/2017 have already been awarded. The computer bursary will re-open on Oct 1.



## FREE Mobile App

Want to get connected with the campus community?

Want quick access to services and resources available to you as an AU student?

Get the **FREE [AU Student App](#)**, courtesy of AUSU.

So far, this year, there have been over 500 friendships made and over 10,000 chats and likes on the Campus Wall! Don't miss out!



## AUSU FAQ's

Have questions about AUSU or our services?

Check out our [Frequently Asked Questions!](#)

**AUSU**  
**FAQ's**





---

# CLASSIFIEDS

---

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

---

---

## THE VOICE

---

301 Energy Square - 10109 – 106 St NW - Edmonton AB - T5J 3L7  
Ph: 855.497.7003

<b>Publisher</b>	Athabasca University Students' Union
<b>Editor-In-Chief</b>	Jodi Campbell
<b>Managing Editor</b>	Karl Low

**Regular Columnists** Hazel Anaka, Barb Godin, Scott Jacobsen, Carla Knipe  
Barbara Lehtiniemi, Deanne Roney, Wanda Waterman

---

[www.voicemagazine.org](http://www.voicemagazine.org)

---

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

Contact *The Voice* at [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org).

To receive a weekly email announcing each issue, subscribe [here](#). *The Voice* does not share its subscriber list.

© 2017 by *The Voice Magazine*