

the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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Tololwa M. Mollé, AU's 2011-12 writer in residence, is passionate about helping others to write stories. Donations to AU make the Writer in Residence Program possible. See the story on page 2.



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Athabasca University 

ZoomerMedia Donation Funds Expansion of Writer in Residence Program

by Cathy Nickel



Tololwa M. Mollé

AU will be adding a new dimension to its Writer in Residence Program thanks to financial support from ZoomerMedia, publishers of *Zoomer* magazine.

Zoomer magazine is distributed to members of the Canadian Association for Retired Persons, Canada's largest not-for-profit association for people aged 45 and over and those who care for them. Last September, ZoomerMedia committed to funding a new facet of the Writer in Residence Program, one that will engage people with a lifetime of stories to tell: seniors.

Tololwa M. Mollé, AU's writer in residence for 2011-12, works with students of all ages and from all around the world to elevate the quality of their writing. He occupies what he calls "the middle ground, somewhere between cheerleader and critic," providing feedback that helps students hone their writing skills.

"Writing is always tough, and you do much of it in isolation," the celebrated children's author and dramatist said. "It's also very personal. I can't write for people, but I can offer the good, honest, supportive advice that's required of any mentor."

"Writing is seen as a key to healthy aging," Mollé said of ZoomerMedia's interest in supporting this creative opportunity. "It's a tool that can be used to support mental health as people advance in years. It's a way to look back on experiences and relive life."

In addition to being a means of helping more writers, expanding the horizons of the Writer in Residence Program is also a way to build

community, said Marilyn Dumont, a Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences writing instructor who was instrumental in creating the program.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to partner with all kinds of organizations. Writing offers value to people from age 22 to 82, and the Writer in Residence Program is a great resource for writers, students and faculty."

Still in development, the new seniors oriented part of the program is likely to include in-person and online talks by Mollé, web-conferenced workshops, virtual space on AU's e-Lab through which CARP members can connect to the program and create their own e-portfolios, and writing-focused articles and videos for ZoomerMedia online and print publications.

"Working with seniors lets me spread my wings and think about different forms of writing," Mollé said. "I can see how powerful writing can be as you get older."

The [Writer in Residence Program](#) was launched in 2010 with funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Continuation of that funding and the additional support from ZoomerMedia will allow Mollé to provide opportunities for even more writers.

Donations in support of the Writer in Residence Program represent just a few of many contributions to AU's ongoing \$30 million Open Our World Campaign.

Call for Nominations: Employee Awards

Human Resources is calling for nominations for three major AU employee awards.

Nomination packages for all three awards should be submitted to human resources assistant [Krista Morland](#). The submission deadline is May 28, 2012.

1 The President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence recognizes AU employees who have provided outstanding instructional service to AU students. The [award guidelines](#) and [PATME nomination form](#) are available online.

2 The Sue and Derrick Rowlandson Memorial Award for Service Excellence recognizes support or professional staff members who consistently provide a high level of quality service, demonstrate commitment to the university's mission or goals and show continual improvement through participation in professional development activities. Information is available on the [award guidelines webpage](#) and the [Rowlandson nomination form](#) is available online.

3 The Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence is presented annually to a faculty member in recognition of excellence in teaching at AU. Information about the award, including eligibility criteria, nominators/seconders and the review committee are available on the [award guidelines webpage](#). The [CCMA nomination form](#) is also available online.



Humour for Health

Get the funtastic benefits of humour into your life. Join Rob Chubb for the ultimate stress management workshop, Humour...Jest for the Health of It! The workshop will entertain and educate participants on the positive senses of humour and self-esteem.

In this stressful world of daily routines, we become human-doings rather than human-beings. Find out how humour is a valuable laugh-skill in the art of being human.

The workshop, sponsored by AU, Family and Community Support Services and TransCanada PipeLines Ltd., will be held in the Governing Council chambers at AU Athabasca from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 26.

To register, contact [Karen Wintonyk](#) (780-675-2623) at Family and Community Support Services. The registration deadline is Tuesday, April 24, and the registration fee is \$25.

Recognizing Graduates and Students Who are Making a Difference

Nothing tells AU's story better than the success of its students and alumni, people who are making their mark on the job and in their communities.

Do you know an AU alumni member who is making a difference? Nominate a friend, colleague or family member for an Alumni Award.

AU's Alumni Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of graduates (and soon-to-be graduates) in four categories:

- Distinguished Alumni Award
- Rising Star Award
- Future Alumni Award
- Volunteer Service Award

The nomination deadline is April 27, 2012. To obtain additional information or to find out how to nominate someone who is making a difference, go to the [Alumni Awards website](#) or [email alumni awards](#). All nominations are kept confidential, and only selected nominees will be contacted.

AU People in the News

Lessig Lectures on Corruption and the Financial Crisis

Award-winning ethicist and Harvard Law School professor Dr. Lawrence Lessig, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws from AU in 2010, presented the lecture "Institutional Corruption and the Financial Crisis" earlier this month at the [University of Buffalo](#). The lecture was part of the high profile Gerald S. Lippes Speaker Series, which focuses on current issues and topics related to business and finance.

Davis Appointed President of Kwantlen

The Langley Times reports that former AU vice-president academic Dr. Alan Davis has been appointed president of Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, B.C. Most recently, Davis was president of State University of New York, Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Zabawskyj Named VP at Mercatus

Bohdan Zabawskyj, who holds an AU MBA in IT management, has recently been appointed vice-president of technology at [Mercatus Technologies](#), a Toronto software development company delivering cross-channel marketing capabilities to the retail industry.

Finkel Provides Election Commentary

A column about the Alberta election by AU history professor Dr. Alvin Finkel appeared on *Troy Media*. "There is an air of unreality about the Alberta election," Finkel writes. "Right-wing parties are stealing spending promises from the NDP and Liberal playbooks and adding their own, while insisting they will eliminate the provincial deficit and never raise taxes."

Scavenging for Information

Dr. Cheryl Kier, an assistant professor of psychology in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, will present "Scavenger Hunt to Teach Information Retrieval," the fourth in a series of practical conversations about online teaching and learning sponsored by the Centre for Learning Design and Development.

To help students gain a better understanding of how to use library resources, Kier has designed an assignment that requires students to find answers to questions using AU's online library databases. Just as a scavenger hunt requires people to find a variety of items, this assignment requires students to find answers to a variety of questions. While the assignment is related to course material for PSYC 426: The Psychology of Families and Parenting, it can be adapted for use in any course.

Developing such basic research skills is important to students as it helps them to locate sources for their essays. The exercise prompted one student to write, "I feel now that I truly understand the library system and how to access information via digital format."

Kier's presentation will take place in Room 1217 at AU Edmonton from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on April 30. Use the [Adobe Connect session link](#) to join the presentation via Adobe Connect.

Athabasca University 

Faculty of Graduate Studies

STUDENT CONFERENCE

September 14 - 16, 2012

Edmonton, Alberta

Research and the Knowledge
Frontier in an Online Environment



The Insider is published for AU faculty and staff members and other members of the AU community by the Advancement Office.

Please send any information or photographs for inclusion to the [co-ordinator](#). If a photo opportunity presents itself, please contact [Blaise MacMullin](#). Due to FOIP regulations, a release form must accompany all photos. Please contact *The Insider* co-ordinator for a copy of the release form.

The next edition of *The Insider* will be published on May 14. The deadline for submissions is May 4.

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