

the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

VOLUME 3: ISSUE #16

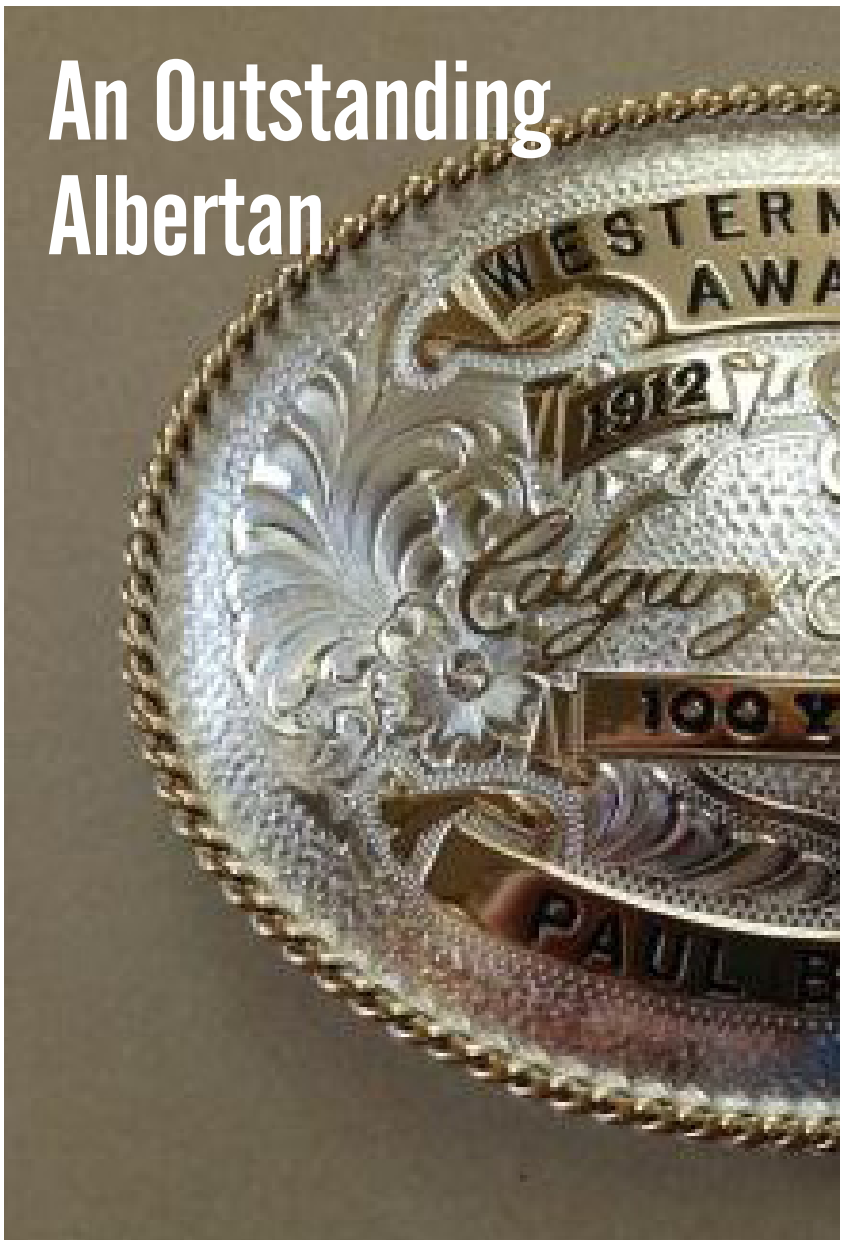
October 29, 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Pannekoek Honoured
- 2 Trojan Big Bang
- 3 Employees Recognized
- 7 Karvonens Donate
- 8 Grad Student Conference
- 9 Oilers Support Health Studies
- 10 Hiromi Goto Presents
- 11 Family Talent
- 12 First Aid Training
- 12 Christmas Gift Show
- 13 Research Buzz
- 13 Call for Nominations

COVER IMAGE »

The Calgary Stampede recently recognized AU president Dr. Frits Pannekoek as an outstanding Albertan, presenting him with the 2012 Western Legacy Award (*See page 2*).



Posted on The Landing:
<https://landing.athabascau.ca>

Athabasca University

Pannekoek Receives Western Legacy Award



TO CELEBRATE ITS CENTENNIAL, the Calgary Stampede honoured 100 outstanding Albertans with the Western Legacy Award at an October 18 ceremony in Calgary. Among them, AU president Dr. Frits Pannekoek was recognized for his work as a historian, an educator and a communications innovator.

“When you review the list of Western Legacy Award recipients, you have to feel proud of the Alberta history they represent,” said Paul Valentine, Western Legacy Award Committee chair. “Our province has been blessed with community-minded individuals who have created a better place for all of us.”

Pannekoek had received a previous Western Legacy Award in 2005, when the awards were first presented.

As one of the 100 outstanding Albertans, Pannekoek joins the ranks of those honoured for significantly affecting their communities and for their outstanding contributions to promoting western values and preserving western heritage. They include former premiers Peter Lougheed and William Aberhart, athletes Mark Tewksbury and Lanny McDonald, educator Grant MacEwan, activists Nellie McClung and Emily Murphy and writer W.O. Mitchell.

The judges for the Western Legacy Awards looked at nominees from all walks of life who had made a major contribution to Alberta by demonstrating western values, including hospitality, commitment to community, pride of place and integrity.

More Bang for the Trojan

“Your work can’t get more famous than that.”

DR. MARTIN CONNORS’ TROJAN asteroid discovery has become part of popular cultural.

About halfway through “The Higgs Boson Observation,” the October 11 episode of the award-winning sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, Sheldon Cooper’s new assistant refers to her dissertation topic: “I’m looking for Trojan asteroids at Earth’s L5 Lagrange point.”

They refer to looking for an L5 Trojan, and the one he identified was an L4 Trojan, Connors said. “It’s a good research project to look for an L5 one, since they should also exist but have not been found yet. So they got that right.”

Connors watches the show and was alerted to this reference before the episode aired. He can see this leading to a new career, he said. “I await a cameo or, better yet, a guest spot as Sheldon II, something like Sheldon’s evil Canadian twin brother. Maybe I should put this in my NSERC application.”

An article on the cover of *Nature* is small potatoes compared with a mention on this television show, said colleague Dr. Robert Holmberg. “Your work can’t get more famous than that.”

Holmberg emailed Connors: “Congratulations on getting your work mentioned on Canada’s most popular television show.”

Employee Recognition Event Honours Many

NEARLY 250 AU EMPLOYEES WERE honoured at the eleventh Employee Recognition Event held at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex on September 19.

The annual event, which recognizes employees for their contributions to AU, its students and the communities it

serves, has grown to include a full day of activities, including photo opportunities for the employees being recognized, the award presentation ceremony itself and an employee luncheon.

Service awards for five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service and seven

performance awards were presented during the ceremony. Retiring employees and those who had completed educational programs or published books during the past year were also honoured. The [*Employee Recognition Event program*](#) provides details of all of the awards given and lists all of the recipients.

Publications

Ten employees were honoured for authoring or co-authoring or editing or co-editing a book during the past year.



Among those publishing this year were (left to right) Asma Sayed, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, Sabine Graf, School of Computing and Information Systems, and Lorna Stefanick, Centre for Social Sciences.

Canada Research Chair

Dr. Tracey Lindberg of the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research was honoured as AU's newest Canada Research Chair, in indigenous traditional knowledge, legal orders and laws.



Dr. Tracy Lindberg

Service Awards

This year's Employee Recognition Event celebrated 1,930 years of combined employee experience.



35 and 30 years of service

Among those receiving 35 and 30-year service awards were Kathy Williams, Centre for Humanities (left, 35 years), and Margo McKenna, Office of the Registrar (centre) and Karen Wong, Learner Support Services, (both 30 years).



25 years of service

Wendy Jewell, Faculty of Business (left), Linda Gray, School of Computing and Information Systems (centre), and Bertha Baron, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, were among those celebrating 25 years of service.



20 years of service

Among those celebrating 20 years at AU were (left to right) Ross Alexander, Computing Services, Donna Hart, Centre for Nursing and Health Studies, and Norman Temple, Centre for Science.

(Service Awards continued)



15 years of service

Those celebrating 15 years included (left to right, back row) Sandra Davidson, Sherry Tebbenham, Heather Babiak, Val Olver and Yvette Hetze; (middle row) Sandra Davis, Vikki Bellerose, Tevor Burwash, Susan Stahl and Tracy Lindberg; (front row) Rebecca Heartt, Marilyn Shaw, Kathy Ponto, Cathy Conroy and Erna Dominey.



10 years of service

10-year service honorees included (left to right, back row) Pierre Wilhelm, John Olerenshaw, Bobbie-Joe Kendel, Cheryl Millington, Mark Fabbro, Michael Voaklander, Jocelyn Schmidtke, Terry Anderson, Billy Cheung and Farook Al-Shamali; (front row) Diana Richards, Elaine Fabbro, Carmen Southgate, Lorraine Duma, Lee Benson, Bev LeMessurier and Linda Lindballe.



5 years of service

Those celebrating 5 years service pins included (left to right, back row) Raphael Foshay, Robin Mountford, Mary Pringle, Morgan Newington, Cindy Schreyer, Greg Sales, Viorel Tabara, Cindy Ives, Mark Crawford and Murray Walford; (middle row) Joan Chrusch, Bonnie Rabin, Stacey Berger, Carla Yeaman, Peggy-Lynn MacIsaac, Grace Oresile and Kevin Richards; (front row) Sheena Wood, Corina Lasiuk, Mel MacGregor, Shandip Saha, Seona Noseworthy, Dianna Freh and Melanie Tuttle.

Performance Awards

Two of the seven performance awards presented at the Employee Recognition Event were presented for the first time this year. The AUGSA Outstanding Distinction Award for AU Faculty and the AUGSA Outstanding Distinction Award for Non-Academic Staff recognized one faculty member and one staff member, selected by the AU Graduate Students' Association, for their significant contributions to AU graduate students.



(FAR LEFT)
Lorna Dennis, Faculty of Business (standing), and Kathy Baron, Computing Services, received the Sue and Derrick Rowlandson Memorial Award for Service Excellence.

(LEFT)
Dr. Jon Dron, School of Computing and Information Systems (left), and Dr. Sheldon Krasowski, Institutional Studies, were presented with the President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence. The award will enable each of them to complete scholarly works already in progress.



The 2012 Award for Health and Safety Excellence was presented to the AU Mobile Wellness App Team, (left to right) Colin Elliott, Library Services, Nichole Collins, Human Resources, Tony Tin, Library Services, and Tracey Woodburn Research Centre, and Dr. Evelyn Ellerman, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies.



(FAR LEFT)
Dr. Fuhua (Oscar) Lin, School of Computing and Information Systems, received the 2012 Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.

(LEFT)
Janice Day, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, received the AUGSA Outstanding Distinction Award for Non-academic staff.

Karvonens Support Science Outreach – Athabasca

by Robert Holmberg

AFTER SELLING THE ASSETS OF Karvonen Films, Albert and Pirkko Karvonen decided to fund several organizations that support some of their ideals, such as nature conservation. Earlier this year, as reported in September 24 issue of *The Insider*, through discussions with Science Outreach – Athabasca and the Advancement Office, the Karvonens committed to donating \$250,000 to Science Outreach – Athabasca, \$50,000 a year for each of the next five years.

This major contribution will virtually guarantee that Science Outreach – Athabasca will be able to continue to carry on its work. The Karvonens' generous gift will be put to good use.

Established in 2001, Science Outreach – Athabasca was preceded by a group called Athabasca Science Alive! Both groups were formed to promote science awareness and literacy in the Athabasca area, but Athabasca Science Alive! died because of lack of funds. Science Outreach – Athabasca was born as a result of a three-year grant from the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program.

Science Outreach – Athabasca has been fairly successful in making people aware of science. Since 2001 (excluding brochures, interpretive signs and its website), the organization has held 400 activities involving more than 26,000 children and adults in 19 communities. Some of these activities were presented or supported by Albert and Pirkko Karvonen, who are long-standing members of the Greater Athabasca Community.

Science Outreach – Athabasca is a volunteer organization made up of AU faculty and staff and community members. Most speakers also volunteer their time and travel costs. Some activities, however, require non-volunteer support. For example, hired staff help to co-ordinate activities,

This major contribution will virtually guarantee that Science Outreach – Athabasca will be able to continue to carry on its work.



(TOP) Pirkko Karvonen (left) in front of a piece of her fabric art, with Andrea Hansen, a violinist retired from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, at AU Athabasca in November 2011 for a Science Outreach – Athabasca presentation of a Karvonen documentary.

(BOTTOM) Albert Karvonen, at a presentation at the Nancy Appleby Theatre in Athabasca.

work on the Science Outreach – Athabasca [website](#) and prepare signage. Costs associated with public presentations (advertising, occasional honoraria and mileage for speakers, refreshments, materials and supplies) also require Science Outreach – Athabasca to secure external funds.

Since its inception, Science Outreach – Athabasca has received more than \$345,000 from various funding agencies, including small community grants and industrial, provincial and federal grants. Although the organization has established a solid reputation for creating science awareness in Athabasca and the surrounding region, finding funding, especially for ongoing activities such as the speaker series and school activities, has grown increasingly challenging.

The Karvonens' donation to Science Outreach – Athabasca is part of AU's Open Our World Campaign, which is focused on raising funds in four priority areas: student awards, research, community service and learning innovation. Read more about the campaign in "Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation Gives to AU" on page 9.

Networking, Connecting and Sharing at First AU Grad Student Conference

THE FIRST **AU GRADUATE STUDENT Conference**, held September 14-16, gave graduate students and AU faculty and staff members an opportunity to meet, network and discuss their work.

Dean of graduate studies Dr. Pamela Hawranik said that she was pleased with the success of the conference and felt students and AU employees who attended, both virtually and in-person, were energized by the opportunities to meet, discuss their programs and describe their research. "I had hoped that this conference would help to create a graduate student sense of community, raise student confidence in their research and in their abilities, and share their experiences as an adult learner with multiple responsibilities," she said. "This was accomplished and more."

Eighty-nine people registered for the conference (both virtual and in-person) and 57 abstracts were submitted by AU students. Students from all the master's and doctoral programs at AU presented either papers or posters.

All abstracts were peer-reviewed before being accepted, and several students commented that this process helped them to learn how to write an abstract. Since the conference, some have successfully submitted abstract to other conferences.

Fifteen international students attended, 11 in-person from as far away as Taiwan, Japan, Belgium, Mexico, India and Brazil, and four virtually. Students presented virtually from Singapore, Nigeria, Australia and Qatar.

The conference opened with a Friday night meet-and-greet, sponsored by the AU Graduate Students' Association. Saturday was devoted student and faculty presentations, followed by a banquet in the evening. Sunday morning included more student presentations, a



(TOP) Conference speakers Dr. Caroline Park and Dr. Terry Anderson.



(LOWER PHOTO) Master of Nursing graduate Teresa Rosemary Harris, with help from events co-ordinator Mel MacGregor, sets up her poster presentation on the recruitment and retention of new graduate nurses.

keynote address by an alumnus and a closing summary by two faculty members.

Keynote speakers for the conference included Dr. Terry Anderson from AU, Dr. Gina Wisker, who conducted a virtual presentation from the University of Brighton in the UK, and 2011 AU graduate Katherine Janzen, now an assistant professor at Mount Royal University, who engaged the audience with a discussion of her journey and her inspirations as an AU graduate student.

The conference also featured two panels, one on writing for publication and a second one with Dr. Raphael Foshay, Debbie Fraser, Dr. Susan Moisey, Dr. Mark McCutcheon and Dr. Caroline Park, all from AU, providing a summary of the presentations.

Participant feedback on the most valuable aspects of the conference included gaining experience in presenting work and fielding questions about it; connecting, networking, sharing and interacting; and being able to give back to AU for all that the university has done.

Hawranik commended the faculty and staff members who volunteered their time over the past 18 months to organize the conference and ensure its success. Based on the evaluation, conference organizers and participants considered this inaugural event a great success.

A second AU Graduate Student Conference has been scheduled for September 13-15, 2013.

Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation Gives to AU



by Cathy Nickel

FOR TWO YEARS NOW, THE EDMONTON Oilers Community Foundation has invested in AU's nursing students by donating funds for student awards. "We receive support from fans and many different communities, so to be able to give back in this way is perfect," said Natalie Minckler, the foundation's executive director. "Creating scholarships for nursing students fits with our objectives to support education, health and wellness.

"Athabasca University is a great institution educating students who will become the nursing professionals serving central and northern Alberta," Minckler said. "Our board of directors felt very strongly that AU is doing something wonderful for the community and warrants our support."

These donations contribute to AU's Open Our World Campaign, which is focused on raising funds in four priority areas: student awards, research, community service and learning innovation.

The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation first donated to AU's Faculty of Health Disciplines in 2011, creating four student awards.

Heather Smith, who graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing degree last spring and now works for Primary Care Network in west Edmonton, received an Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation Post-RN Award valued at \$2,500. "It just made my day," she said, recalling opening the mail and learning she had received the award. "It made me feel really special

"Athabasca University is a great institution educating students who will become the nursing professionals serving central and northern Alberta," Minckler said. "Our board of directors felt very strongly that AU is doing something wonderful for the community and warrants our support."

and recognized the work I'd done as a student. It was very thoughtful of them to do this. They didn't have to. It was a very nice reward after five years of working on my degree, and I wouldn't have the job I have now if I didn't have my degree." It also made her husband very happy. "He's always been an Oilers fan," Smith said. "So now he likes them even more."

The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation's most recent donation is a \$50,000 commitment to create eight new student awards each year for five years. Four students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing degree through the Post-LPN or the Post-RN program will receive \$1,500 awards and four students in the Faculty of Health Disciplines who must travel to complete their program requirements will receive \$1,000 travel awards.

"We're happy to do our part," Minckler said, pointing out that the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation has contributed more than \$23 million to community initiatives since its launch in 2001. "The demand for health care across our

region is growing, the population is aging and we're seeing an influx of people," she said. "There's pressure on every stress point you can imagine. We all want to lead active, healthy lives, and we'll need health care professionals to help us do that. Supporting nursing student scholarships is a way for us to give back to the people and communities who support us. It comes full circle."

Donations from the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation also support [*Caring for the Future*](#), a fundraising campaign within the Faculty of Health Disciplines which complements the university-wide [*Open Our World Campaign*](#) by raising funds for learning and research initiatives directly related to nursing, health studies and applied psychology.

Hiromi Goto Addresses Culture, Gender and Kotodama



by Dave Brundage

ON OCTOBER 4, A LARGE FACULTY AND staff turn-out in Edmonton and a virtual roomful of others, including several students, gathered to hear a presentation by critically acclaimed novelist and 2012-13 AU writer-in-residence [Hiromi Goto](#), a discussion of the personal and practical challenges she faced in shaping her second novel *The Kappa Child*, as part of the Arts and Science Research Talks series. The novel was winner of the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award for 2001.

Goto's selected reading illustrated the novel's compact and vivid style, non-linear construction, shifts of viewpoint and unusually represented protagonist. Observing that we enter the world not by growing but by splitting, she began with the novel's opening voice-over of the fertilized egg, which later emerges as unnamed gender-ambiguous main character. As well as telling a story, said Goto, the novelist is "constructing time," time required to read as well as time experienced

by characters inside the narrative.

In writing her first novel, *Chorus of Mushrooms* (winner of the 1994 Commonwealth Prize for Best Regional Book), Goto said, she did not know enough about genre or various questions of method to worry much about the technical task ahead. By the time of *The Kappa Child*, however, she said, she was more mindful of those challenges, while also taking on greater artistic complexity. To handle the task, she said, she used a colour-coding scheme, helping to proportion and interweave childhood, recent past, pregnant present and ironic links with *Little House on the Prairie*. She managed to remove all gendered pronouns and references concerning her protagonist.

Goto said she faced a daunting challenge with the novel's content as well, drawn as it was from a childhood complicated by family dysfunction. She said that she told all her family members that she was working with the essence of that experience, and while her mother would have preferred what she called a "nice story," they were accepting of the writer's difficult decision.

An audience question about *Chorus of Mushrooms* raised Goto's use of folk legends in conjunction with contemporary setting. "Folk legends were once news items," she pointed out. Earlier she had explained the meaning of the Japanese word *kotodama*: a combining of *word* and *spirit* (or soul). When we utter a word, we give it spirit and thus birth. A writer's task, Goto suggested is to combine the awareness and craft needed to birth tomorrow's legends.

Goto may be contacted at her AU [web address](#) until May 2013. She will reply to questions and offer comments on a short sample of creative writing in any genre. Further information is available on the [Writer in Residence website](#).

Family Talent on Display



(ABOVE) Sarah Johnson, daughter of AU employees Dr. Greg Johnson and Dr. Nancy Parker.

(LEFT) Glass art by Stacey Swanson.

THE ART EXHIBIT NOW HANGING ON the ground floor of the Academic and Research Centre at AU Athabasca showcases the talent of AU faculty and staff members and that of their children.

“The Art Committee feels the university’s art collection belongs to the whole university and enriches people’s work day,” said committee member Kathy Williams. “By designating one wall as a community art wall, we hoped to open up a dialogue with the AU community about the importance of art in people’s daily lives as well as to recognize the many talented people working and living here. We hope to foster a sense of belonging and ownership.”

The 25-piece exhibit is hanging at the north end of the ARC’s main floor (opposite CWIKR) and in the servery until December 10.

“The Art Committee feels the university’s art collection belongs to the whole university and enriches people’s work day.”

“This show is just the first of many we hope to organize,” Williams said. “Future shows may focus on a single artist from the Athabasca community or on a group of artists from the wider region.”

AU Christmas Artisan and Gift Show

*Friday, Nov. 16
noon to 8 p.m.*

THE AU WELLNESS COMMITTEE WILL BE hosting the annual AU Christmas Artisan and Gift Show at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex on Friday, November 16 from noon to 8 p.m., and looks forward to seeing all members of the AU community there.

The event will feature entertainment, food, door prizes, a kids zone, an opportunity to support the local food bank and, of course, plenty of Christmas shopping opportunities.

It takes many hands to make an event like this a success. If your organization is looking for fund raising opportunities, the

Wellness Committee is seeking groups to provide some type of meal to patrons of the Christmas Artisan and Gift Show, such as a moderate dinner, goodies, snacks, baking, refreshments, etc.

It is also looking for people who would like to volunteer or provide entertainment.

To book a table or to inquire about providing food, entertainment or volunteering, please contact the [event organizers](#).

First Aid Training in Athabasca

THE 2012 FIRST AID TRAINING DATES for AU Athabasca are listed below. Registration for one- and two-day courses is now open on the [OHS Moodle Site](#).

Those who are logging in to the Moodle site for the first time may have to click "Yes I want to enrol" and "Occupational Health and Safety" in order to enter into the course options area and select the desired course date.

Occupational Health and Safety is working on scheduling first aid training dates for Edmonton and Calgary in the coming months. Contact [Nichole Collins](#) with any questions.

Thursday, December 6
Emergency First Aid
Governing Council Chambers

Thursday, December 6 to Friday, December 7
Standard First Aid
Governing Council Chambers

Thursday, December 13
Emergency First Aid
Governing Council Chambers

Thursday, December 13 to Friday, December 14
Standard First Aid
Governing Council Chambers

Research Buzz

Upcoming Events

Arts and Science Research Talk

Friday, November 23

Archie Zariski, Dale Dewhurst and Dr. Mohamed Ally
“E-Learning and Access to Justice”

A list of all research dissemination activities is available on the [Research Centre webpage](#).

Call for Nominations: Annual AU Honours

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS INVITES nominations for candidates for the Order of Athabasca University and for honorary doctorates to be presented at Convocation 2013.

Persons or groups that have rendered exemplary service to AU or that have rendered exemplary service to the community or society while representing AU are eligible for induction into the Order of

Athabasca University. [Nomination forms](#) and the [Order of Athabasca University Policy](#) are available online.

An honorary Doctor of Science, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws or Doctor of Athabasca University may be awarded to someone who has distinguished himself or herself in education, science, the arts, public service or other areas and has made significant lifelong contributions to

endeavours consistent with the mandate and purpose of AU. [Nomination forms](#) and [additional information on selection criteria](#) are available online.

All completed nomination forms must be received by November 27, 2012. For further information, contact university secretary [Carol Lund](#) (780-675-6271).

FOLLOW US



Athabasca University's Facebook page has over 2,000 fans. Check it out at [facebook.com/AthabascaUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/AthabascaUniversity). If you would like something posted onto the AU Facebook page, please contact [Michael Shouldice](#).



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 November 13. Deadline for submissions is November 2.

Posted on The Landing:
<https://landing.athabascau.ca>

Athabasca University