

the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

VOLUME 3: ISSUE #17

November 13, 2012

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COVER IMAGE »

This 1955 photograph of Mufty Tremain, entitled *Vat's Deese? MT and Spécialité de la Maison*, was taken while she and a friend, the photographer, were travelling through northern Europe, a year after she had received a McGill University diploma in physio and occupational therapy. Tremain later raised a family of four in Edmonton with William Wallace Mathewson.

The photo is part of the *Mufty Mathewson Collection*, donated to the [Alberta Women's Memory Project](#), an online portal, hosted by AU, providing access to the stories of Western Canadian women in their own words.

Who and what is remembered depends on the materials that are collected, preserved and made available to people. Every day, women create letters, journals, photographs, email messages, videotapes and other records that document their lives. These personal records tell important stories that can inform and inspire others.



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<https://landing.athabascau.ca>

Athabasca University

DegreeWorks Launched

“DegreeWorks provides a great academic planning and advising tool”

DEGREEWORKS, A NEW PLANNING AND audit program implemented by the Office of the Registrar, has been launched to students. The new tool provides students with a self-serve information system, allowing advisers to spend more time on in-depth program advising for those students who need it.

DegreeWorks is a comprehensive academic advising and degree audit solution that works with Banner, AU’s student information system. The program automatically retrieves a student’s academic record from Banner and organizes it into an educational plan on the web, easily identifying program requirements, which courses have been completed and which courses the student still needs for degree completion.

All undergraduate program students are in DegreeWorks, but only those who have registered since September 2010 have access to the automatic planning features. Others have access to a work sheet and can create a plan for themselves manually. They can also communicate with their adviser online.

Since the program was launched on September 18, 6,660 students have logged in. Three hundred and fifty have used the planner function to create academic plans, choosing future courses and discussing their plans online with advisers.

“Things are going very well for us and feedback from students and staff continues to be very positive,” said Serita Smith, co-ordinator of Advising Services. “Advisers are getting used to having students submit their own plans for discussion and approval. We have been able to resolve a few behind the scenes issues that the advising team identified after having the opportunity to work with DegreeWorks and help students navigate through the product.”

The new service enables advisers to assist students in helping themselves, Smith said. “It empowers students to make their own plans and decisions and work more on their own.”

The project steering committee is in discussion with two graduate centres to adopt the program and expand the service to graduate students.

“DegreeWorks provides a great academic planning and advising tool that creates new efficiencies and fosters more personal interactions between advisers and students,” said project manager Richard MacLeod, assistant registrar. “Students receive the academic advice they need to succeed and advisers gain new capacity to assist students. All of this can lead to graduating faster.”

For more information on DegreeWorks, visit the [project website](#). You can provide feedback by emailing the [project team](#).

Hawranik Recognized for Advancing Palliative Care



Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award

DR. PAMELA HAWRANIK, DEAN OF graduate studies, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award for her work in advancing issues of hospice palliative care in Canada. Hawranik was nominated for the award by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. The medal and framed certificate were presented to her in Montreal in October.

Joseph Pivato on George Elliott Clarke



LITERARY STUDIES PROFESSOR DR. JOE Pivato was recently in Toronto for the launch of his new book *Africadian Atlantic: Essays on George Elliott Clarke*.

Africadian Atlantic is the first book devoted to Clarke's work. The award-winning poet, playwright, librettist and novelist was born in an African Canadian community in Nova Scotia and now teaches at the University of Toronto. Clarke was present at the book launch to read some poetry in praise of multiculturalism.

Pivato pointed out that this first academic book on an African-Canadian author is an example of multiculturalism since it includes 14 essays by different critics from across Canada, Italy and Brazil. Pivato edited the collection and contributed the introduction and the final essay on writing styles.

In his talk, Pivato contrasted Clarke's status as a post-colonial author with his many Italian connections. Clarke wrote his play and opera, *Beatrice Chancy* (1999) while on a fellowship in Bellagio, Italy. The play was inspired by the tragic true story of the Cenci family murder and execution in Rome in 1599. Clarke's Nova Scotia play, *Whylah Falls* (1990) was translated

**Africadian
Atlantic is the first
book devoted to
Clarke's work.**

into Italian and staged in Venice (2002) to a variety of black music. Also in Venice, Giulio Marra edited a collection of Clarke's poems and plays, which he had translated into Italian (*Poesie e Drammi*) in 2012.

Clarke was keynote speaker at the Italian-Canadian writers conference in Toronto in 2002. His talk, "Let Us Compare Anthologies" examined the role of Di Chico's *Roman Candles: Italy-Canadian Poets* (1978) and Herald Head's *Canada In Us Now* (1976), the first anthology of African Canadian poetry and prose. The text of this lecture can be found on the Clarke webpage of AU's [Canadian Writers website](#).

(ABOVE) Pivato (right) at the book launch with Clarke and novelist Frank Paci.

AU Anthropology Major Digs Ireland



DANIELLE RAJAH, AN AU anthropology major from St. Albert, Alta., spent six weeks at the Achill Archaeological Field School, in Dooagh, Achill Island, County Mayo, off the north-west coast of Ireland, this past summer.

The focus of the field school was excavation of a potential megalithic tomb on the side of Slievemore Mountain. Megalithic describes structures made of large stones using an interlocking system without the use of mortar or cement.

As Rajah moved to upper level anthropology courses, she realized that the necessary next step would be field experience in her chosen specialty. During the 2011-12 academic year, she researched various field schools in North America and Europe and selected the Achill because of the broad scope of training offered and the field trips and workshops that were part of the field experience.

Hands-on experience involved surveying, planning, excavating, use of the total station and cleaning finds from a 10 by 10 metre trench. Instruction on the basics of GIS and the opportunity to apply this knowledge using the computer were provided.

Weekly lectures by scholars from the University of Ulster, the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and Queen's University Belfast, among others, introduced students to the methods, theory, prehistory and history of the Late Iron Age and medieval to post-medieval Ireland and Scotland.

As part of her training, Rajah participated in three workshops: Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramics in Ireland, Human Remains in Irish Archaeology and Drawing Archaeological Finds.

(ABOVE) Danielle Rajah took part in the excavation of a possible megalithic tomb in Ireland this past summer.

Added highlights of her first field experience included archaeological fieldtrips to the deserted Slievemore village and Napoleonic signal tower, to promontory forts on Atlantic Drive and Kildavnet Castle, to the National Museum of Ireland in Turlough Park and medieval abbeys at Burrishule and Strade, to Boycott's House, Keem Village and Bunowna Booley village on Keem Bay, and to various megalithic tombs at Slievemore and the Protestant Mission Settlement at Dugort.

The Achill Archaeological Field School provided an outstanding learning experience in fieldwork, analysis, and local prehistory and history.

Student Orientation Project Nearing Completion

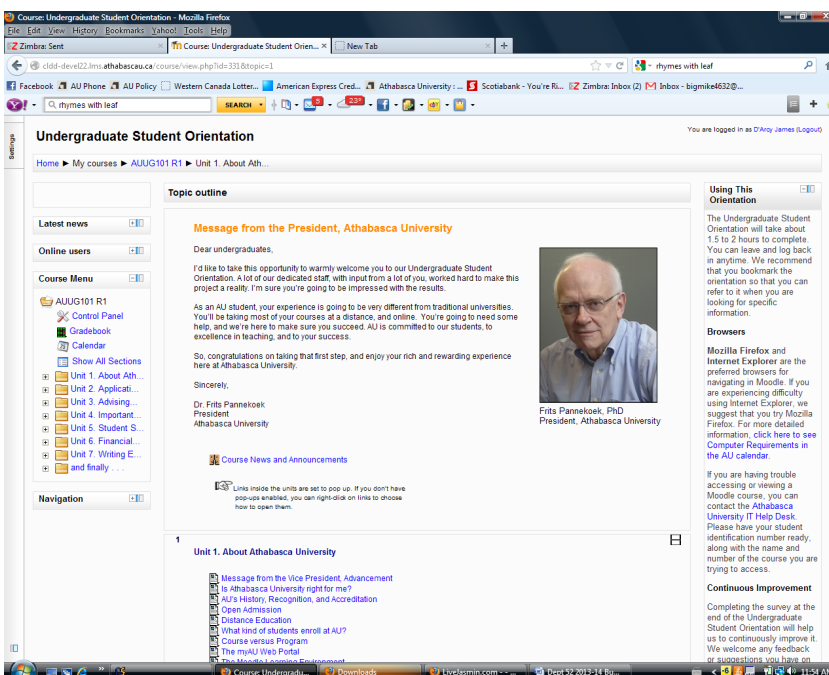
THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT Orientation Project is designed to provide students and prospective students with an easier and faster way to navigate the AU website to find the information they want. An initiative of the Student Success Group, the project was approved by Executive Group in January 2012.

It can be daunting for prospective students to navigate through the information on the university website. "We wanted to have something that allows a student to get basic information about services, processes and procedures and also allows them to link to more detailed information if they want it," said Jim D'Arcy, acting associate vice president academic (student services) and registrar.

The Student Orientation Task Team, consisting of staff from key front-line areas, has undertaken to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure that basic information is easily accessible to all students.
- Present information that meets a variety of student needs, such as program planning, registration, admission, student financial aid, exams and general information.
- Develop a tool that facilitates student success through knowledge about AU policy, procedure, degree regulations, etc.
- Provide students with content that helps them to develop realistic service expectations.
- Provide staff with reporting information that will help them understand student behavior and student service needs.
- Create an efficient and informative tool for use by members of the AU community.
- Develop a tool that promotes and enhances the AU brand.

Since February, the team has finalized the content of seven different orientation units, each one covering a specific topic



such as applications and admissions. Each unit is subdivided by sub-topic, such as how to apply and how to register. The material has been templated into Moodle. Staff members from front-line service areas have reviewed the content and provided feedback, and the material was tested by a focus group of both students and non-students in October.

D'Arcy, who is chair of the steering committee for the project, is optimistic that the orientation will be well received. "Feedback from front-line reviewers has been positive, and they see it as an excellent tool for prospective students, current students and for staff to orientate themselves to AU and provide a succinct shell that can be referred to time and time again," he said.

Besides D'Arcy, project team members include Wendy Carswell, Information Centre; Cheryl Christensen, Faculty of Business Advising Services; Ken Dickson,

Counselling Services; Jeff Dutton, Student and Academic Services; Elaine Fabbro, Library Services; Morgan Newington, Student Awards and Financial Aid; Cammy Peden, Learning Services Tutorial; Daisy Ramos, Enrolment Services; Martin Reaney, Access to Students with Disabilities; and Serita Smith, Advising Services.

Many other members of the AU community were consulted and have contributed. Mary Pringle and Corinne Bosse edited and templated the orientation into Moodle.

Undergraduate Student Orientation is expected to go live in mid to late November, and an official launch is being planned. Phase two of the project, which will include introduction of videos of AU students and a stronger level of accessibility, is also being planned.

Collect, Reflect and Share with E-Portfolios

E-PORTFOLIOS WILL BE ONE OF THE elements available in AU's new e-lab, which is nearing completion.

Portfolios have been used in many professional areas for decades, primarily as physical places to store samples of someone's work. These samples could then be taken out and shown to prospective employers and clients. With the advent of the Internet, the e-portfolio developed as a simple electronic version of its cardboard cousin: as a demonstration or presentation tool.

People now use e-portfolios as a means of storing information they want to use later, in course development and revision, or as a way of displaying information for their promotion and tenure review applications.

The e-portfolio's potential for teaching and learning became obvious fairly early on. These days, they are used to demonstrate learning, particularly in prior learning assessment applications, in which students demonstrate what they have learned from professional practice and non-formal learning, against a set of learning outcomes supplied by the university.

E-portfolios are also being used for formative and summative purposes, whether as demonstrations of knowledge and performance or as part of reflective practice. In Europe and the United States, and increasingly in Canada, the e-portfolio has become a robust strategy for involving students in setting their own learning objectives for courses and programs and then reflecting on and measuring their progress in meeting those objectives.

AU's e-lab uses [Mahara](#) for the e-portfolio function. Mahara allows users to create, import or export text and multimedia files, to have multiple versions of their e-portfolios and to share their content with specific users for specified periods of time. Content and accessibility are completely controlled by the user.

The screenshot shows the Athabasca University E-LAB website. The main navigation menu includes: e-Lab Home, Learn (Tool Cupboard, Workshops, Canadian Film Online, MediaCan, Podcasts), Create (ePortfolios), Connect (The Landing), Share (Showcase, e-Portfolio), Research (Mobile Learning, Open Educational Resources, e-Portfolio Research, Online Media Research), About the Lab (News, Contact the e-Lab), AU Home, Library, KIP & CAF Projects at AU, Research Centre, and Admin Login. The main content area features a header for 'Athabasca University E-LAB' and a section for 'ePortfolios'. The ePortfolios section explains that it is a secure, easy way to reflect on and record your work, listing benefits such as academic achievements, professional development, readiness for university work, ideas for course development and revision, and research progress. It also states that ePortfolios allow users to create or import text, photographs, audio and video files, and share portfolio components with specified people for specified periods of time. A link is provided to 'Try the ePortfolio tool now' with a note that users can log in with their MyAU credentials. To the right, there is a 'Showcase' section with a photo of two women and a link to 'Women's processing of cinematic melodrama and their body esteem' with a 'More showcase items' link. Below that is a 'Learn something new' section with a photo of a desk and a link to 'A Quick and Dirty Guideline to Academic Essay Writing Success (1st and 2nd Year)' with a 'More workshops' link.

With the advent of the Internet, the e-portfolio developed as a simple electronic version of its cardboard cousin: as a demonstration or presentation tool.

An added bonus for AU is that Mahara was designed to work with Moodle. The e-lab is investigating Mahara-Moodle integration, which will make the use of e-portfolios seamless for students.

AU's e-lab represents one vision of what a virtual university lab might be. It serves

all the practical functions that physical labs have served in the past, but it also anticipates the future in providing an online environment that encourages new forms of learning and professional growth. Watch for the future articles in *The Insider* about what the e-lab has to offer.

Self-service Tools Available with New HR System

The HR system is set to go live January 1, 2014.

THE NEW BANNER HUMAN RESOURCES upgrade, part of the Administrative Systems Renewal Project, will provide many new self-service tools for AU staff members.

Employees will have a single sign-on to view their personal information and make changes as necessary. The new information will be available in real time.

The HR portal will allow access to a number of different self-serve applications including time and attendance, pay statements, bank time balances and other employee-specific information.

Many business processes will be reviewed for efficiencies concurrent with the development of Banner. These improvements, along with the automation of the approval process, will reduce waiting times and data processing. Many manual, behind-the-scenes processes and tasks will be automated, providing easier access to information and real-time answers.

The Operational Data Store (ODS) is part of the Banner solution that is optimized to support institutional reporting. The ODS creates a snapshot of the Banner data and is updated nightly from the production

system. It is optimized for reporting, while the core Banner system is designed to support transactional processing. It will allow staff access to reporting without placing a strain on the core Banner system. The goal of the system is to provide wider access to Banner data and to reporting, allowing staff members to better manage their responsibilities. The system will also improve AU's ability to meet external reporting requirements.

The HR system is set to go live January 1, 2014. Training sessions are being planned and further details will be announced.

Arts and Science Research Speaker Series



Greece in the Eye of the Storm

DR. PAUL KELLOGG, ASSISTANT professor in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, provided a fascinating analysis of the political landscape in Greece prior to and following the economic collapse in Europe.

As Kellogg noted in his September presentation, 2012 witnessed a sharp realignment in the architecture of Greek politics through which support for the two mainstream and mostly centrist parties collapsed and a coalition party on the left of the political spectrum emerged as the second political force in the country. The collapse of the mainstream parties also enabled a newly-emerged neo-Nazi party to harden its base of support.

The change in the political landscape in Greece as a result of economic realities holds important lessons for countries in Europe and closer to home, a point that was made frequently in the discussion

(PHOTO: Dr. Paul Kellogg)



Understanding Aspects of DNA Packaging with Mathematical Modeling

DR. GUSTAVO CARRERO, ASSISTANT professor of mathematics in the Centre for Science, described an interesting application of mathematical modeling to understand an important applied problem in medical biology.

In his October talk, Carrero and his student Carlos Contreras described how mathematical modeling of the spatio-temporal dynamics of histone H1 (a class of histone proteins), together with fluorescence microscopy experiments, can be used to advance understanding of the dynamic aspects of DNA packaging.

Both presentations were recorded and can be accessed through the [Centre for Research website](#).

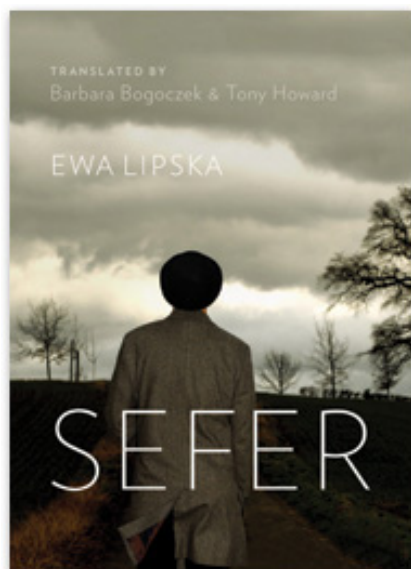
At the next Arts and Science Research Talks presentation on Friday, November 23, Archie Zariski, Dale Dewhurst and Dr. Mohamed Ally will present on e-learning and access to justice.

(PHOTO: Dr. Gustavo Carrero, top, and Carlos Contreras)



*The next Arts
and Science
Research Talks
presentation
on Friday,
November 23.*

New from AU Press

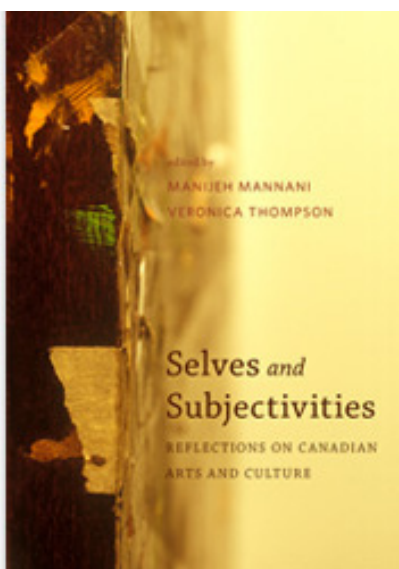


Sefer

ALTHOUGH SHE REMAINS RELATIVELY unknown in North America, Ewa Lipska has long been one of Poland's most esteemed poets and is today regarded as a major figure in European literature.

In *Sefer*, her first novel, Lipska delicately probes the intersection of memory with the immediacy of the present, with particular reference to the legacy of the Holocaust for a postwar generation for whom the atrocities of the war have grown distant, both temporally and emotionally.

In *Sefer*, translators Barbara Bogoczek and Tony Howard deftly capture the poet's unmistakable voice: cool and precise, gently ironic and deeply humane.



Selves and Subjectivities offers an exciting new contribution to the multivocal dialogue surrounding the Canadian sense of identity.

Selves and Subjectivities: Reflections on Canadian Arts and Culture

DR. MANIJEH MANNANI, ASSOCIATE professor of comparative literature in the Centre for Humanities, and Dr. Veronica Thompson, dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, are co-editors of *Selves and Subjectivities: Reflections on Canadian Arts and Culture*, the latest release from AU Press.

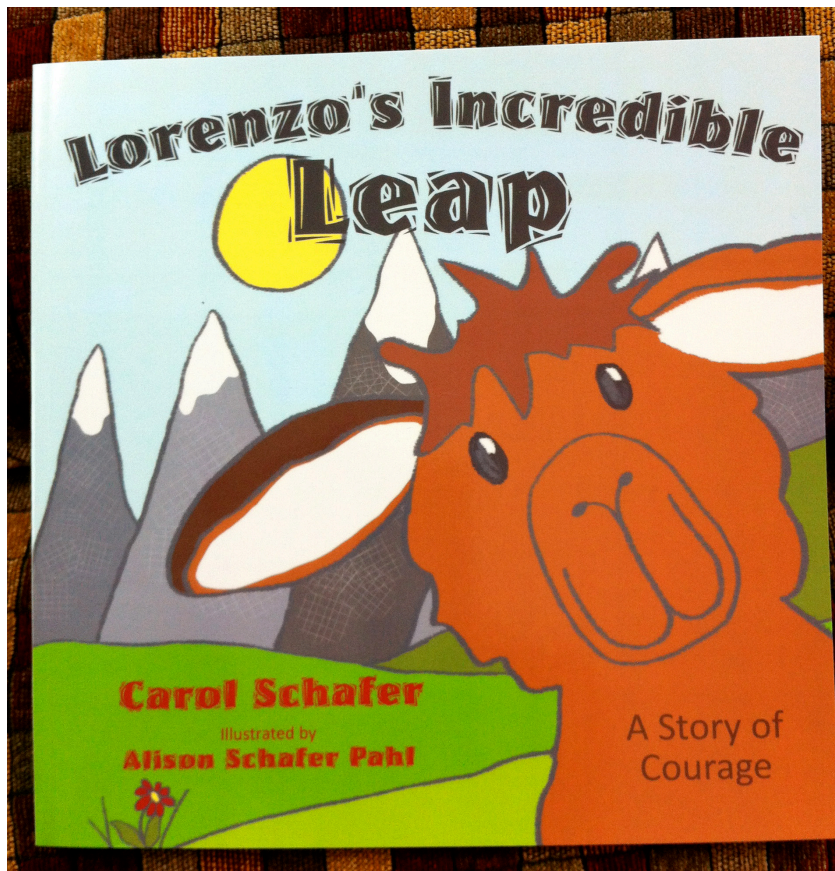
The collection investigates emerging representations of self and other in contemporary Canadian arts and culture. It includes essays on iconic poet and musician Leonard Cohen, Governor General's Award winning playwright Colleen Wagner, feminist poet and novelist Daphne Marlatt, film director David Cronenberg, poet and writer Hédi Bouraoui, author and media scholar Marusya Bociurkiw, puppeteer Ronnie Burkett and the aboriginal rap group War Party.

Critic Diana Brydon has argued that contemporary Canadian writers are "not transcending nation but resituating it." Drawing together themes of gender and sexuality, trauma and displacement, performativity and linguistic diversity, *Selves and Subjectivities* offers an exciting new contribution to the multivocal dialogue surrounding the Canadian sense of identity.

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Leaping Lorenzo Seeks Courage



(ABOVE) Author Carol Schafer (left) and illustrator Alison Schafer Pahl.

CAROL SCHAFFER, COURSE MATERIALS editor in Centre for Learning Design and Development, and her daughter Alison Schafer Pahl, a 2011 AU graduate, teamed up to write and illustrate a children's picture book, *Lorenzo's Incredible Leap: A Story of Courage*.

The book recounts the hilarious tale of a young Peruvian llama who needs to find the courage to step forward and do "all the normal things that llamas do."

"Children respond to Lorenzo with wide eyes and giggles," Schafer said. "They truly love him, partly because he's adorable, and partly because children easily identify with others who need a bit more courage now and then."

"Expect loads of laughter, a courage-building message and countless re-readings,"

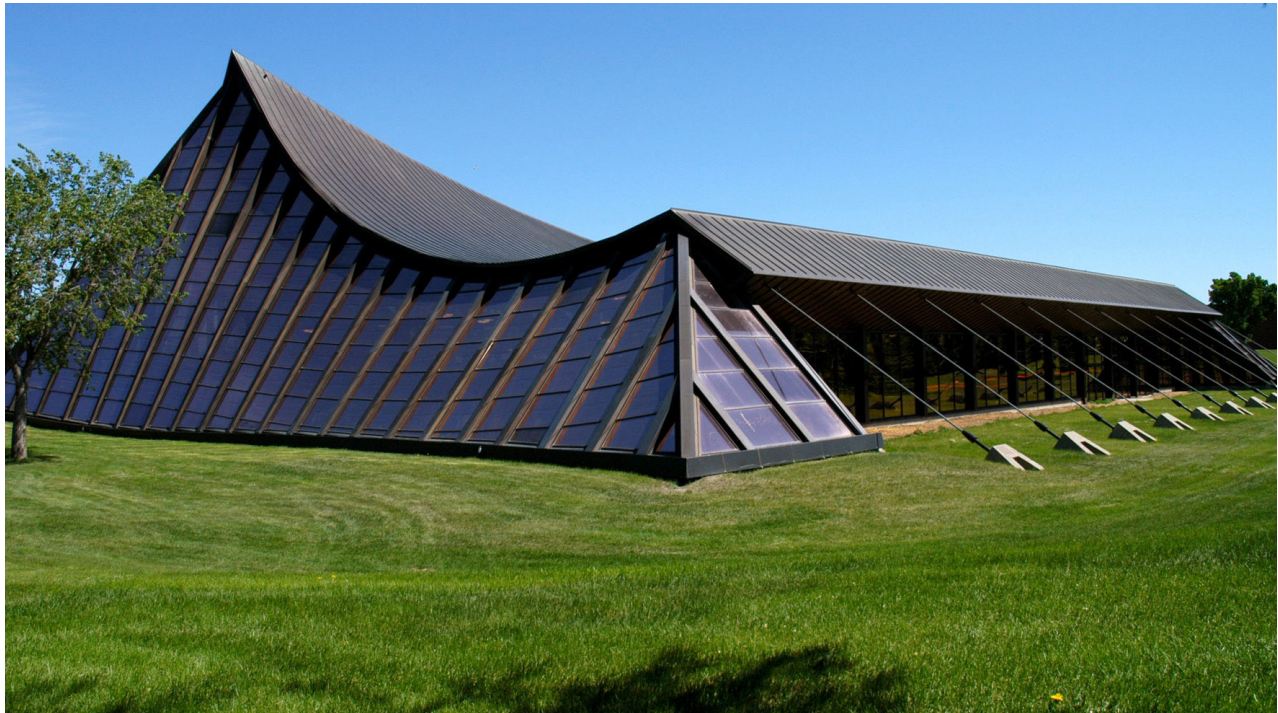
"Children respond to Lorenzo with wide eyes and giggles," Schafer said.

she said. "Alison and I had a blast working on this project. Her delightful illustrations really brought Lorenzo to life, and now he's making friends wherever he goes."

Lorenzo's Incredible Leap is published by Word Alive Press in Winnipeg. Signed softcover copies are available directly from [Schafer](#) for \$13. *Lorenzo* can also be purchased online, as either print or e-book, through a variety of vendors.

If you wish to order online from either Chapters Indigo or Amazon, consider linking to these vendors from the [AU Library homepage](#). The library receives a percentage of each purchase from these links as a participant in these vendors' affiliate programs.

Twentieth Century Canadian Architecture Award



THE HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION and Architecture Canada-RAIC have joined forces to promote public awareness of nationally significant twentieth century Canadian architecture with the Prix de XXe siècle.

The prize recognizes and celebrates the enduring excellence of nationally significant buildings in Canada that were designed by architects from any country and buildings around the world that were designed by Canadian architects. Only existing buildings that were completed between 1950 and 1987 are eligible for nomination.

The deadline for submitting nominations is January 10, 2013.

Further information about the award and full terms of reference, complete with eligibility criteria, submission procedures and nomination forms, are available on the [RAIC website](#).

The deadline for submitting nominations is January 10, 2013.

(ABOVE) The winner of last year's Prix de XXe siècle was the Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre in Edmonton (formerly named Coronation Pool), which opened in 1970. Hemingway was commissioned to design the building in 1967 as a Canadian Centennial project.

TGIF Edmonton

OVER 50 AU STAFF AND FACULTY members gathered at Cafe Sorrentino on October 26 for the Edmonton TGIF event.

(Photo by Jim McLeod)



AU Christmas Artisan and Gift Show



THE AU WELLNESS COMMITTEE IS hosting the annual AU Christmas Artisan and Gift Show at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex on Friday, November 16, from noon to 8 p.m.

This year's event is shaping up to be spectacular, with over 100 vendor tables, local entertainment, snacks, refreshments, a Little Elf Workshop for the kids and, of course, plenty of Christmas shopping ideas.

The Wellness Committee is looking forward to hosting this great event, and we hope to see you all there.

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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 26. Deadline for submissions is November 16.

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