

the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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COVER IMAGE »

Some time on the trails around the university might make a peaceful respite to the hustle and bustle of the holidays. This is the last edition of *The Insider* for this year. Wishing everyone a very healthy, warm and happy holiday season and all the very best for the coming new year.



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

Athabasca University

Does your job increase your breast cancer risk?

RESEARCH INVOLVING AU STAFF MEMBERS has uncovered a risk of breast cancer related to women's occupations.

Jim Brophy, tutor for the course Sociology of Environment and Health, and Margaret Keith, who with Brophy is co-author of the course Environment and Aging, are part of a research team that has provided further evidence confirming that certain occupations do pose a higher risk of breast cancer than others, particularly those that expose the worker to potential carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.

Lead author Brophy said, "Our results highlight the importance of occupational studies in identifying and quantifying environmental risk factors and illustrate the value of taking detailed occupational histories of cancer patients. Mounting evidence suggests that we need to re-evaluate occupational exposure limits in regulatory protection."

Breast cancer is the most frequent cancer diagnosis among women in industrialized countries, and North American rates are among the highest in the world. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals and carcinogens, some of which may not have yet been classified as such, are present in many working environments and may increase breast cancer risk.

In this study, 1006 breast cancer cases referred by a regional cancer center and 1146 randomly-selected community controls provided detailed data including occupational and reproductive histories. Using interviews and surveys, the team collected data on participants' occupational and reproductive histories. All jobs were coded for their likelihood of exposure to carcinogens and endocrine disruptors, and patients' tumor pathology regarding endocrine receptor status was assessed.

In this group of participants the authors found that, across all sectors, women in jobs with potentially high exposures to



Authors Margaret Keith and Jim Brophy

"Mounting evidence suggests that we need to re-evaluate occupational exposure limits in regulatory protection."

carcinogens and endocrine disruptors had an elevated breast cancer risk. Sectors with increased risk included agriculture, bar/gambling, automotive plastics manufacturing, food canning and metalworking. Premenopausal breast cancer risk was also highest in the automotive plastics and food canning industries.

The findings also suggested that women with lower socioeconomic status had an elevated risk of breast cancer, which may result from higher exposures to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the lower-income manufacturing and agricultural industries of the study area.

The results lend weight to hypotheses linking breast cancer risk and exposures likely to include carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.

More about this story can be found on [CTV](#).

Principal funding for the study, published in BioMed Central's open access journal [Environmental Health](#), was provided by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (Ontario) and was co-sponsored by the National Network on Environments and Women's Health with funding support from Health Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Health Network.

Athabasca University Alumni Awards for 2012

NOTHING TELLS THE STORY OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY BETTER THAN THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI - people who are making their mark on the job and in their communities. These awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of our graduates (and soon-to-be graduates) in four categories.

Volunteer Service Award

A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOJOURNALIST from Toronto, Lindsay Hampton (BPA - Communication Studies, '08) has long dreamt of working in medicine. She joined Toronto's Hospital for Sick Kids as an imaging specialist in 2004 and, soon after, launched Art for Eyes, an innovative "paint day" fundraiser to support children with retinoblastoma and their families.

While taking part in medical missions to Peru and the Philippines and teaching ophthalmic imaging in Egypt, India and Africa, Hampton saw the power that education and building local capacity can have on promoting eye health and preventing avoidable blindness. In 2011, drawing again upon her passion and professional interests, she created So Kids Can See, a foundation dedicated to preventing childhood vision loss and blindness due to late diagnosis.



Lindsay Hampton with Pamela Walsh, Vice-President, Advancement

Rising Star Award

AU'S RISING STAR ALUMNI AWARD celebrates potential. Denise Blair (MBA, '10) is the founder and Executive Director of the Calgary Youth Justice Society.

Through her studies at AU, Blair was inspired to create In the Lead, an innovative leadership development program for youth. The program charts a new path for recognizing the potential of young people and for helping them to realize that potential, in large part by focusing on what is strong, rather than on what is wrong.



Denise Blair with Frits Pannekoek, AU President

Distinguished Alumni Award

A PIONEER IN HIGHER EDUCATION, Dr. Jeff Zabudsky (MDE '99) was one of the first students to enrol in AU's Master of Distance Education Program and is a dedicated proponent of distance education in Canada.

Now president and CEO of the Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Oakville, Ontario, Zabudsky previously served as dean of Technology and Curriculum Innovation at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, vice-president academic at Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and president and CEO of Red River College in Winnipeg. He has also served as president of the Canadian Association for Distance Education.



Future Alumni Award

ACTING STAFF SGT. JOHN GUIGON (MAIS, '12) is an 18-year veteran of the Calgary Police Service and currently Executive Officer for one of the CPS's three Deputy Chiefs. He has served on numerous community boards as part of the CPS's Safer Community Initiatives. Community leaders and social agencies in Calgary consider these initiatives to be proactive and highly effective policing models that are revolutionizing the way Calgary polices domestic complaints.

His peers recognize Guigon as a natural leader, one who has had a major impact on policing in Alberta. Colleagues say that, because of his knowledge and approachability, they feel as though they are saving the lives of domestic violence victims on a weekly basis.



Family Campaign Thank You luncheon at AU House

... [members] of the AU family – have given or pledged a total over \$570,000.

ABOUT 20 FACULTY AND STAFF BRAVED the cold to attend a thank you luncheon at AU house on November 20. The luncheon was organized to acknowledge those who supported our first ever Family Campaign.

Since the *Open Our World* Campaign was launched on September 1, 2009, faculty and staff, past and present members of the Board of Governors and campaign cabinet members – all part of the AU family – have given or pledged a total over \$570,000.

Pamela Walsh, Vice-President, Advancement emceed the event. She welcomed everyone and invited guests to enjoy a lunch prepared by Davina Catering. To soothing tones of classical music, traditional and vegetarian lasagnas and salads were enjoyed by all. When dessert arrived, President Pannekoek rose and made a personal thank you to everyone for their support of AU, especially when times are so challenging for higher education in Alberta.

Pannekoek went on to say that AU has just entered the public phase of the *Open Our World* Campaign, and a key success factor is being able to demonstrate to potential donors that there is support from within, and the AU Family did this in spades.

The majority of the support raised in the Family Campaign was directed to scholarships and bursaries for AU students: \$305,000. Other areas supported include the Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute (TEKRI), AU Library, the Thomas A. Edge Archives, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Centre for Architecture, the Learning Communities Project and AU Press.

eCampusAlberta Celebrates Collaboration, Not Competition



AU was one of 16 post-secondary institutions joining together to celebrate the tenth anniversary of eCampusAlberta.

AU WAS ONE OF 16 POST-SECONDARY institutions connected via webcast to celebrate the tenth anniversary of eCampusAlberta, a consortium established to facilitate greater access to high quality online learning opportunities in Alberta.

“Breaking down barriers to post-secondary education is a vital part of Athabasca University’s mission. On this anniversary, we look forward to the next ten years of working with our eCampus partners to remove those barriers for Alberta students, especially Aboriginal students and those living in rural and remote parts of the province.” AU President Frits Pannekoek said earlier.

The organization, established in 2002, enables students from across the province to register in more than 800 online courses

and 70 provincially accredited online certificate, online diploma and applied degree programs.

“eCampus Alberta brings together universities and colleges that offer access to quality online learning opportunities in the province, with a view to increasing access, building capacity, developing awareness and enabling collaboration,” Dr. Cindy Ives, acting Associate VP Academic Learning Resources and director of the Centre for Learning Design and Development, said. “Its successes to date indicate that Alberta learners are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by online programs.”

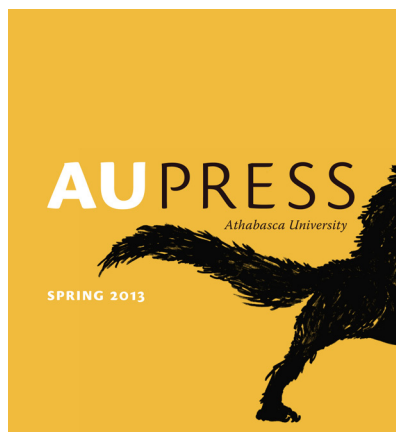
“Thanks to eCampusAlberta, more Albertans are able to access a wide variety of post-secondary education options, no

matter where they live,” the Honourable Stephen Khan, Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education, said during the event. “I look forward to working together as we continue to expand access to quality online learning opportunities that meet the needs of students, industry and labour market demands.”

eCampusAlberta works to extend the reach of Alberta’s post secondary education system across the province. The provincial Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education has endorsed online education delivery as a critical component of Alberta’s post-secondary system and supports eCampusAlberta in its work with partner colleges and technical institutes to advance this objective.

New from AU Press

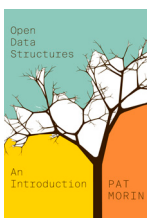
New Spring AU Press Catalogue



WITH THE PUBLICATION OF ITS SPRING [2013 catalogue](#), Athabasca University Press announces the launch of a new AU Press series, Open Pathways to Enriched Learning.

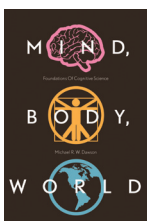
The Open Pathways to Enriched Learning (OPEL) Series is part of the continued commitment of Athabasca University to removing barriers — such as the cost of course materials — that restrict access to and success in university-level study. The OPEL Series seeks to provide optional learning resources for use both by students and by professors. Materials in this series will explore new course presentation models through the application of innovative tools and technologies, and will be available in both print and digital formats.

Titles in the OPEL Series



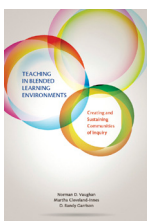
[Open Data Structures: An Introduction](#)

Author Pat Morin gives a modern treatment to an essential computer science topic. *Open Data Structures* is a measured balance between classical topics and state-of-the-art structures that will serve the needs of all undergraduate students or self-directed learners.



[Mind, Body, World: Foundations of Cognitive Science](#)

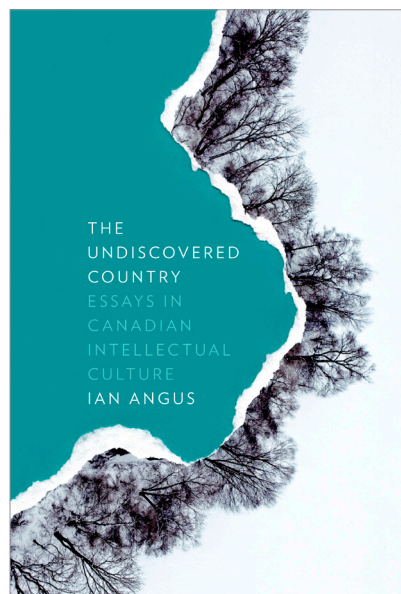
Intended to introduce both graduate and senior undergraduate students to the foundations of cognitive science, *Mind, Body, World*, by Michael R. W. Dawson, addresses a number of questions currently being asked by those practicing in the field.



[Teaching in Blended Learning Environments: Creating and Sustaining Communities of Enquiry](#)

In *Teaching in Blended Learning Environments*, authors Norman D. Vaughan, AU's Martha Cleveland-Innes, and D. Randy Garrison, build upon the theoretical framework of the Community of Inquiry, presenting seven principles as a valuable set of tools for harnessing the opportunities for teaching and learning available through technology.

Also New This Spring from AU Press



[The Undiscovered Country: Essays in Canadian Intellectual Culture](#)

In this sequence of essays, Ian Angus engages with themes of identity, power, and the nation as they emerge in contemporary English Canadian philosophical thought, seeking to prepare the groundwork for a critical theory of neoliberal globalization.

CATALOGUE COPIES AVAILABLE SOON

If you will be attending any conferences in the coming months and would like copies of the AU Press Spring 2013 catalogue to take with you, please contact AU Press.

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AU People in the News

The value of networking

MBA GRADUATE RANDY KEHLER recently made use of the many connections he developed with people across the globe during his program to decide on which career opportunity he should choose. The National Post published an [article](#) about Kehler.

“I reached out not only to people I had gone to school with, but other MBAs that were in the industry that I was moving into to decide which might be the better opportunity and which might better fit who I am based on my history,” Kehler said to reporter Dan Ovsey.

The Winnipeg native later used his network of contacts to learn how his chosen company’s products could be of value to them.

“I reached out not only to people I had gone to school with, but other MBAs that were in the industry that I was moving into to decide which might be the better opportunity”

Sweet controlled dreaming

THE WORK OF AU TUTOR AND subject matter expert Dr. Jayne Gackebach was recently featured in [USA Today](#) and [LiveScience](#). Gackebach’s research looks at how playing video games before bedtime may give people an unusual level of awareness and control in their dreams.



Dr. Jayne Gackebach

From Coding to Networking: Building Moodle on a Human Scale

*Join us February
12 -15, 2013,
in Vancouver*

BCCAMPUS, ON BEHALF OF THE BCcampus Moodle Shared Services Participating Institutions, and the British Columbia and Canadian Moodle communities, invites you to join us February 12 -15, 2013, in Vancouver (or online from your home or office) for some west coast openness, collaboration, innovation, and community building at Canada MoodleMoot 2013.

Open source platforms such as Moodle advance through the hard work of motivated users who share their ideas freely. How do we capture the creativity and openness that are hallmarks of the Moodle community? CanadaMoot 2013 will cast a wide

net to gather examples of how we achieve more together than in competition. Come and share your stories with us and help us humanize Moodle. Moodlers do best when we learn and share together.

Pre-conference: February 12, 2013
Conference: February 13 - 15, 2013

To register, for information on the conference program and accommodation, or to sponsor and exhibit, please go to the [conference website](#).

If you have questions, please [email us](#) or reach us in [Twitter](#).

EdTech Innovation 2013

EDTECH INNOVATION IS A NATIONAL conference to be hosted by AU in Calgary from May 1 to 3, 2013.

The conference brings together start-ups, researchers, technology purchasers and venture capitalists and will profile innovative research being conducted at Canadian universities and start-ups that are developing new technologies, products and services. Connecting researchers with start-ups will enable new forms of innovation and partnership opportunities to grow Canada's educational ecosystem.

Two hundred participants are expected. A trade show being held in conjunction with the conference will be open to the general public, allowing greater exposure for new educational tools and techniques.

During the past decade, educational technology has steadily grown in prominence

*Connecting researchers with start-ups
will enable new forms of innovation
and partnership opportunities to grow
Canada's educational ecosystem.*

and influence on campuses around the world. In response, a new generation of edtech startups has emerged. Currently, a national conference does not exist that brings together edtech innovators, practitioners, funders and government partners. The EdTech Innovation conference addresses this void and will assist

in developing awareness of the growing edtech space.

Further information is available on the [conference website](#).

Commitment to Conservation



THE HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION is accepting nominations for the [Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership](#).

This prize is awarded to a municipal government, large or small, rural or urban, which has demonstrated a strong and sustained commitment to the conservation of its historic places. Past recipients include Edmonton, Markham, Ontario, and Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

The terms of reference, complete with eligibility criteria, nomination procedures and forms, are available [online](#). The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2013.

The Heritage Canada Foundation is a national registered charity dedicated to the preservation of Canada's historic places.

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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.

This is the last issue of *The Insider* for this year. The first issue of *The Insider* for 2013 will be published on January 28. Deadline for submissions is January 18, 2013.

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<https://landing.athabascau.ca>

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