

the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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Dr. Ken Munyikwa

COVER IMAGE »

For the second year in a row, Dr. Ken Munyikwa of the Centre for Science helped Grade 7 students from Landing Trail Intermediate School with rock testing, a geology curriculum unit in which the students study characteristics of rocks and minerals such as hardness and lustre. The students visited the science lab earlier this month.



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Athabasca University

Burnetts Fund Nursing Scholarships

DAVID AND MARLENE BURNETT, long-time supporters of AU, have donated \$25,000 to the Open Our World Campaign in support of nursing scholarships in the Faculty of Health Disciplines.

The donation is the largest individual donor gift ever received by AU's nursing program.

David Burnett was a member of AU's Governing Council from 2000 to 2006, serving as chair from 2004 to 2006. Under his leadership, the university changed its governance structure, developed a new strategic university plan and experienced unprecedented enrolment growth.

Recognizing the achievements of nursing students has special meaning for the Burnetts, owing to Marlene Burnett's early career as an RN in obstetrics in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

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David Burnett

Online Skills Development Available through E-Lab

THE [E-LAB AT AU](#) FEATURES A GROWING list of open-access self-study workshops aimed at helping users advance their digital literacy, teaching, learning, research and study skills.

According to lab co-ordinator Dr. Evelyn Ellerman, the workshops evolved from the realization that AU students and faculty members have a wide range of skills and knowledge about research, teaching and online study. "Not everyone in the university community feels comfortable or capable online," she said. "The workshops are meant to assist people to develop or improve their ability to function in an online educational environment."

In developing the first phase of the workshop area, the lab contracted subject matter experts to develop materials. Several of those workshops provide the basis for online courses in digital story-telling, professional writing and trends in new media in the MAIS program. "We hope that this will set a pattern for the development of courses where skills development is appropriate," Ellerman said.

The workshops area also includes workshops developed by AU faculty members. Dr. Marc Cels, for example, has contributed workshop material for history students. Any AU academic or professional can add to the workshops by contacting [Darren Harkness](#).

Students may be directed to a particular workshop by a link embedded in a Moodle course or they may simply come across the workshops in the lab while looking for tutorial assistance in some online skill. Each workshop contains suggestions for related AU courses.



This approach is intended to produce an organic flow between courses and online skills development and improvement.

Available workshops include Avoiding Plagiarism, Digital Humanities Tools, Comic Book Software for Digital Storytelling, Editing Digital Images, Webpage Building and several writing workshops including Basic Essay

This approach is intended to produce an organic flow between courses and online skills development ...

Writing, Online Writing, Digital Research, Organizing Your Writing and Interviewing in Academic Disciplines. Each workshop is designed to take up to one hour to complete.

Learning experiences in the [workshops area](#) are now offered informally. Workshops that can be taken for credit, whether in connection with an AU course or in partnership with another organization, will be added.

The first of these more formal workshops will be associated with a course in media and information literacy that AU is now developing for UNESCO. Students who complete this short course, which will consist of a series of self-study workshops, will receive a certificate of completion.

The workshops area will provide opportunities for faculty members, students and university partners to engage in a variety of learning experiences including online self-directed or guided skills development, exam preparation, webinars and short courses, discussion and peer review.

Webinar Series to Explore the Library of the Future

AU is holding a series of webinars to consider the library of the future. Three sessions are planned.



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- “From Gatekeeping to Gate Opening: An Evolving Role for Academic Libraries” by Steven Bell, associate university librarian for research and instruction at Temple University and 2012-13 president of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Tuesday, February 26, 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- “Libraries of the Future: An Australian Research Library Perspective” by Phillip Kent, university librarian at the University of Melbourne, an executive member of the Council of Australian University

Librarians, director of CAVAL Ltd. and recently elected member of the arXiv Member Advisory Board, Monday, March 4, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

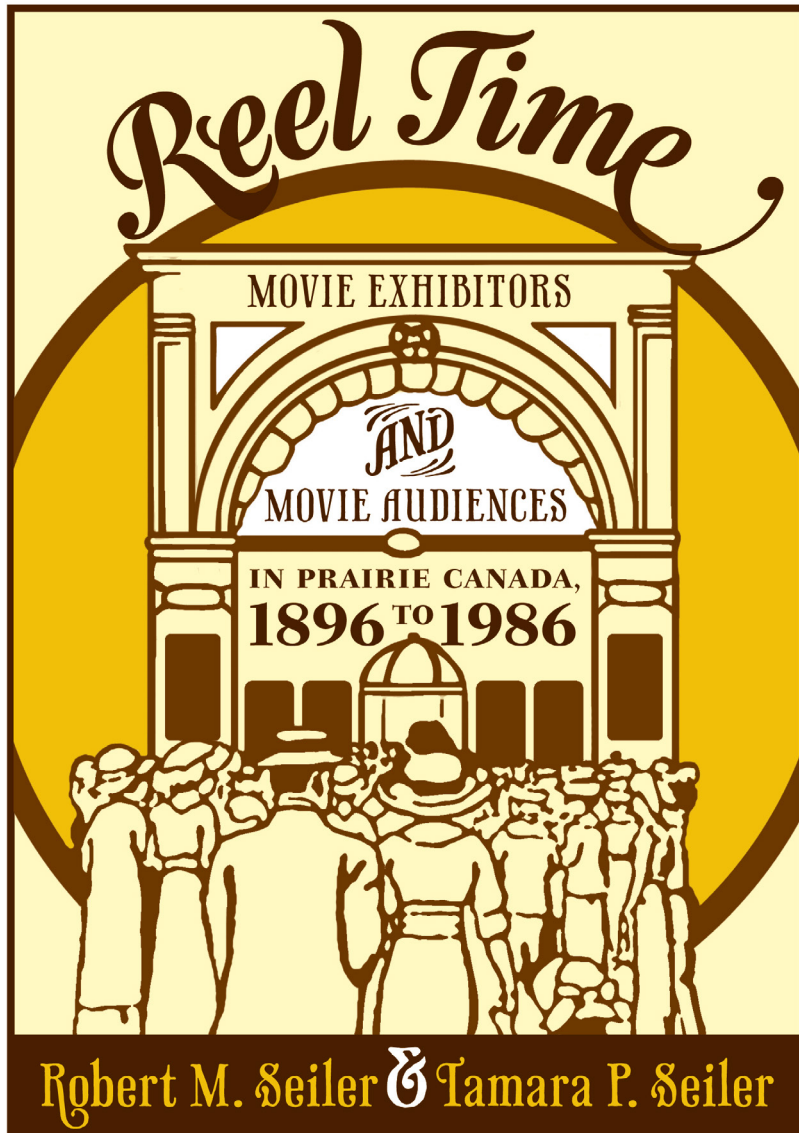
- The third session will provide an opportunity to discuss the Bell’s and Kent’s presentations and the proposed AU Library vision statement, mission and mandate. Thursday, March 7, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to participate. The webinars can be accessed through this [link](#). Reminders and further information will be circulated before each session. The sessions will be recorded and archived at AU Space.

The major themes that emerged from a series of interviews with university stakeholders regarding a vision for the library of the future envision the library as a portal to collections, a resource for information literacy initiatives, a strategic laboratory, a digitizer and a contributor to the knowledge community.

The members of the AU Library of the Future Co-ordinating Team are Elaine Fabbro, Tony Tin, Doug Kariel, Dr. Mike Gismondi, Steve Schafer and Dr. Cindy Ives.

AU Press Releases Reel Time



IN REEL TIME: MOVIE EXHIBITORS AND Movie Audiences in Prairie Canada, 1896 to 1986, Robert M. Seiler and Tamara P. Seiler discuss the development of several movie theatre chains, including Allen Theatre Enterprises, Famous Players and Odeon Theatres, and places the expansion of these companies in the cultural context of the Canadian Prairie.

As these chains were competing with one another, movie exhibitors also launched campaigns to reassure their patrons that theatres were no longer the “unclean and immoral places of amusement” of yesteryear. The movie theatre became an important social and cultural centre, one deemed “suitable for women and children.”

Containing a selection of photographs of theatres and several cinematic advertisements, *Reel Time* highlights the pivotal role of these amusement venues in shaping the leisure activities of working-class and middle-class people.

Robert Seiler is an associate professor emeritus in communication and culture at the University of Calgary. Tamara Seiler is professor emerita of Canadian studies at the University of Calgary.

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AU People in the News

Moving Beyond Pain

DR. STEVE JOHNSON, AN ASSISTANT professor in the Centre for Nursing and Health Studies, is one of the principal investigators in a Leduc Recreation Centre based study that is helping make the lives of people with osteoarthritis and type 2 diabetes a lot easier.

Now in its second phase, the low-impact aquasize program, provided in partnership with researchers at the University of Alberta, the Learning Resources Centre and the Leduc, Beaumont, Devon Primary Care Network, aims to improve functional activity in patients managing chronic diseases.

“As the population ages, we see people with multiple disorders like diabetes, arthritis and depression, so we need to look at programs that support the multiple conditions they have,” Johnson told Leduc Rep reporter Amy Crofts.

Another intent of the study, the [article](#) said, is to work with patients to understand the difference between discomfort and pain. The classes use exercises to transition people from experiencing pain to instead feeling discomfort and then to working beyond it.

Graduate Student Research Award

Master of Nursing student Brenda Enns has been awarded the Western and Northwestern Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Graduate Student Research Award. Enns presented her paper “Identity Development in Baccalaureate Nursing Education: A Study in Progress” at a conference in Edmonton earlier this month.

Help Along the Way

AU student Julie Chartier has just started a new job teaching Grade 1 in a French language school in Ontario. She believes AU helped her get the job. “I could not have completed my studies in a regular program,” she said. “I was able to study and build my experience at the same time. I do not have any debt from school as I worked all along.”

Chartier completed an AU business degree to qualify for a French BEd. alternatif program to teach in a French school, and she is now one course short of an AU Inclusive Education Certificate. “I use many techniques taught in the inclusive program,” she said. “I am able

“As the population ages, we see people with multiple disorders like diabetes, arthritis and depression...”

to integrate all of the students into the classroom and they all seem very happy. I do find that the inclusive program has given me techniques and tools to organize my classroom so every child benefits from the school experience.”

All along the way, AU has supported Chartier with study skills, exam preparation, administrative assistance, and flexibility when family commitments required her attention. “I have to tell you that the service at AU is incredible,” she said. I have been with you since 2004, and I have no complaints at all. One degree and one certificate and [I’ve] had nothing but good service.”

Chartier plans to take her final course later this year, after she has settled into her new job.

Barbara Roberts Memorial Award Nominations Open

TUTORS AND CO-ORDINATORS ARE invited to submit student work to the annual competition for the Barbara Roberts Memorial Award.

This \$250 cash award recognizes “outstanding written work done by an undergraduate student on topics related to women, gender and feminism.” Roberts came to AU in 1988 and was co-ordinator of women’s studies.

Application is open to all AU undergraduate students. Work may have been submitted to any AU undergraduate course, but to be eligible for this year’s award, it must have been written between March 16, 2012, and March 15, 2013.

All submissions must be made by either a tutor or a co-ordinator, and they must include a cover sheet and authorization form, both of which are available on the

[award website](#). Answers to frequently asked questions are also provided on the website.

Nominations should be submitted directly to [Student Awards](#).

ARDN Funding Available



THE ALBERTA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT Network is accepting applications for funding from organizations working to achieve outcomes supportive of the federal [Homelessness Partnering Strategy](#) to meet the needs of homeless and at-risk people living in rural and remote areas of Alberta.

Under the Rural and Remote Homelessness funding stream, priority will be given to projects that offer supports and services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and to projects based in communities with a population of 25,000 or less. Proposals for activities in communities with a population over 25,000 will be considered, depending on availability of funds.

Email applications, Attention: [Joy Vonk, Operations Manager](#), no later than 5 p.m. on March 15, 2013.

To discuss a project idea or for more information, contact ARDN research

director [Paul Watson](#) (phone: 780-449-1006, extension 222).

More information and guidelines are available on the ARDN program [website](#).

Please share this notice with colleagues or other organizations that might benefit from submitting a proposal.

ARDN is a unique not-for-profit organization that connects the resources and expertise of Alberta’s 21 public post-secondary institutions with rural communities that want to make a change for the better.

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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 issue of *The Insider* will be published on March 11. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2013.

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