

# the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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### *COVER IMAGE »*

Convocation 2013 will be held June 6, 7 and 8, and graduands from across the country and around the world will be gathering in Athabasca to celebrate. Rhonda Hamilton of Hillsborough, N.B., photographed by Blaise MacMullin at the Hopewell Rocks on New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy coast, is a 2012 Master of Nursing (Advanced Nursing Practice) graduate. Learn how she put her AU education to work in Haiti on AU's YouTube channel.



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**Athabasca University**

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# Archives Preserves Labour/Le Travail Records

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*Labour/Le Travail has been documenting Canadian labour history since 1976.*

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WITH SUPPORT FROM AN ACCESS to Holdings Grant from the Archives Society of Alberta, the Thomas A. Edge Archives and Special Collections has catalogued early records of the [\*Journal of Canadian Labour Studies/Revue d'études Ouvrières Canadiennes\*](#) acquired from Memorial University.

Labour/Le Travail, produced by the Canadian Committee on Labour History, is a bilingual, biannual review committed to the interdisciplinary study of Canadian labour history, in particular the study of working class history, industrial sociology, labour economics and labour relations.

The grant enabled the archives to process 93 boxes of material, re-house the materials in archival quality folders and boxes, and create a file list and

series or fonds (a group of documents originating from the same source), available on the Archives Society of Alberta website under the [\*Archives Network of Alberta\*](#).

Karen Langley, manager of institutional records and university archivist, said the archives is very pleased to be able to preserve the Labour/Le Travail files as a record of the work that the CCLH has done. The collection will be of interest to students, faculty and community researchers interested in labour history and publishing.

Labour/Le Travail has been documenting Canadian labour history since 1976. In 2007, production of the journal moved from Memorial to AU, where AU Press now publishes both online and print versions.

Within five years of its first issue, Labour/Le Travail expanded, quantitatively and qualitatively, from a 200-page annual, carrying only articles, to a 250-page biannual with critiques, research reports, documents and book reviews in addition to articles. Two new sections: Debates and Correspondence were added in 1994 in order "to stimulate intellectual debate and controversy."

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# Gasevic Receives Insight Award

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*Learners everywhere make extensive use of the Internet, Gasevic said, but their success is threatened in two ways.*

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DR. DRAGAN GASEVIC OF THE SCHOOL of Computing and Information Systems has received a SSHRC Insight Grant for his project Tools and Methods to Help Learners Self-Regulate Learning and Increase Learning Success.

Learners everywhere make extensive use of the Internet, Gasevic said, but their success is threatened in two ways. Firstly, information providers rarely apply learning science to help learners learn, and learners acutely need skills for learning. Secondly, many learners not only have too few learning skills but use poor judgment to regulate skills they have.

Gasevic's novel interdisciplinary project aims to remedy this situation.

The project will use two state-of-the-art toolkits to tackle these learning issues. The online study software nStudy has multiple tools for tagging content and taking notes, interlinking content and viewing the network of that information, concept mapping and more. Then, learning analytics will be used to discover patterns in trace data, testing how well a pattern matches a model or another pattern and identifying how patterns differ.

The research tools and findings will be shared throughout the learning science community and with educators and learners anywhere. "Our project builds infrastructure and generates knowledge that simultaneously advances learning science and supports everyday online learning for individuals," Gasevic said.

# Paying It Forward: AU Alumni Support Scholarships

by Cathy Nickel

AS A 10-YEAR-OLD IN VIETNAM, Nghiem Dang set his sights on working in health care so he could help the sick and the poor in his country. His family moved to Canada in 1979, and now he is looking forward to the day when he retires, moves back to Asia and realizes that childhood dream, something that became possible only because of the access to education afforded by AU.



Nghiem Dang

Dang works as a nurse at the Kingston Penitentiary in Ontario and received an AU Master of Nursing (Advanced Nurse Practitioner) degree at Convocation 2012. "Because of my work and home commitments, I could never have gone back to school without distance education," he said.

While this story is uniquely Dang's, the sentiment is not. Many AU alumni can easily finish the sentence "AU made it possible for me to..." and because they appreciate the impact the university has had on their lives, they have been inspired to donate to AU. Dang said he cannot thank AU enough for the "wonderful opportunity" to continue his education. He wants others to have the same opportunity, so he donates monthly

to student awards through the Faculty of Health Disciplines' Caring for the Future Campaign (part of AU's Open Our World Campaign).

Christina Schmolke also donates monthly and sees it as a "micro-financing" investment in her future peers. She graduated from the Master of Counselling (Counselling Psychology) program in 2009, a milestone on her journey to becoming a registered psychologist.



Christina Schmolke

Appreciating the financial struggles of students, especially mature students and those with families, Schmolke sees her donation as a way to ease their financial stress and make it possible for them to follow their career trajectory.

"Social justice is a guiding value in my life," she said. "If all alumni give a small amount, the total available for scholarships can be substantial, and someone who has the aptitude but not necessarily the financial resources will have a chance to go to AU."

Renée Anderson, a 2008 graduate of the Master of Nursing (Generalist) program,

agrees. A respected nursing lecturer at Thompson Rivers University, she received two awards for teaching excellence in 2012. "I got so much out of my learning with AU," she said. "The level of learning I was exposed to has made me a better teacher... It's hard to describe, but I'm not the same person I was when I started at AU. My classmates and I are different teachers and nurses now because we think differently."



Renée Anderson

The quality of her AU experience made it easy for her to give, she said. "I got way more out of my education than I ever thought possible. Giving back is just the right thing to do."

Dang agrees wholeheartedly. "My donation is very little compared to what AU has given me. Without AU, I couldn't fulfill my dreams. I feel an obligation and a responsibility to give something back, so AU can help other students. AU has no need to thank me for what I give. I thank AU."

To donate to student awards or other areas of need at AU, please go to [Giving Online](#).



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# Second Annual ARBRI Day



THE SECOND ANNUAL ARBRI DAY Collaborative Research Conference, organized by the Athabasca River Basin Research Institute and focusing on the innovative research being done in the Athabasca River Basin, will be held at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel on April 26.

With its 94 rivers, 150 creeks and 153 lakes, the Athabasca River Basin is an important ecological resource that provides employment in many sectors, including industry, agriculture and tourism. It is rich in natural resources, including

some of the world's largest oil sands deposits. Industrial development, climate change, and other factors now affect both environmental and human elements of the upper and lower Athabasca River Basin and have generated a great deal of research into its sustainability.

For more information, contact conference co-ordinator [Jim Sellers](#). To book a room, contact the [Coast Edmonton Plaza](#) (phone 780-423-4811).

Hotel parking is available for \$9 per day.

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# Research Buzz

## Research Grants

Dr. Dragan Gasevic of the School of Computing and Information Systems received a SSHRC Insight Grant for his project Tools and Methods to Help Learners Self-Regulate Learning and Increase Learning Success. (See page 3).

## Grant Applications

For tips on writing successful grant applications, go to the Research Centre's [Proposals website](#).

For upcoming grant application deadlines, go to the Research Centre's [Deadlines website](#).

For internal deadlines and processes, contact [Jill Calliou](#).

## Upcoming Events

### EdTech Innovation

(Calgary, May 1 to 3): This national conference, to be hosted by AU in Calgary, will bring together start-ups, researchers and technology purchasers and venture capitalists and profile innovative research being conducted in 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 in Canada's growing educational ecosystem. Two hundred attendees are expected. An open trade show will allow the general public to see new educational tools and techniques. For more information and to register, go to the [conference website](#).

### Island Studies: West Coast Canada and Beyond: Call for Proposals

(The Haven, Gabriola Island, B.C., May 10 to 12): For more information, contact [Gloria Filax](#).

## Research FAQ

When is the next research ethics application deadline?

For the answer, go to Research Centre FAQs.

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# News Briefs

## New Certificate Program

The new Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Technology Management Program, offered by AU's School of Computing and Information Systems, is intended to provide professional development for those already working in the IT field.

The focus of the program, on operations, organizational behavior and ethical, legal and social issues, will complement IT professionals' existing technical acumen to help prepare them for managerial and consultancy roles.

Additional information is available on the [program website](#).

## Research Bootcamp

Research Bootcamp is an informative one-day seminar, hosted by the [Alberta Research Development Network](#) for new or student researchers who are interested in networking with other researchers across the province.

The seminar, to be held May 16, 2013, at the University of Calgary covers developing a research project, writing a funding proposal, managing a research project and writing your report and paper. Only 40 seats are available.

More details are available on the [Research Bootcamp website](#).

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# Down the Bunny Trail



The Easter Bunny (a.k.a. Dave Hrenewich) brought sweet treats to AU Athabasca a few weeks ago. His visit has become a highly anticipated annual event. Bunny brought so many treats this year, he needed a cart to carry them around.

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## FOLLOW US



Athabasca University's Facebook page has more than 3,300 fans. Check it out at [facebook.com/Athabasca.University](https://facebook.com/Athabasca.University). If you would like something posted onto the AU Facebook page, please contact [Michael Shouldice](#).

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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 May 13. Deadline for submissions is May 3, 2013.

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