

the insider

Weekly newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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Things are extremely busy in the new science labs as the area is readied for the official ribbon cutting on March 4. The science lab at AU Athabasca has served more than 30,000 students over the past 25 years. The Science Laboratory Expansion and Renewal Project has created a state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a major research and teaching hub in northern Alberta. The project has more than doubled the capacity of the former space from 355 to 735 square metres. The expansion was funded under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP), a federal government initiative (in some cases with matching funds from the Province) aimed at renewing Canada's college and university infrastructure and injecting economic stimulus into local communities across Canada.



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

Athabasca University 

Access Copyright Interim Annual Fee Approved

Access Copyright has been granted an interim tariff, and AU has decided to abide by it until August 2011, president Frits Pannekoek announced in an all-staff email message on February 16.

The Canadian Copyright Board decided in late December to grant Access Copyright an interim tariff of \$3.38 per FLE (full-time learning equivalent), the same as under the old license, rather than to rule on its request for a \$45 per FLE tariff.

“Many of our courses already use alternatives to the Access Copyright print repertoire, but in the interests of ensuring protection for courses that currently use third party materials and confirming that all our processes comply with copyright law, AU has decided to abide by the interim tariff until August 31, 2011,” Pannekoek said.

Between now and the end of August, AU will establish new procedures for acquiring copyright permissions. No current courses will be closed due to the lack of copyright permissions. Courses in development and those for which permissions have to be renewed within the next year are already under review.

“We will be working with the deans and centre chairs to establish faculty-wide responses to copyright issues,” Pannekoek said. “In addition, we will be working closely with individual course professors on alternatives to using Access Copyright print repertoire. These alternatives could involve the use of digital resources, licensed either through our library databases or available openly.”

“We will be working with the deans and centre chairs to establish faculty-wide responses to copyright issues,” - Frits Pannekoek

News In Brief

Special Research Presentation

Dr. Nathalie Hyde-Clarke, associate professor and head of communication studies at the University of Johannesburg will present “Revisiting the ‘Leapfrog’ Debate in Light of Current Trends of Mobile Phone Internet Usage in the Greater Johannesburg Area, South Africa” on Monday, March 14, 2011, in Room 1222, AU Edmonton.

The presentation will address the question: Does access to mobile phone technology automatically mean participation in the information society? It will also be available via [Elluminate Live](#).

Athabasca University 



International Academy of
African Business and Development

Challenges in the Era of Globalization

May 17 - 20, 2011

Robbins Health Learning Centre
Edmonton, Alberta

Join over 200 scholars, grad students and professionals from around the world who are actively engaged in business and economic development issues as they relate to Africa.

Special sessions with eminent panelists and contributors, some of which include:

- ▶ Changing paradigm of analysis of foreign direct investment: Chinese firms in Africa
- ▶ Successful Canadian business experiences in Africa
- ▶ The future of doctoral and post-doctoral business education in Africa in an era of globalization

For more information visit our website:
<http://iaabd2011.athabascau.ca/index.php>



Dr. Ning Xia.

New Visiting Scholar Working on 3-D Virtual Classrooms

by Lisa Carter, dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology

The Faculty of Science and Technology is pleased to welcome Dr. Ning Xia as visiting scholar in the School of Computing and Information Systems.

Ning is an associate researcher at Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Science, in Guangzhou in the Peoples' Republic of China. His major interests unite computer information technology applications with plant life and agriculture. He has created computer generated simulations to show how fruit trees grow and how branches form under different environmental circumstances. Such virtual simulations are integral to students and researchers understanding the effects of the environment in agricultural sustainability.

Ning will be working with Dr. Oscar Lin, chair of AU's School of Computing and Information Systems, with graduate students and the research team involved in the Canada Foundation for Innovation funded project to develop 3-D virtual classrooms.

AU is fortunate to have a talent such as Ning to contribute to the advancement of computer technology and agriculture here.

AUFA Workshop on Promotion and Tenure

The AU Faculty Association will be hosting an information session on the tenure and promotion processes for AUFA members with academic appointments on Thursday, March 17, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The session will be facilitated by Dr. Lorna Stefanick and Dr. Bob Barnetson of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Anshuman Khare of the Faculty of Business. A maximum of 20 people can attend in Room 1112 at AU Edmonton, but there will be a teleconference option.

The workshop will explain what tenure and promotion are and the processes for attaining them at AU. The criteria by which applications are judged and strategies for maximizing chances of success will also be discussed.

To participate in person or by teleconference RSVP to [Bob Barnetson](#).

News In Brief

AU Vice-president New AHS Board Member

Dr. Ray Block, AU's vice-president (finance and administration), has been appointed to a three-year term on the Alberta Health Services Board effective immediately.

For more information, please see [Canada Views](#).



Mrs. O.J. Roberts
A woman, likely Edith Roberts, plowing a field with four horses,
[Alberta]. [19-]

Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections 2007.006/187

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The Alberta Women's Memory Project

The Alberta Women's Memory Project provides:

- An inventory of all material related to women held in archives in Alberta
- Direct links to related resources on women's history

Remembering Women's Experiences

Every day, women create letters, journals, memoirs, photographs, email messages, videotapes and other records that document their lives. As these records accumulate over time, they provide insight into each woman's unique perspective and experiences and tell an important story, one that can inform and inspire others in untold ways.

The Thomas A. Edge Archives and Special Collections invite you to celebrate the launch of the newly redesigned website of the Alberta Women's Memory Project on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Governor's Room of the City of Edmonton Archives, 10440 108 Avenue, Edmonton.

The Alberta Women's Memory Project is a collaborative project involving scholars, archivists, writers and researchers who are committed to preserving the history of women in Alberta.

This celebration is also being held to thank the women who have generously contributed their diaries, letters and memoirs for the project. "We will talk about the importance of women's records and how to preserve them, so future researchers have an inclusive, more complete understanding of Alberta women's unique perspectives, contributions and experiences," Karen Langley, AU's archivist and institutional records manager, said.

The Alberta Women's Memory Project provides

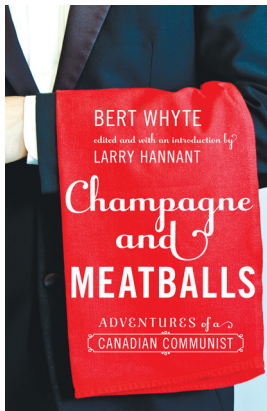
- an inventory of all material related to women held in archives in Alberta
- direct links to related resources on women's history
- collections of writings by women and about women
- information on gathering women's records and what they can include
- information about donating women's records
- expertise on a wide range of topics in women's history and women's archives

To learn more about the project, please visit the [Alberta Women's Memory Project website](#).



AU Press February 2011 Releases

Champagne and Meatballs: Adventures of a Canadian Communist



Bert Whyte was an active member of the Communist Party of Canada, an underground party organizer, a World War II soldier and a foreign press correspondent in China for the *Canadian Tribune*. Here, his letters, columns and essays are collected into a compelling historical account of Canadian life. His tale is history and biography accompanied by the wink of his eye.



Larry Hannant, editor of *Champagne and Meatballs* at the book launch

A cigar-smoking rogue, Whyte retells the stories of bumming across Canada in the 1930s, fighting on the front lines in World War II and surviving as a dissident in troubled times. Editor Larry Hannant also provides a fascinating and thought-provoking

introduction to Whyte's account of how he navigated half a century of historical upheaval, mayhem and catastrophe.

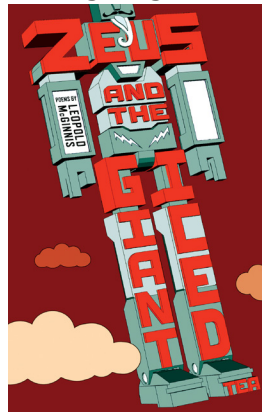
"Whyte's memoir reads like a Canadian-communist version of On the Road ... a refreshing read for historians interested in labour and twentieth century Canada." – Dr. Ingo Schmidt, Centre for Work and Community Studies

A book launch for *Champagne and Meatballs* was held at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, B.C., on February 6, 2011, and Monica and Ricky Whyte, the author's widow and son were on hand for the event. After greetings and the presentation of the book, glasses of champagne were served along with small bowls of meatballs.

For more information, visit [Champagne and Meatballs](#)

Zeus and the Giant Iced Tea

Crafting wings out of wax and poems from the



underground, Zeus and the Giant Iced Tea is a dreamlike voyage through poetic narrative. Exploring the frenetic lives of Mexican cowboys, robots, sultans, Greek gods and convenience store clerks, poet Leopold McGinnis shatters preconceived notions of the form and offers an accessible strain of literary flow infused with humour and irony.

The Method
(Wherefore are thou convenience?)

by Leopold McGinnis

It was to be his greatest role:
playing the part
of a greasy store clerk
perpetually standing behind a counter
dressed in an oversized uniform.

He believed that every moment in life
should be approached as if a great part
in Shakespeare's play.

So what
if they hadn't been able to stop
the property owner from turning the theatre
into a drugstore?

Life was but a stage!
So in the morning he rose
and spent an hour in make-up
prepared his material
on the bus ride to his kitty-corner playhouse
and every day he would perform
Living Art
Rolling and Changing those hot dogs
Validating the luck of lottery tickets
Serving the unmet pinball and frozen liquid sugar needs
of pimply-faced teenagers
until the play took a twist!

Oh convenience!
he recited,
Hast ever the world been kist
by more delightful a flowr!?

For more information, visit [Zeus and the Giant Iced Tea](#)

Want more? Visit AU Press at
www.aupress.ca or:



Enunciation Is Not Enough: Accent Reduction Workshop

by *Veronica Baig*

AU tutor Peggy Kayne presented a well received workshop on accent and individual accent issues at AU Edmonton on February 11.

Accents are a particularly sensitive subject for many people, and they are as individual as the people speaking, but it is difficult to get help to reduce or eliminate them. Most people are too polite to tell someone that their accent is an impediment to understanding, and even if a second language speaker does ask for help, most people do not know how to help other than by repeating words more slowly and perhaps enunciating very carefully.

However, careful enunciation is not the answer: people need to know how Canadians speak, how to better approximate those speech sounds and what is actually going on with speakers' mouths to make them sound the way they do.

Kayne tutors students in English 149, Advanced Speaking and Listening Skills, which includes instruction on accent reduction. The innovative course is designed for people whose first language is not English. While it is unusual to offer such a course by distance education, one-on-one interaction with the tutor allows students to concentrate on their own individual accent issues while working through a broad range of activities.

Kayne hopes to offer another workshop at AU Athabasca in the near future. If you are interested in attending the workshop or the possibility of a teleconference, or if you are interested in English 149, contact [Peggy Kayne](#) or [Veronica Baig](#).

KIP and CAF Projects Near Completion

by *Erin Ottosen*

Several of the more than 30 Open Knowledge Environment and information and communication technology projects funded through grants from the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and the Community Adjustment Fund have been successfully completed.

Most others are on schedule to wrap up by March 31, 2011, as originally planned. A few projects operating under the KIP grant will continue past March 31 with funding from other sources and a KIP deadline extension from the Government of Canada.

The KIP and CAF projects, which began in 2009 and 2010, are enhancing AU's research resources, online learning management and content management in the university's Open Knowledge Environment and improving AU's information and communication technology and capital infrastructure.

For more information about the status of KIP and CAF projects, go to the [Projects Status Report in the February FOCUS newsletter](#).

Shave and a Haircut: \$2500



Take a good look at Greg Wiens's beard. It will soon be gone.

Facilities and Services director Greg Wiens is raising money for the Canadian Diabetes Association by shaving the beard which he has worn since 1977. His goal is to raise \$2,500 or more. If the campaign receives a one-person donation of \$500, Wiens will shave his head as well.

The big, hairy event will take place at 11:45 a.m. on March 21, 2011, in the front lobby of AU Athabasca. Donations can be dropped in the cans with Wiens' picture on them that have been placed in several AU locations.

The campaign is also listed on the [Canadian Diabetes Association website](#). Click on GO TO MY FUNDRAISER and then Search for an Individual, and then enter Greg Wiens in the Search by Name box and follow through to the donation page.

Recognize This Place?



AU's multimedia producer/photographer Blaise MacMullin took this photo while out and about shooting images for the university. Do you know where it was taken?

Submit your answer to the [Insider co-ordinator](#). All correct answers received by 4:30 p.m. on March 14, 2011, will be entered into a draw for a 4 GB iPod Nano.

So keep your eyes open!

moodlemoot^{*} 2011

May 1-5, 2011

Mayfield Inn,
Edmonton, Alberta

Open Learning Open Collaboration

This year's theme – Openness.
Open learning, open source,
open educational resources,
open social networking.

Keynote speakers Stephen Downes and Martin Dougiamas

Connect and share, virtually and in person, with practitioners, innovators, administrators, researchers and developers from across North America and throughout the world.

To register, please visit
<http://moodlemoot.ca/course/view.php?id=116>

For more information visit our website:
<http://moodlemoot.ca/>



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

News In Brief

Nova Scotia Welcomes AU Nursing Graduate

AU graduate Georgann MacDonald has begun a one-year term as a nurse practitioner with South West Health in Nova Scotia. She will be working in the communities of Barrington Passage and Clark's Harbour.

MacDonald graduated this month with a Master of Nursing in advanced nursing practice. Much of her nurse practitioner practicum was carried out in Barrington Passage.

MacDonald has extensive nursing experience, particularly in critical emergency care. She and her husband have moved to Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, from Fort McMurray.

From the [Shelburne County Coastguard](#).

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 Monday, March 14, 2011. The deadline for submissions is March 4.