

the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 CMA Canada Accreditation
- 2 *Letters from the Lost Wins Again*
- 2 Opting Out of Access Copyright
- 3 Graduate Studies Presentations
- 4 AU in Second Life
- 5 AU Press News



Nature Photography Exhibition at AU Athabasca

An exhibit of 28 nature photographs (foliage, flowers, marine animals and treescapes) by emeritus professor Robert Holmberg is now on display in the hallway near the science lab at AU Athabasca. A short written description provides information about the subject of each photo, identifies the location where it was shot and provides technical information about the ink and paper. Holmberg will donate about a dozen of the photographs to AU's Art Committee. The exhibit was mounted with the co-operation of the committee and will remain in place until November 10. Any questions or comments can be emailed to [Robert Holmberg](mailto:Robert.Holmberg@athabascau.ca).



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

Athabasca University 

Faculty of Business Awarded CMA Accreditation

Certified Management Accountants of Canada, the world leader in shaping strategic management accounting® professionals to lead successful enterprises in the global marketplace, has accredited AU's Bachelor of Commerce Accounting Major Program for a five-year period.

The decision places AU among an exclusive group of academic institutions across Canada to have an undergraduate accounting program accredited by CMA Canada.

The CMA Canada accreditation not only affirms the calibre of the accounting major program but also speaks to the growing recognition of quality online business courses and programs said Dr. Alex Kondra, dean of the Faculty of Business. "This is another milestone in our productive and mutually beneficial partnership with CMA Canada."

See the full news release at [AU News and Events](#).

AU Joins Universities Opting Out of Access Copyright

AU, along with more than 35 other Canadian universities, is opting out of using Access Copyright for permissions related to the use of third party materials in courses.

According to AU president Dr. Frits Pannekoek, the university has spent the last six months preparing for this move by renewing existing permissions for materials used in print reading files and by selecting alternative or electronic selections, accessible through the Digital Reading Room in online courses. "Courses in development and revision will be using more open educational resources and online readings already available through library subscription from now on," he said.

One of the reasons for this change is that Access Copyright is proposing to increase its tariff for the use of copyrighted materials from \$3.48 to \$45 per full-time equivalent student. As an online, open university, AU is unwilling to pass that additional cost on to its students, Pannekoek said.

All materials used in AU courses have been and will continue to be compliant with Canadian copyright law, Pannekoek said. "AU has always licensed best quality materials through our library, and we will always make the best learning resources available to students within the legal copyright environment."

Another Major Award for *Letters From the Lost*



Helen Waldstein Wilkes' memoir *Letters from the Lost: A Memoir of Discovery* has been awarded the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction. This \$10,000 national award is given annually to a Canadian writer of a first or second published book with a Canadian locale or significance.

This is the second major literary award given to *Letters from the Lost*, which is published by AU Press. Earlier this year, the book won the \$10,000 Alberta Readers' Choice Award.

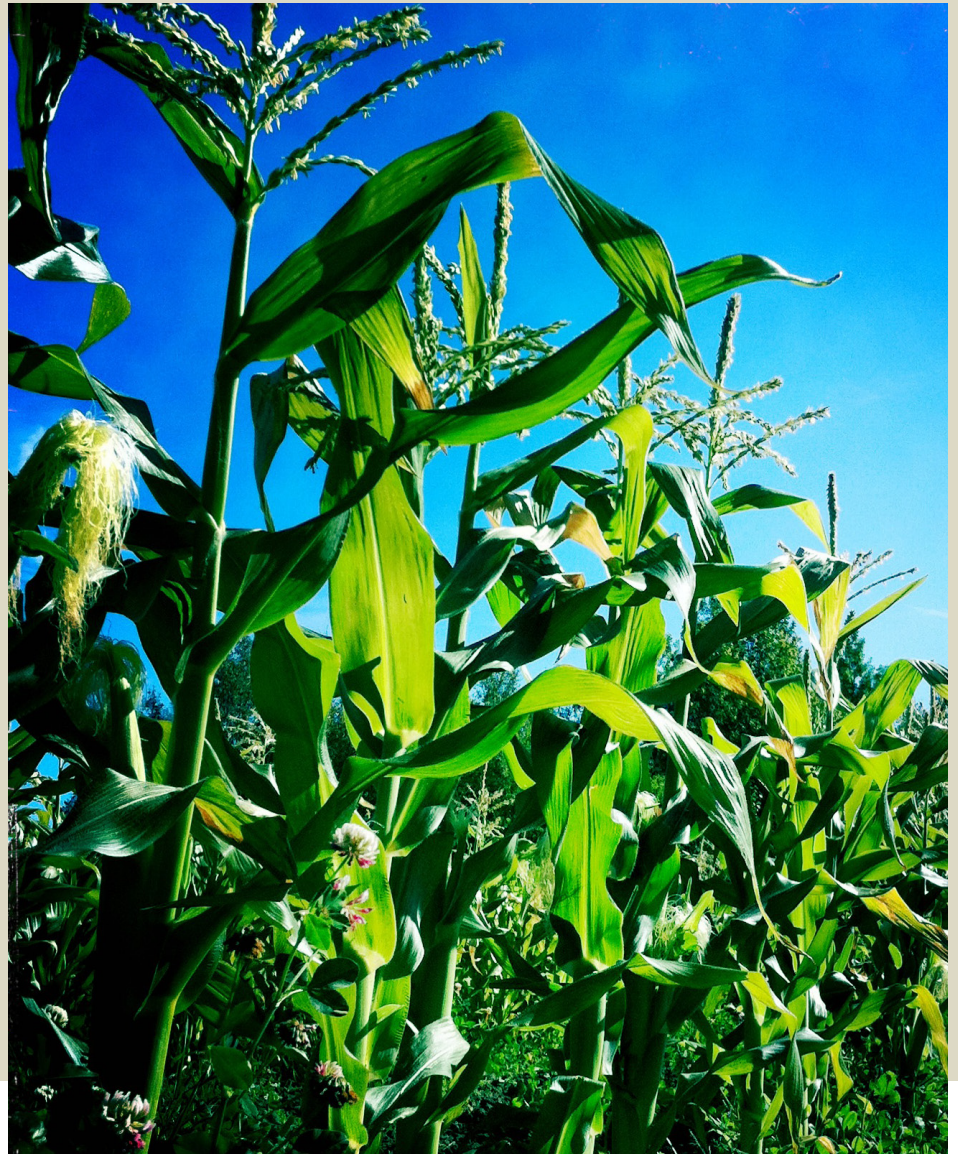
At age 60, Waldstein Wilkes opened a small box that was left by her father in their southern Ontario home. The box held "letters from the lost," letters from family members left behind in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. Her moving account of the letters' contents and her own compelling narrative of suffering and survivor guilt has captured the interest of readers across Canada and is being recognized for its imaginative and effective interweaving of original research and memoir.

The Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction was launched in 1991 and is administered by Wilfrid Laurier University, the only university in Canada to bestow a nationally recognized literary award. Previous winners include authors Linden MacIntyre, Wayson Choy and Elizabeth Hay.

You can read more about the award in the [AU news release](#) and in the [Waterloo Chronicle](#). To order a copy of *Letters from the Lost*, or to download the free ebook, visit [AU Press](#).

Help Yourself to Corn

Did you know there are about 800 kernels in 16 rows on each ear of corn, and the ear is actually part of the corn plant's flower? Known as maize throughout much of the world, corn is a cereal crop, a member of the grass family, and is one of the world's most widely used food staples. This wonderful crop is planted in the community garden west of the new ARC. People can help themselves to fresh corn on the cob.



Writing and Style: Graduate Studies Presentations

The Faculty of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce the following two presentations for graduate students:

“Writing for Publication”

Dr. Debbie Fraser, Faculty of Health Disciplines
Tuesday, October 11, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Via Adobe Connect

“Using APA Style: What Graduate Students Need to Know”

Linda McCloud-Bondoc (WriteSite)
Wednesday, October 19, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Via Adobe Connect

Graduate students who are interested in attending should contact the [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#) to reserve a place. Space is limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Get Away to the Island this Fall

The Virtual World Development Group at AU, in conjunction with the Office of the Vice-President (Advancement) and the AU Media Lab, is presenting a series of talks on the AU Island in Second Life this fall to introduce AU staff to the resources on the island and the other offerings of virtual worlds.

All of the talks in the series will take place in a specially designed amphitheater, adjacent to the Academic and Research Building, on the AU Island in Second Life.

The series opened on September 22 with a presentation by Dr. Sabine Lawless-Reljic on the presence of avatars, or the idea that avatars enable users to express a deeper level of social presence in virtual worlds. Lawless-Reljic, who is communication chair on the Applied Research in Virtual Environments for Learning Board, a special interest group of the American Education Research Association, has previously hosted her own speaker series on social presence. She is also one of only a handful of PhD recipients to defend her [dissertation](#) in Second life. You can watch her defence on [YouTube](#).

The next event in the series will be held at 9 a.m. on September 30. The presenters, Dr. Doug Danforth of Ohio State University and Dr. Mary Johnson of Florida State University, will talk about their virtual patient projects in Second Life, OpenSim and Unity. A virtual patient is a computer-controlled avatar programmed to answer questions about various illnesses and used to help medical students practice their clinical interview skills.

The third event, on October 6 at 10 a.m., will feature Anna Peachey, formerly of Open University in the U.K., who will describe the Open U's experiences with establishing a student and faculty presence on their Second Life island. She will also discuss pilot work with SLOODLE, a Moodle module that, once installed on the Moodle server, can record student activity in Second Life on Moodle databases.

A special presentation at noon on December 9 will be given by Dr. Tom Boellstorff, University of California, Irvine, an anthropologist and author of *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. Boellstorff is editor of *American Anthropologist*.

Further details on these talks will be provided by email to all AU faculty and staff members closer to the date of each presentation.

The Virtual World Development Group at AU (currently Dave Annand, Evelyn Ellerman, Raphael Foshay, Trevor Gilbert, Bob Heller, Mike Procter, Gunnar Schwede and Carmen Southgate) has been meeting for the last three years, hosting workshops or presenting at the tutor conference. The group represents academics and professionals from two faculties and multiple centres who believe that virtual worlds have potential for engaging distance education learners and establishing a sense of social presence in their learning.

The group maintains a [Landing Group](#), which is becoming their primary community, as well as an institutional [email alias](#) and a [Moodle course site](#).

How To Get to Second Life

To attend the talks, staff are advised to set up their own [Second Life account](#) by following a three-step process:

1. Select a name (Choose wisely: the name cannot be changed and is usually shown to everyone).
2. Provide basic information (an email address, a birth date, your password, a security question).
3. Select the account type (choose free).

After the account is activated, you will be asked to download the viewer. This is the software that works with the Second Life servers. After it has been downloaded and installed, you may be asked to start the viewer. If you say yes, you will arrive on Welcome Island which contains a Second Life tutorial on the basics of virtual worlds (walking, communicating, flying, camera control).

In order to get to the AU Island, exit Second Life and click on the link below. This will open a new window in your browser with a map of the island and an option to teleport directly to the island. Click on the Teleport Now button and your Second Life viewer will launch, beginning with the log-in page (provide username and password from above) and then going directly to the [AU Island](#).

You can also attend the talks by using one of our loaner avatars (there is a limit of six), but to do so, you will still need to download [View Further instructions](#) on the loaner avatars.



DID YOU KNOW?

Athabasca University's Facebook page now has over 1,580 fans. Check it out at www.facebook.com/Athabasca.University. If you would like something posted onto the AU Facebook page, please contact [Michael Shouldice](#).

NEWS from AU Press



The Kindness Colder Than the Elements

Poet, philosopher and family farmer Charles Noble divides his time between Banff and Nobleford, Alta. His most recent books are *Sally O: Selected Poems and Manifesto* (Thistledown Press, 2009) and *Death Drive Through Gaia Paris* (University of Calgary Press, 2007). He won the Writers Guild of Alberta poetry award for his collection *Wormwood, Vermouth, Warphistory* (Thistledown Press, 1995).

“Noble shifts from low to high, demotic to intellectual with ease, bringing to bear a wide ranging knowledge of history, myth, sociology and politics. Pushing against conventions, especially those associated with traditional lyric stance and speech, this highly allusive piece of writing is full of simple and complex puns. As I read, I wanted to know more, to follow the peregrinations of this interesting mind in action. There is no other long poem that does quite what it does.”

—Doug Barbour

“These are poems that play with and in language, take pleasure in the sounds of words, poems that are propelled by puns. Yet even with this priority of sound and language, there are tender moments when the language does more than delight in itself, as though it has stumbled across lyric meaning accidentally.”

—Jay Gamble

For more information, visit [The Kindness Colder Than the Elements](#)

AU Press Welcomes New Editor

David Wiley has joined Athabasca University Press as co-editor of the *Issues in Distance Education* series. Wiley is serving as OLNNet Expert Fellow at the Open University, where he conducts inquiries about open educational resources, attempting to identify the value of openness in OERs.

Wiley has published 25 articles, 18 book chapters, and five edited books, including *The Open Education Resources Handbook for Educators* (2008), *The Instructional Use of Learning Objects* (2002) and *Sharing the Gospel Using the Internet* (2010).

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



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 Tuesday, October 11, 2011. The deadline for submissions is September 30.



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