

# the insider

A newsletter published for everyone in the Athabasca University community

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## *The Alberta Women's Memory Project*



Who was Edith Roberts (thought to be the teamster ploughing in this photo) and what role did her work play in her family and in her province? The history of Alberta women is not generally well documented. Preserving the record of women's contributions, now and in the past, is the focus of the Alberta Women's Memory Project, which has been collecting and digitizing materials such as women's memoirs, photos, letters, material collections and videos. The project, now ready to go public, will be unveiled at a November 15 celebration and fundraiser in Edmonton. See page 3.



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

Athabasca University 

# Board Approves Launch of \$30 Million Fundraising Campaign

The Board of Governors of Athabasca University approved the public launch of a \$30 million fundraising campaign on October 21.

According to AU president Dr. Frits Pannekoek, the university has been active in the quiet phase of the campaign for over 18 months and has been very successful. "I'm pleased to report that we have now exceeded the 50 per cent mark in meeting our goal," he said. "Thank you to the many people in the AU community who have helped us reach this milestone."

Pam Walsh, vice-president (advancement), urged continued participation. "I invite all members of the university community to consider taking part in this exciting and important phase of the campaign," she said.

The board will be actively involved in promoting this initiative. On November 30, 2011, it will host a function in Edmonton to raise awareness of the upcoming launch of the public phase of the campaign and to seek support. All current Board members and all former members of the AUGC, including past faculty, staff, student and alumni members, have been invited to attend. AU alumni will speak to guests about the impact that AU has had on their lives.

More information about the campaign will be provided in the November 28 issue of *The Insider*, and details of the public phase will be revealed as the campaign is rolled out in the weeks and months to come.

## Athabasca University Regulation Amended

The *Athabasca University Regulation*, the provincial government regulation under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* which controls governance of AU, was amended by Order in Council on July 26, 2011. The two major amendments were a change in the university's corporate name and replacement of the university's Academic Council with a new General Faculties Council.

Effective October 1, 2011, the legal name of the Athabasca University Governing Council changed to the Governors of Athabasca University. The amendment states: "The corporation formerly named the Athabasca University Governing Council is continued as the board of Athabasca University under the name the Governors of Athabasca University."

As a result of this change, the name on such things as parchments, agreements, legal documents and the corporate seal will be the Governors of Athabasca University, and the body previously referred to as Governing Council will now be referred to as the board.

The replacement of the Athabasca University Academic Council with the Athabasca University General Faculties Council also took effect on October 1. As a result of this change the AUAC and all of its standing committees ceased to exist.

In anticipation of this change, the AUAC established the Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee in 2006 with the mandate to undertake a review of AU's academic governance structure. With the proclamation of the amended *Athabasca University Regulation* on July 26, this committee was reconvened and the Office of the University Secretariat has worked closely with it to develop general by-laws for the General Faculties Council and terms of reference for identified standing committees. The committee presented its report at a special AUAC meeting, the AUAC's last meeting as a council, on September 27.

At the inaugural meeting of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council, held in Athabasca on November 8, the first order of business was approval of the general by-laws and terms of reference for standing committees. Nominations for the GFC standing committees are now being sought with elections to be held at the council's next meeting. The GFC and its standing committees should be fully operational by the beginning of 2012.

The Office of the University Secretariat will provide updates as implementation of the academic governance structure progresses. Contact [Carol Lund](#) if you have any questions.



The inaugural meeting of the Athabasca University General Faculties Council, which replaces the Athabasca University Academic Council, took place in Athabasca on November 8, 2011.

# Preserving the Voices of Alberta Women



An unknown woman with a bear, from the Thomas A. Edge Archives and Special Collections. The photo is part of the Alberta Women's Memory Project.

On November 15, the Alberta Women's Memory Project is holding A Celebration of Women's Voices from the Past to the Future, the project's inaugural fundraiser, in Edmonton.

As a member of the committee responsible for the [Alberta Women's Memory Project](#) library consultant Jean Crozier is helping to make sure that historical records relating to Alberta women are digitally documented. Once these records are loaded onto the AWMP website, researchers, students and the general public can access them from anywhere in the world and learn about Alberta women's influence on history.

"Unless we record the past, people just won't know what went on," Crozier said. "The women of my generation went through a hell of a lot."

A full interview with Crozier and more information about the Alberta Women's Memory Project is available on [Open AU](#).

The AWMP fundraising event will run from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15 at the TELUS Centre, University of Alberta, 87 Avenue and 111 Street, Edmonton.

Highlights of the event will include

- Guest speakers: *Edmonton Journal* columnist Paula Simons and renowned breast cancer surgeon Dr. Kelly Dabbs
- Exhibits and live music
- Opportunities to speak with women whose memoirs and collections are on the Alberta Women's Memory Project website

[Tickets](#) are \$30 and are available online and at the door.

## Call for 2012 Order of Athabasca University Nominations

The Board of Governors of Athabasca University invites AU faculty and staff members to nominate candidates for the Order of Athabasca University, to be inducted at the university's Convocation in June 2012.

The deadline for nominations is November 30, 2011. Nomination forms and supporting documents should be sent to the [university secretary](#).

The Order of Athabasca University is open to persons who have rendered exemplary service to Athabasca University or who have rendered exemplary service to the community or to society while representing Athabasca University. Candidates must also be able to attend Convocation.

Induction of candidates to the Order of Athabasca University is an important feature of AU's Convocation, celebrating both the individual and the university and inspiring graduates and guests.

Before nominating someone, please carefully read the [policy](#) governing Order of Athabasca University nominations. The official form, which must be used in making nominations, is available with the policy.

Athabasca University 

## Engl 155 Developing Writing Skills

### Winter classroom/grouped study course FOR STAFF ONLY

ENGL 155 - Developing Writing Skills - (3 cr)  
Tuesday, January 10, 2012 to Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
Every second Tuesday, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Veronica Baig  
AU Central - Woodlands Room (Room 124)

How to register:

- Complete the staff benefit undergraduate form
- Submit the AUSU & alumni fees of \$11.00 to finance for receipting
- Supervisor's approval is required
- New students must also complete the undergraduate general application form and submit the \$100 fee to finance for receipting
- Fax to 1-780-497-3415 or mail to Theresa Keil, AU Edmonton, LSC

**Deadline for registration: December 10th, 2011.**

For more information contact  
Theresa Keil at 1-800-788-9041 ext 3409 or [tkeil@athabascau.ca](mailto:tkeil@athabascau.ca)

Classes may be cancelled due to insufficient registrations or unforeseen circumstances.

 Athabasca  
University  
[www.athabascau.ca](http://www.athabascau.ca)

# 2011 United Way Campaign: Change Starts Here

AU's annual United Way Campaign got underway on November 9 with a Kick-Off Breakfast at all locations. The theme of this year's campaign, which is being planned by the Advancement Office, is Change Starts Here.

A variety of fundraising events are being organized by various departments including

- 50/50 draws at all AU locations organized by the Office of the Registrar
- Online bingo held by Library Services
- A book sale at AU Athabasca from November 9 to November 23, organized by the Office of Vice-President Academic and the Research Centre
- Goody bags (both naughty and nice) to be sold on November 14 and 22 at AU Athabasca, also organized by Office of Vice-President Academic and the Research Centre
- Pop-corn sales at AU Athabasca on November 15 and 17, courtesy of Computing Services
- Bake sales, at CIM on November 15 and at AU Athabasca on November 18, organized by the Faculty of Business and Learning Services Tutorial
- Pop and doughnut sales at AU Athabasca on November 16, 21 and 23 hosted by the Advancement Office

The 2011 United Way pledge form packages have already been distributed. If you haven't already, please take a moment to consider all the benefits realized in our communities by supporting the United Way. Every dollar you contribute makes a difference in the lives of those who need your assistance.

The last day of the campaign is November 23 with a final wrap up on November 25. Don't miss any and all opportunities to have a great time by taking part in this important fund raising event. Let's get the change started now.

For more information about this year's campaign, and to make a donation online, please go to the [United Way campaign website](#).



Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and this breakfast was for an important cause. Staff members at AU Athabasca enjoyed a great breakfast, fueling the start of the annual United Way Campaign.

## Writing Resources for Graduate Students

The Faculty of Graduate Studies has announced three upcoming presentations on writing for graduate students.

“Writing a Successful Ethical Review Application”  
Dr. Simon Nuttgens,  
Graduate Centre for Psychology  
Wednesday, November 16, 1 to 2 p.m.  
Via Adobe Connect

“Writing for Publications”  
Dr. Deb Fraser, Faculty of  
Health Disciplines  
Tuesday, November 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Via Adobe Connect

“Writing a Proposal for a Thesis or Dissertation”  
Dr. Marti Cleveland-Innes,  
Centre for Distance Education  
Tuesday, November 22, noon to 1 p.m.  
Via Adobe Connect

Graduate students who are interested in attending can contact the [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#) to register.

# Centre for Learning Design and Development Hosts UNISA Visitor

by Rodger Graham



Azwy Tshivhase

Azwy Tshivhase, a director in the Directorate for Curriculum and Learning Development at the University of South Africa (UNISA) recently spent four weeks with AU's Centre for Learning Design and Development, gathering information related to institutional policies and procedures for distance education, open and distance education methods, and learning design and development processes for online and distance delivery of courses.

UNISA, a distance education university with over 350,000 students, is, like AU, in the process of moving from print to online delivery, so Tshivhase's visit provided an excellent opportunity to share information on a number of issues affecting both institutions.

Tshivhase's visit was co-ordinated by Dr. Iain Grant, manager of special projects in the Office of the Vice-President Academic, under an international fellowship program. After interviewing CLDD staff members and visiting other units in the university, he wrapped up his visit with a presentation to the entire CLDD staff and guests in Governing Council Chambers on October 20.

Tshivhase is not the first representative of UNISA to visit the CLDD. Professor Wendy Kilfoil, also from the Directorate for Curriculum and Learning Development, visited in 2007. AU looks forward to a continued warm and productive relationship with its sister institution as we both strive to meet the challenges of distance delivery in an online world.

## Best Paper Award at M-Learning Conference

A group of AU scholars received the Best Paper Award at the tenth World Conference on Mobile and Context Learning (M-Learn 2011) in Beijing, China, in October.

The paper, "5R Adaptation Framework for Location-Based Mobile Learning Systems" was written by Dr. Qing Tan (lead author), Dr. Xiaokun Zhang, Dr. Kinshuk and Dr. Rory McGreal.

## News In Brief

### Wired Campus

From a new survey on student technology use, published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*:

- Fifty-eight per cent of the 3,000 students surveyed use Facebook to communicate with other students about their coursework.
- Thirty per cent reported using other social networks (Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn, etc.).
- Eleven per cent said they wished instructors would incorporate these sites into the curriculum more often.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Athabasca University's Facebook page has over 1,600 fans.

Check it out at [www.facebook.com/Athabasca.University](http://www.facebook.com/Athabasca.University)

If you would like something posted onto the AU Facebook page, please contact [Michael Shouldice](#).

# Faculty, Students and Alumni in the News

## Labour Issues

Bob Barnetson, associate professor of labour relations, has been quoted recently in a number of newspaper articles about child labour practices. The articles were exploring child labour issues in light of the workplace deaths this summer of teenagers from Manitoba and Quebec.

One Canadian Press story was picked up by the *Edmonton Journal*, the *Vancouver Sun* and the *Victoria Times Colonist*.

Another Canadian Press article quoting Barnetson about the Canadian postal union fighting back-to-work legislation was picked up by *Global News*.

## Learning in a Digital Age

An interview with George Siemens, a social media strategist in the Technology Enhanced Knowledge Research Institute, about connectivism and learning for a digital age is available on [Dawson ITE](#).

## Life With Two Mothers

Deborah Foster, a tutor in women's and gender studies, was quoted in a *Globe and Mail* article examining how, on average, children of lesbians are more confident, less aggressive, more open-minded, more affectionate and less susceptible to anxiety and depression than children raised by a father and mother. Foster has found that two-mother families are happier with the emotional support and chore-sharing in their families than are moms in straight couples.

## Gaming and Communication

Evelyn Ellerman, chair of the Communication Studies Program, was interviewed on [WebTalkRadio.net](#) on the implications of gaming for the field of communication studies. Ellerman addressed the role of narrative in games as a form of storytelling, explained how the movie and gaming industries are cross pollinating and the implications of such an overlap for the future of these media.

## Equity Matters

Gloria Filax, associate professor of equity studies, is a guest contributor to the Canadian Federation for the [Humanities and Social Sciences blog](#), writing about issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth.

## Automotive Appointment

MBA alumnus Thane Higgs was recently appointed Ontario Regional Sales Manager with PPG Canada Automotive Refinish. His appointment was announced in *Collision Repair Magazine*.

## Chaos Arts

Communications studies student Max Schmidl has started an organization to help freelance artists like himself find work. The idea behind Chaos Arts, which is still in the planning stages, is that, for a small membership fee, freelance artists in and around Halifax can find volunteer work to lend them the credibility they need to find successful careers. Read the full article in [The Surveyor](#).

## News In Brief

### Coming to Terms With the OER Concept

Two new books, published by UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), about Open Educational Resources (OERs), will help people develop a basic understanding of the concept:

- *A Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources (OER)*
- *Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Higher Education*

Anyone wanting to know more about OERs can join the OER Group on Athabasca Landing. Log in to [The Landing](#), click on Tools, then Groups and choose the OER Group.



Tony Tin (right) and Colin Elliott, both with Library Services, during Open Access Week events

# Third Open Access Week Features Lively Discussion



by Erin Ottosen

AU's 2011 Open Access Week activities attracted 272 webcast participants and plenty of lively discussion about open educational resources and their role in the future of post-secondary education. This is the third year that AU has participated in the annual international event.

The theme of this year's event, organized by Library Services, was the growing movement toward using open educational resources, learning materials such as textbooks that are freely available online to both students and educators. Webcasts such as *Moving to Open Educational Resources at Athabasca University* looked at how such resources can be used more widely at AU.

All of the Open Access Week webcasts were recorded and will be archived on the [Open Access Week website](#) in the coming weeks. Webcasts from previous years' events are also available there.

**Tony Tin**, head of digital initiatives and electronic resources in Library Services was the lead organizer for this year's Open Access Week activities. "I would like to express my gratitude to the speakers and participants for their contribution and involvement in the event," he said, adding that he encourages anyone with comments or suggestions for the 2012 event to contact him,

## The AU Library and Open Educational Resources

Library Services is a key supporter of open educational resources at AU.

"We make our tools, digital content and mobile learning resources freely and openly available to the general public, without asking users to pay fees," said Tony Tin, head of digital initiatives and electronic resources at Library Services. "Open educational resources have allowed the library to improve access to learning resources and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to learners more efficiently."

Library Services has undertaken a number of initiatives related to open educational resources:

- It has developed a [federated search tool](#) that allows users to search OER repositories easily.
- It is working on its own OER repository, a fully searchable database that will provide easy access to e-books, learning objects, articles, audio and video files and other open educational resources.
- It has developed open educational resources for mobile devices that offer lessons on [English as a second language](#), [workplace English](#) and [French](#).

Providing knowledge for free allows the library to equalize access to educational opportunities across the world, Tin said. "By sharing and reusing resources, the costs for accessing and producing such resources can be reduced. Openness is the breath of life for education and research."



# Get an Early Start to Christmas Shopping

The annual AU Christmas Artisan and Gift Show, organized by the AU Wellness Committee at AU Athabasca, showcases one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, baked goods, specialty items, refreshments and entertainment.

The show will take place at the Athabasca Regional Multiplex field house on Friday, November 18, from 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Donations may be made to the Food Bank in lieu of the price of admission.

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## Save the Date for a Holiday Party

The holiday season is fast approaching, and with it comes the opportunity to renew acquaintances, reconnect and celebrate. You and a guest are invited to attend an upcoming AU holiday reception.

The receptions will have a come-and-go format. Formal invitations with detailed information will be distributed in early November, but these are the dates to save:

**Calgary: Friday, December 2, 4:45 to 7 p.m.**

**Edmonton: Thursday, December 8, 4:45 to 7 p.m.**

**Athabasca: Friday, December 9, 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

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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 Monday, November 28, 2011. The deadline for submissions is November 18.



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