

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Volume 15 Issue 22
June 15, 2007



Convocation 2007!

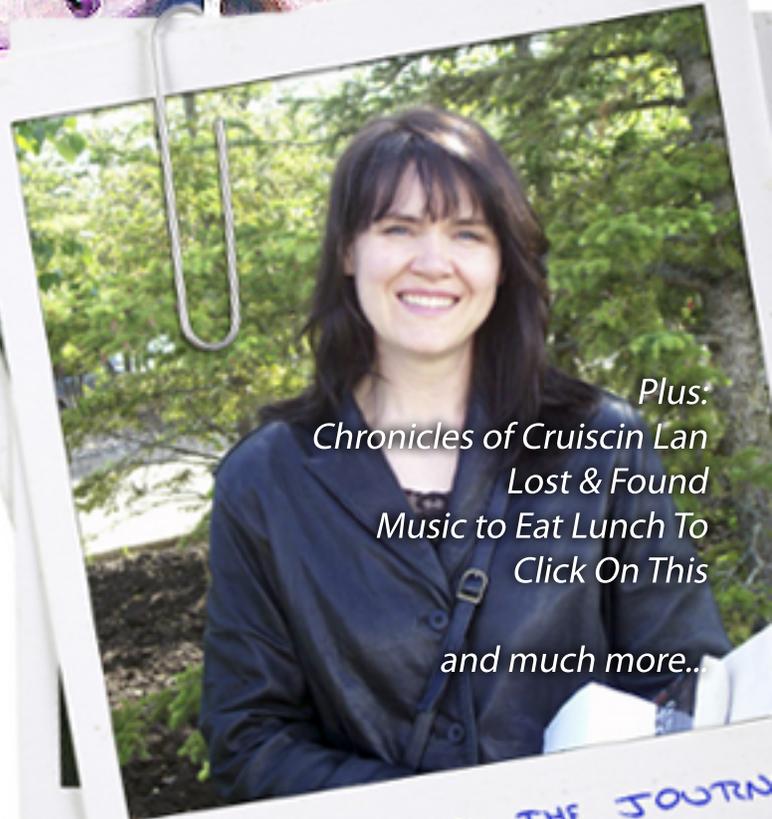
Coverage of events, grad interviews, and more

Clamming Up

Battle over the beaches heats up

Reaching Out

The little things can make a difference



Plus:
Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan
Lost & Found
Music to Eat Lunch To
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and much more..

"... ENJOY THE JOURN
AS WELL AS THE DESTINATION

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publish your letter.

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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THE VOICE ONLINE:
www.voicemagazine.org

The Voice is published every
Friday in HTML and PDF
format

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Convocation 2007

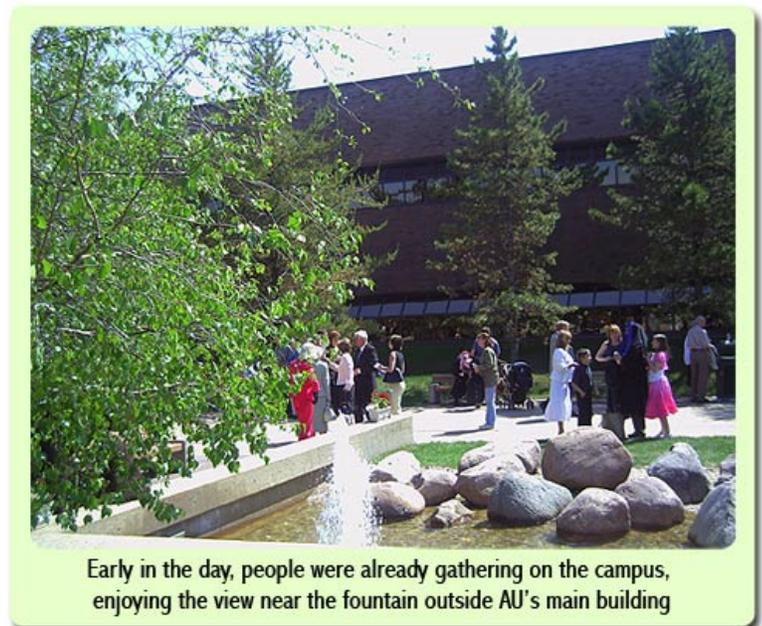
Sandra Livingston

This is the first of a special three-part Voice report on Athabasca University's 2007 Convocation, which took place June 7, 8, and 9. The Voice offers its warmest congratulations to all this year's graduates!

Thursday, June 7, dawned bright and clear. Under the blue Alberta skies, the day's activities began as usual for most people—but on the rolling green campus of Athabasca University, a definite sense of excitement filled the air. The enticing smell of breakfast wafted through a spacious white tent, a bustle of activity had started in the library, and a host of volunteers was already hard at work—and all for good reason. Today marked the first day of AU's Convocation 2007.

The convocation ceremonies officially started at noon, but by 10:00 a.m. the parking lots of the campus had already started to fill. At the end of the long driveway, attendants stood ready to direct the crowds, and smiling faces could be seen milling around the grounds and throughout AU's main building. Graduates, academics, family, friends—everyone shared in the festive mood and was busy with their part in the preparations.

In the main foyer, volunteers were ready to register each of the graduates and special guests. Even before they were robed and ready to begin the procession, the graduates were easy to identify—not only because they seemed to be constantly smiling for cameras, but because they each wore the green-bordered name tag that identified them as grads. AU staff and special guests received blue-bordered tags, and if anyone was in need of assistance, they didn't need to look far to



Early in the day, people were already gathering on the campus, enjoying the view near the fountain outside AU's main building

find one of the many staff and volunteers in distinctive red shirts, all of them hard at work alongside Events Coordinator Mel MacGregor.

By 11:30, there was a distinct shift in the air. Greetings and picture-taking were temporarily put on hold, and it was nearly time for the main event: the procession into the enormous red-and-white tent that housed the stage and would be the site for awarding the degrees.

A few lingering graduates could be seen dashing down the main hall and into the library, which had been converted into the robing area for the three days of convocation. Family and friends began streaming into the tent, and soon the enormous space was filled



Alumni and special guests gather in the main foyer, ready to begin the procession

with expectant faces, cameras at the ready. High above the crowds, a camera crew was perched at their stations around the sides of the tent, focused on the job of capturing the events and broadcasting them live via a podcast, a popular event that originated at last year's convocation.

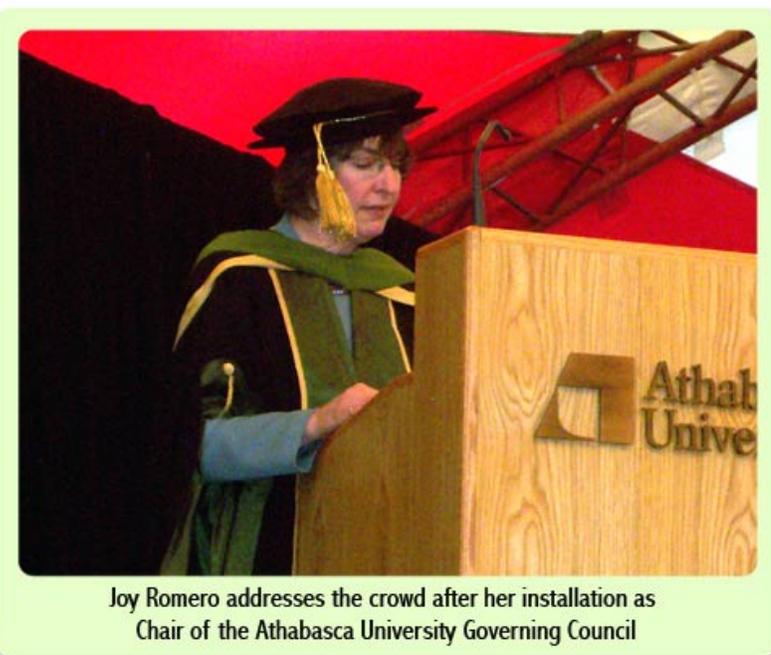
And then, at last, it was time. The audience was asked to rise, and all eyes were focused on the graduates as the procession began to make its way up the red-carpeted centre aisle and onto the stage. Leading the group was Dr. Frits Pannekoek, President of Athabasca University; Joy Romero, who would soon be installed as the Chair of Athabasca University Governing Council; Dr. Bob Fessenden, Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Technology; and various other special guests and alumni.

In honour of the day's scheduled recipient of Athabasca's honorary doctorate, Professor Mandla Makhanya, the stirring voices of the Kokopelli Choir, a South African singing group, were raised in the South African national anthem.

The performance was a fitting start to the day's welcoming remarks by Dr. Pannekoek, and his address included a statement that reflected the sense of accomplishment and camaraderie in the air: "People really believe in this university."

As he shared some remarkable facts about AU, including an incredible 286% increase in total enrolment over a decade ago, it truly brought home the fact that the university's staff and students are part of a dynamic team working toward a common goal.

The opening remarks continued with official greetings by Dr. Bob Fessenden, followed by George Hawryluk, Councillor of the Town of Athabasca.



The ceremonies began with one of the many special presentations that were to take place that day: the installation of Joy Romero as Chair of the Athabasca University Governing Council. She accepted her new role with evident pride, and her address was followed by the event that so many people had worked so hard to achieve: the conferring of degrees on the first group of graduates.

The crowd was hushed as Dr. Margaret Haughey, acting as graduate presenter, asked the graduates to rise and then turned to address the Governing Council with the following petition:

"Madam Chair, Mr. President and ladies and

gentlemen of the Governing Council, I present to you the petition that these graduands, having fulfilled all of the requirements of the statutes of Athabasca University, may, with your permission, be admitted to the degrees to which they are entitled."

Chair Joy Romero granted the petition, President Frits Pannekoek set forth the pledge to the graduates, and, in one voice, they all replied, "I do so promise." The conferring of degrees on the graduates of 2007 had officially begun.

Each of the grads approached the front of the stage and, as Registrar Jim D'Arcy carefully laid the colourful hoods over their gowns, the brief bios they had prepared were read out by Dr. Margaret Haughey. It was a personal glimpse into the efforts that each individual had put forth into earning their degree, and their words were humorous, poignant, and heartfelt.

The degrees being awarded on this first day included:

Master of Distance Education

Master of Arts, Integrated Studies

Master of Counselling

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of General Studies, Applied Studies

Bachelor of General Studies, Arts and Science

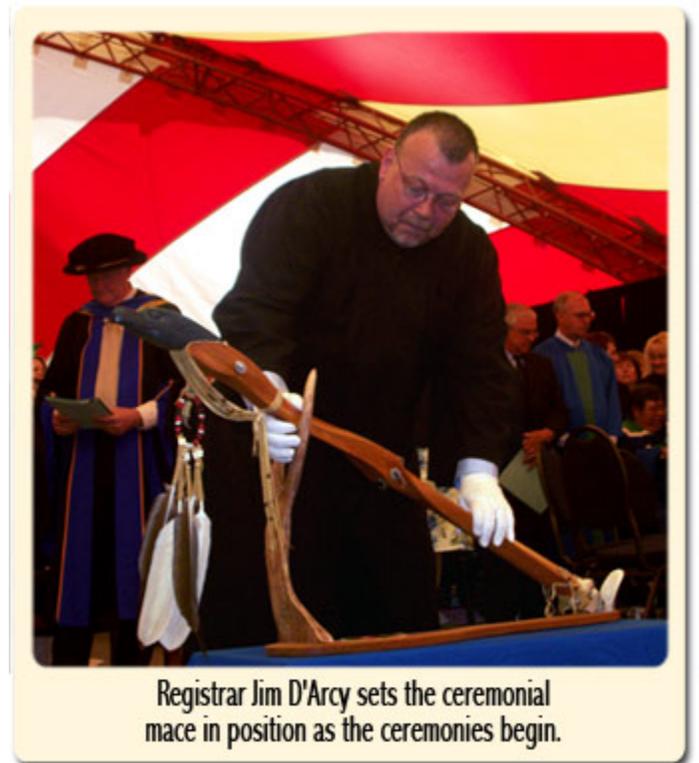
Bachelor of Professional Arts

Each group had their own distinctive hood colour, and as the graduates received their degrees, smiles and applause broke out as they returned to their seats wearing the vibrant blues, pinks, greens, and reds that designated them as brand new alumni.

Reading through the program, it was plain to see the incredible array of diverse places that AU students hail from. The Master of Distance Education graduates included students from nearby Edmonton, Alberta, as well as Doha, Qatar and Mystic, Connecticut, while some Master of Arts students earned their degrees in such far-flung locales as York Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Bratislava, Slovakia.

As the awarding of the first day's degrees drew to a close, three more special events were planned. The first was the presentation of the Governor General's Gold Medal. This award is bestowed on the AU student (within each day's graduating group) with the highest overall academic standing. The minimum GPA required to be considered for the award is 3.5, and on this day the recipient was Kathryn Lee Parsonage, who was graduating with a Master of Distance Education.

Next came the address by one of the graduates, Sheila Jane Hudson, who was graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. In her lively speech, Sheila compared the journey of earning a degree to a recent vacation she took to southern California with her family. As she explained, "Both journeys required that I consider the resources at my disposal, the scenery I wanted to take in en route and the time frame within which I had to make it all happen. As graduates, we've each chosen a destination and plodded along until we got here." Many



audience members and graduates smiled and nodded in agreement, especially as she mentioned how “there have been detours, transfers, and layovers, but all of us have arrived.” (You can read Sheila’s complete speech at the end of this article.)

The final presentation of the day came as Professor Mandla Makhanya received an honorary Doctor of Athabasca University. Professor Makhanya is the Executive Dean of the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA), which is the largest university in South Africa, as well as one of the largest distance learning institutions in the world.



Professor Mandla Makhanya receives his honorary doctorate from Joy Romero and Dr. Frits Pannekoek

Incredible as it seemed, the first day of convocation was winding to a close, and Joy Romero requested the audience to rise and remain at their seats as the guests and new alumni (just moments ago graduates) began the recession.

Piper Kara Hryckowian took her place at the front of the stage, and as she began to pipe a tune, the platform beadies directed the procession down the ramps at each side of the stage and toward the red carpet that led back along the length of the tent and out into the bright afternoon sunshine.

Friends and family smiled, cheered, and hurried to catch one last picture of the new alumni as they left the stage.

Outside, the crowd quickly dispersed around the grounds, the newly-graduated hurrying to return their robes and rejoin their friends for the delicious lunch of salads, lasagne, and desert (including white and dark chocolate flowing from liquid fountains alongside piles of fresh fruit) that was waiting for everyone in the large food tent.

As everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather and good food, and joined in the congratulations, AU staff and volunteers were already hard at work preparing for the convocation ceremonies that would take place the next day!

Watch for part 2 of Convocation 2007 coverage next week!



Piper Kara Hryckowian leads the recession of the first new alumni of 2007



Alumni and special guests applaud at the closing of the day's ceremonies

CONVOCATION 2007 - ADDRESS BY GRADUATE



During each of the three days of convocation, one graduate addressed their fellow students and convocation guests, sharing their thoughts about graduation and the journey that brought them there.

On Thursday, June 7, the graduate address was given by Sheila Jane Hudson, of Spruce Grove, Alberta, who received her Bachelor of Arts degree with great distinction.

The Voice thanks Sheila for sharing the text of her address, which is printed below.

Madam Chairman, Mr. President, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Platform Party, Fellow Graduates, Family and Friends,

Good afternoon!

My husband and I love to get away from home with our children. We have gone on many camping trips, ski weekends, and visits to distant grandparents, but extended holidays to exotic locations have never seemed to pan out for us—at least not until this past January. In January we were faced with the shocking realization that our oldest child was fast approaching his 18th birthday and would soon be setting out to conquer the world. As my husband and I contemplated our son's impending independence, we realized that the window of opportunity for a major family vacation was fast closing.

And so, with a sense of some urgency, we set out to organize the elusive holiday—something the family would remember with fondness for years to come. The first order of business was to determine when we would go. First we tried for summer holidays; the teenagers, however, were afraid that a long holiday would jeopardize their employment opportunities, so that idea was discarded. We thought about spring break; but my husband couldn't leave work then. Next we tried for the Family Day weekend; it was tied up with a basketball tournament. It quickly became evident that semester break was our only real option—but it was only three weeks away! In a whirlwind of planning and activity we threw together a trip to Southern California. On January 24 we loaded our stuff and ourselves (including two adults, a great big football player, a long tall basketball player, and an active 10-year-old) into our little 5-passenger Nissan Pathfinder and set out for a very . . . long . . . drive.

Why the travelogue, you may wonder. Well, the great honour of addressing you today has prompted me to reflect on my time as a student at Athabasca University, and I have discovered some distinct parallels between my trip to California and my time as a student at this great institution.

First, both ventures started out because windows of opportunity seemed to be closing. I've already explained how my holiday window seemed to be closing. My post-secondary education window started to slide shut when my pursuits at another institution were temporarily put on hold while I took a job so that my husband could finish his schooling. Temporary seemed to become permanent when our first bundle of joy made his debut. I could not imagine giving up my post-secondary education, but financial and family demands made traditional full-time study on campus infeasible. The school window seemed to be closing

and I was on the wrong side of it. Then I learned about Athabasca University. I'm sure I speak for many graduates today when I say that I am grateful I was able to embark on a path that allowed me to continue my university studies when all other options made post-secondary schooling seem impossible.

The second parallel involves my means of arriving at my destination. Both journeys required that I consider the resources at my disposal, the scenery I wanted to take in en route and the time frame within which I had to make it all happen. As graduates, we've each chosen a destination and plodded along until we got here. Some of us have had the luxury of flying; some of us feel like we've hitchhiked through the Mojave Desert. There have been detours, transfers, and layovers, but all of us have arrived.

Neither journey was without incident. In spite of my most conscientious effort to have my vehicle in order before I left the driveway I still ran into some car troubles on vacation; a belt broke just this side of the U.S. border, my radiator overheated in the midst of Las Vegas, and my muffler began to make rude noises somewhere around Tijuana. In spite of my diligent planning and dedication to my studies, my computer broke down on the wrong side of completing Computer Sciences 210, I went into labour in the midst of Psychology 388, and life made many rude noises in the midst of everything else. Many thanks are owed to tutors and other Athabasca University staff who served as fine mechanics when we, as students, needed a tune-up, a jerry can of gas, a boost, or a major overhaul.

Each journey required the travellers to find balance. As my family travelled I-15, we had to find a balance between making good time on the road and having a good time on the road. We anticipated that at some point in our 70-some hour drive there might be a bit of tension among our back-seat passengers. Anyone who has a child or has been a child will probably be familiar with some of the complaints we anticipated: "He looked at me! His leg is on my side of the seat! Someone sat on my glasses!"

But because we anticipated such possibilities we made plans so that we could enjoy the journey as well as the destination. We brought books on tape, munchies for the car, and games for the road. And once in a while we just pulled over and took a break. Similarly, every graduating student here has developed some skill in finding balance between extracurricular demands and the demands of scholarship. A bit of school-related tension was inevitable, but a bit of planning allowed us to minimize that stress. Often the plan included peanut butter sandwiches for supper, overnight research sessions, and chocolate, lots and lots of chocolate. And once in a while we just had to pause and take a break. However, I hope my fellow graduates can join me in saying that while I'm happy to finally be on this end of the journey, I have certainly enjoyed the ride.

Finally, while California is a lovely place to visit, I could not have enjoyed it as much as I did without my travelling companions. Seriously, what would Disneyland be without my 10-year-old? My family learned together, laughed together, navigated for one another, and watched out for each other. Those same companions have been with me on my academic journey. I'm sure there were times on both trips when they wanted to get out of the car, but I'm so glad they stayed along for the ride. I could never have gotten here without them.

On behalf of my fellow graduates, thanks to the partners, parents, children, friends, and mentors who cheered us on and supported us. We look forward to enjoying the next adventure with you by our sides and in our hearts.

Thank you.

CONVOCATION 2007 - GRADUATE INTERVIEWS



This is the first of a three-part Voice series featuring interviews with some of AU's 2007 graduates.

For many graduates, convocation weekend was the first time they had seen the beautiful grounds and buildings of the AU campus, and they attended the ceremonies from places near and far, including Athabasca, Alberta, and Bangkok, Thailand.

The Voice would like to offer its sincere congratulations to all of this year's graduates, and knows that their accomplishments will encourage all those students who are still completing their studies at AU.

Brian Harvey

Master of Distance Education

Brian is pictured here with his wife Carol.

Brian attended convocation with his wife Carol, and they travelled from Kitchener, Ontario, to take part in the ceremonies.

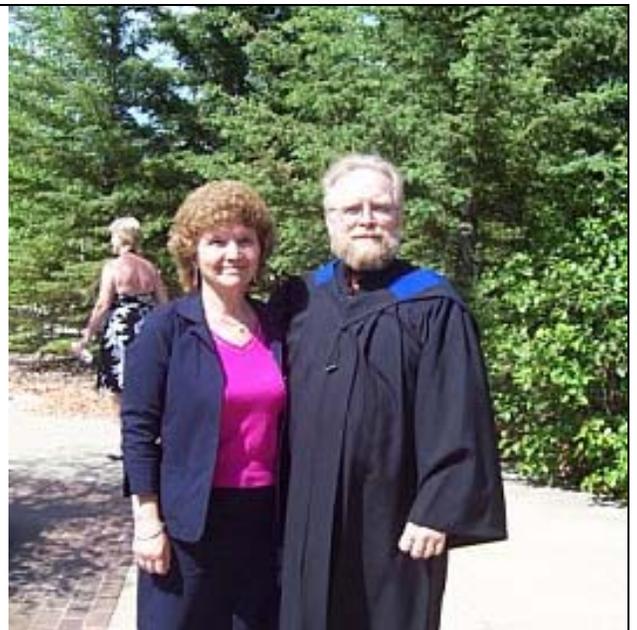
For Brian, the key to success in the Master of Distance Education program was being prepared. His advice to students in the program is to "spend a significant amount of time working" if they want to do well in their studies, as many as five to ten hours each week.

Besides the satisfaction of having survived the program, one of the other benefits Brian experienced is having learned a lot about education; not only how to deliver and develop programs for distance studies, but also for a broad array of educational settings in general.

Brian is already employed in the education field, and is the chair of the business school at Conestoga College in Kitchener. He has already found the Masters of Distance Education program very helpful, and says that it has helped him to achieve some of his objectives.

He plans to use his experiences in the program to help increase the amount of online education available at the business school where he works.

Congratulations, Brian!



Jonathan French

Bachelor of Professional Arts, Criminal Justice

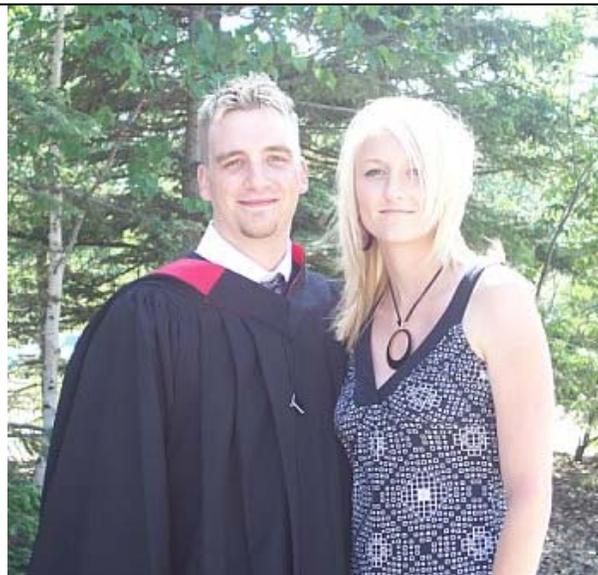
Jonathan is pictured here with his girlfriend Jeni Kristensen.

For Jonathan, one of the best parts of being a student at AU was the people that he met and the new friends that he has made. He also enjoyed the classroom experiences that the program provided, and enjoyed the interaction with his professors.

Overall, Jonathan found that the most challenging part of his studies in the Criminal Justice program was maintaining a 3.0 GPA. He attributes some of his success to the support of his girlfriend Jeni, and thanks her for being there throughout his program.

Currently, Jonathan works as a recreation technician with the City of Edmonton, and his job involves planning activity programs for children.

In the future, he's planning on continuing with his studies and says he will probably look into a Master's program, possibly in another field. On the day we caught up Jonathan at convocation, though, his main focus was relaxing and enjoying the ceremonies; he summed up the mood of the proud graduates when he said that he's "just sort of happy right now." Congratulations, Jonathan!



Lori Lambert

Bachelor of Arts with distinction

For Lori's graduation from the BA program with a Psychology major, she had a cheering section of her own, including her husband, her parents, her son and her two daughters.

Luckily, she didn't have far to come: Lori is a resident of Athabasca and works at the university in the research centre.

For Lori, one of the keys to success was the interaction with university staff, and she advises students to "talk to your tutors."

She has experienced AU courses both with and without a lot of instructor contact.

In the beginning, she says, "I talked to my tutors all the time and it really did make it a lot easier. After a while I got really busy and I wasn't able to talk to them or connect with them all the time and I felt it. I still did okay, but it's a huge difference."

Congratulations, Lori!



Dianna Pottier
Bachelor of Nursing

Dianna travelled from Ottawa with her husband John to join her fellow nursing graduates at convocation.

For Dianna, one of the keys to her success in the program was perseverance. She says that demonstrating the ability to stay focused and complete a degree is a great experience, and shows what kind of strength students have.

Her words of advice to current students? "Persevere. You just have to keep going at it and it's going to get done."

Dianna completed her nursing degree over six years, while also enjoying her job at a children's hospital in Ottawa.

More studies may be in her future: she is considering pursuing a Masters but hasn't made up her mind yet. Her only big plans for immediately after graduation are a possible holiday with her family, but she has plenty of time to relax before then—she still has to wait another couple of weeks until *they* finish school.

Congratulations, Dianna!



Jonathan Brenner
Master of Health Studies

Jonathan completed his Master of Health Studies in just 14 months; he took advantage of a "window of opportunity" and stayed focused on his program, taking as many courses as he could at one time.

He attended convocation from beautiful Campbell River, B.C., and his advice to current students is to seek to understand.

As he puts it, "I think the idea is trying to gain understanding and expand your knowledge rather than just trying to memorize. Challenge your thoughts."

Jonathan already has definite career plans that will put his Master of Health Studies to good use: he is in the process of developing a 94-bed complex-care facility in Campbell River. The planned facility will be an extended care residence for seniors, and it is expected to be ready in March. Jonathan will be kept busy as both the owner and administrator of the residence.

Congratulations, Jonathan!



Janice Dewar
Master of Distance Education

Relaxing and strolling the grounds just after the convocation ceremony, Janice told *The Voice* that she is proud of having earned her Master of Distance Education; not only because she believes a degree program is a significant undertaking, but also because “it’s wonderful to be part of this particular university and to be part of this program.”

She travelled from Edmonton with her friends Linda Porter and Gail Baron, and was looking forward to “an evening of celebration, an afternoon of celebration, and then a weekend of celebration with other friends.”

Along with keeping busy making plans for convocation, Janice recently returned from a trip to Italy. Now, she’s planning on having more time to focus on the other activities she’s interested in, including writing.

Janice develops and manages public education programming for a department of the City of Edmonton, and is looking forward to the new career opportunities that will be open to her with her degree.

Congratulations, Janice!



Inside the tent, graduates take the stage while family and friends wait for the ceremonies to begin

The university’s main hall is a flurry of activity: everyone is eager to order their AU rings, frames, and merchandise



Bursts of bright, colourful flowers adorn the campus

Watch for more graduate interviews next week!

The *Voice* Great Canadian Place Challenge

Are you a snow-loving Rocky Mountain gal?

A wide-open-spaces Prairie kind of guy?

Or maybe someone who can't get enough of the rugged coasts and fresh Atlantic air in the east?

Tell us why the place you live is the best place in Canada, in *The Voice* Great Canadian Place Challenge!

Is it the people? The places? The natural Canadian beauty?

Convince us (and *Voice* readers) that Anzac, Alberta is the must-see place for a vacation this summer, or that there's nothing like watching a sunrise in Wrigley, Northwest Territories.

Selected submissions will be paid at regular *Voice* rates, and the winner will also receive a prize pack of *Voice* goodies.



There are two ways to brag about why you're living in the best-kept secret in the country:

1. Send us a 400 - 500 word article explaining what makes your city or town special, or
2. Submit 6 - 8 photos in electronic format (e.g., JPEG, GIF) with a short caption for each one.

Submissions selected for publication will appear in *The Voice* throughout the summer, and the winner will be selected by *Voice* staff on September 30, 2007. Send submissions to voice@ausu.org

All entrants agree to have their names and submissions published in *The Voice*. All articles must be original, unpublished works, and will be edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity. Photos must be original and unpublished, and must be good quality electronic format.

Send us your photos and articles today, and you might just win the bragging rights to the best place in Canada!





Community-Based Management Versus Backroom Deals

This is the first in a two-part series on the growing privatization of the clam industry in southwest Nova Scotia.

If you've driven along the Fundy shores of southwestern Nova Scotia at low tide you may have seen a solitary figure or two lurking at the outer edge of a mud flat, stooping enigmatically over small patches of ground. These people are digging up the little bivalve molluscs that have come to form an indispensable part of the world's dinner menu.

Accomplished by using a bucket and a hack (a sawed-off pitchfork with tines bent perpendicular to the handle), clam harvesting is one of the most cost-effective and environmentally safe ways of making or supplementing a year-round living off the sea.

Clams must be harvested at low tide, which happens twice a day and lasts for only a couple of hours. The clammer searches for holes in the mud and starts digging. Anything smaller than an inch and a half has to be put back into the hole to be allowed to grow to maturity.

Self-employed clambers take the clams home for shucking (shelling and beheading, pronounced SHAW-king) and sale to a licensed clam buyer. Clammers who dig on closed beaches for Innovative Fishery Products (IFP), a local company that buys and processes local clams for export and has become the employer of nearly every clam digger in Digby and Annapolis counties, have only to dig; the IFP truck drives to the beaches where its clambers are digging and loads the clams onto the truck directly from the beach. These clams are taken to the plant for depuration and shucking before being shipped to the buyer.

In the days before IFP's rise to power clam diggers were an independent lot. A hard worker could support a family and still have time to raise it properly. A digger was not at the mercy of fickle job markets and bosses. Digging required minimal formal education and only the most basic of tools. But since IFP has effectively cornered the market for clams, more and more clam diggers are finding themselves forced to work for the company, and the life just isn't what it used to be. The absence of benefits wasn't such a trial when clamming could generate a living wage, but now that diggers are being paid less for clams that are becoming harder to find some of them are wondering what they'll have to retire on or even what they're going to feed their kids. When wages drop and employment benefits peter out clam diggers are often forced to go out west to seek a better life, a last resort that has little appeal for community-minded fisher folk for whom family, community, and chosen livelihood trump fancy living.

It is an overcast autumn day in Digby, Nova Scotia. Sea breezes sweeten and cool the air. A dense crowd of clam diggers clad in the traditional regalia of Nova Scotian fisher folk—plaid jackets, duckbill hats, jeans, and rubber boots—is milling along the stretch of road between the boarded-up dairy treat building on the right and the bobby-socks era bowling alley on the left.

Environment Canada classifies clam beaches as either closed (prohibiting public clam harvesting due to mild contamination) or open. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has ruled that clams on closed beaches can only be harvested by companies with clam purification facilities known as depuration plants. Clams on open beaches can be harvested for commercial purposes by licensed clam diggers, and you and I and anyone else are legally entitled to dig a limited number of clams for personal consumption; British common law has long ruled that tidal beaches are public, and that any goods that can be harvested from them are common property.

IFP is currently the only company in Southwest Nova with an operating depuration plant, and hence the only body that can issue temporary permits to its employees to dig clams on closed beaches. Existing annual licenses permit IFP not only to harvest clams from open beaches like everyone else but also to be the sole harvester of clams on a prime stretch of closed clam beach at the head of St. Mary's Bay for the next ten years, or until the beach is declared open, whichever comes first. The company is preparing to submit an application for ten-year leases on 14 more closed clam beaches in Nova Scotia. Environmental pollution will probably bolster IFP's interests; future beach closures could widen the company's access to more and more closed beaches.

Stuck in the traffic caused by the crowd of clam diggers is IFP's Doug Bertram. It is his company's labour practices and resource management that are being protested. Doug Bertram calls to one of the protesters and asks him to fetch Ken Weir, the president of the Digby Clammers Association. Ken arrives and the two hammer out a resolution; if Ken calls a stop to the protest Doug will raise the price of clams to sixty cents a pound. He'll also hire back every one of the protesters, with the exception of three men he names. But the clammers association has recently agreed that if one of them has been fired for protesting then they have all been fired. Ken walks away. The protest continues.

Stories in local papers have clouded the issue, to the great frustration of stakeholders in this industry. The suggestion is clear; depuration companies are essential to the continued public consumption of clams. What's more, it's implied that the clam diggers are low-class, uneducated people who would sell contaminated clams to the queen if it meant another dollar in their pockets. What isn't mentioned is the fact that local clam diggers have been volunteering their time to valiant efforts to rescue their resource from being wiped out completely.

So far clam diggers have only been permitted to remove the small clams from open beaches for use in reseeding other open beaches; they would like to move clams from clam-dense closed beaches but have so far been denied permission by the DFO.

Another piece of information missing from news coverage is that depuration companies may not be essential to public safety. Clams are self-cleaning organisms that need only to be left to sit in a clean medium for a matter of days in order to become perfectly safe for human consumption.

One way to accomplish this is through relaying, the practice of removing clams from polluted beaches and moving them to clean beaches in order to facilitate self-purification. A New Brunswick study (Robinson 1991) utilized a number of stock enhancement practices, and found relaying to be a highly effective, low impact, and economical means of decontaminating clams.

Local clammers refer to the process as reseeding, a practice which they undertake voluntarily as part of a community-based management initiative in conjunction with the Clean Annapolis River Project. For the Nova Scotia Fundy region clammers, the purpose of reseeding is to bring up diminishing clam stocks, although it enables purification as well. So far clam diggers have only been permitted to remove the small clams from open beaches for use in reseeding other open beaches; they would like to move clams from clam-dense closed beaches but have so far been denied permission by the DFO.

Doug Bertram sends Ken Weir a court injunction demanding an end to the protest, and threatens to fine him \$45,000 a day until the protest ends. He tells the other clam diggers that if they continue their protest they will lose their houses. Fearful that Bertram might follow through, Weir calls for an end to the protest. The three men Bertram has named are dismissed, and clam prices remain too low to provide a decent living for the diggers.

In the fall of 2006 the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) and the DFO publicly announced the signing of a joint federal-provincial agreement allowing depuration companies already in possession of one-year clam-harvesting licenses to become eligible for ten-year leases on closed beaches. IFP has only to submit an application and have it accepted in order for the company to control access to 14 beaches in the Fundy region. From where the locals are standing the agreement to grant ten-year leases to companies with depuration plants boils down to a backroom deal with IFP to gradually turn over a public resource to a private company, allowing that company to milk resources dry and then move elsewhere; it is a scenario all too familiar to Maritimers, and this time it's close to being personal.

Clam diggers and activists have long reported that a fawning DFO conceals IFP's policies and practices to a degree that justly arouses suspicion, and the licensing agreement looks like a pretty solid indication that they were right all along.

"Innovative's got such a bad system going now," says Weir, "why should the government reward it with ten more years?"

News of the impending monopoly quickly galvanizes the very groups who should have been consulted in the first place. An informal coalition comprising clam diggers, clam buyers, municipal councillors, First Nations representatives, and social activists agrees that IFP must not be granted ten-year leases to those 14 beaches. They decide to make public the following demands: "a transparent and public process which will allow for full disclosure of all data upon which the Federal and Provincial governments' decision is based"; and "a forum for all affected stakeholders to be heard, before the leases are issued." The groups decide to call representatives of the DFO, the NSDFA, and Environment Canada to a public meeting in Digby.

Doug Bertram of IFP refuses to allow me to quote him, forbids me to record our telephone conversation, and proceeds to rant for twenty minutes. After Weir's thorough and detailed analysis of the problems confronting the sustainability of the industry which sustains him, Bertram sounds like a yappy terrier. Weir has told me that Bertram once told a clammer who, after working at a breakneck pace managed to pull in \$1,200 in one week, that the man did not deserve such wages because he was uneducated. Judging from my telephone conversation with Bertram, I am no longer inclined to doubt the veracity of Weir's account.

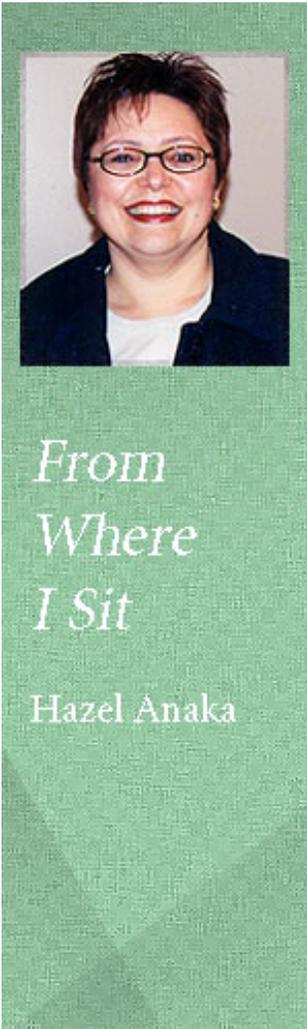
It is January 31, 2007. The Digby municipal building is swarming with many of the same people who were at the protest. They have brought the same signs. They crowd into the municipal chambers where the meeting is scheduled to take place at 7:00. At a string of desks set up in horseshoe formation, officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA), and Environment Canada sit at microphones. This meeting is presided over by municipal councillor Linda Gregory, a fisherman's wife who rules the room with an iron hand. She announces that those wishing to ask questions of the seated officials must first approach the microphone in the centre of the horseshoe and introduce themselves.

The clambers at the back of the council chambers start to grumble. "We ain't puttin' up with it. Naw-sir. They better be tellin' us somethin' er there's hell to pay."

Linda holds up a finger and restores order with a sharp "SSHT!"

The clambers in this room, the communities they reside in, and an international market are all dependent upon an industry whose sustainability is now being threatened by a process of privatization secretly in the works for over a dozen years. Local citizens have had no input into this process because they simply did not know about it.

Part 2 of this article will appear in next week's Voice.



Laughing, Crying, Thinking

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend an event at the Saville Centre in Edmonton. The investment was 80 dollars and one day of my life. But who can measure the benefits? I was exposed to wisdom, humour, and some of the most influential speakers in the U.S. Through simulcast technology, hundreds of locations around North America were all hearing the same speakers at the same time.

John Maxwell was the keynote speaker in a field of nine. Though I wasn't familiar with him or his message prior to this, he is a force to be reckoned with. He's a leadership expert, speaker, and author who's sold over 12 million books. His talk centred on his most recent book *Talent is Never Enough*. While I haven't yet read my copy, my notes captured the essence of his talk.

The talent we receive is a non-choice. It's great, but it can only be increased a point or two. But in matters of choice, growth is unlimited. He cites Tonya Harding and Mike Tyson as a waste of talent. He notes that punctuality and putting in effort don't require talent. He asks us to become "talent plus" people: to choose to add the next dimension to whatever ability or giftedness we already have. Those extras are belief, passion, initiative, focus, preparation, practice, perseverance, courage, teachability, character, relationships, responsibility, and teamwork.

Oh, yes, John Maxwell's wormed his way into my library. He wasn't the only star speaking that day. I was familiar with Terry Bradshaw because he's something of a regular on the Jay Leno show. He was perhaps the least-polished speaker but there's no doubting his passion, energy, and sincerity. Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*, spoke about great leaders making great decisions

instinctively by drawing on a lifetime of experience, demonstrating wisdom without understanding.

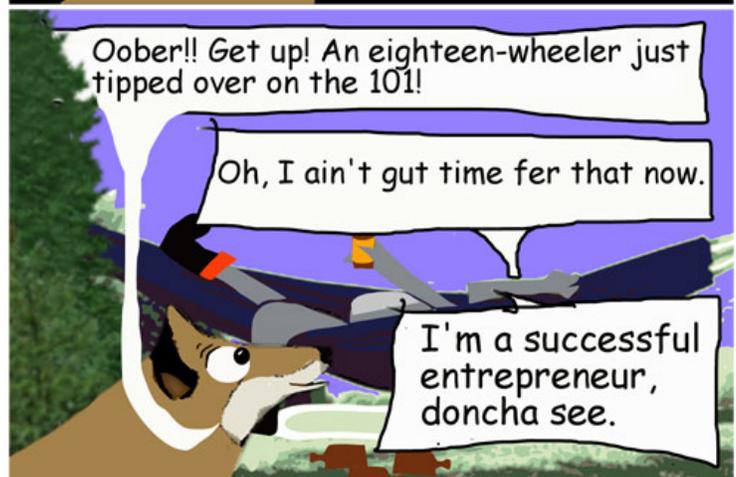
Who can forget hunky Denzel Washington in *Remember the Titans*? The movie dramatized the real-life story of Herman Boone, a black football coach hired over a white incumbent in 1971 Virginia. Over 30 years later Coach Boone speaks eloquently about the experience. "The movie isn't about football, it's about finding the way to talk to and respect each other. I don't care if you don't like each other but you will respect each other. And today, if you don't plan to make a difference, get your ass back to bed." He encourages companies to apply the lessons of communication and respect in building their own teams—one vision, one objective, one heartbeat.

Frankly, I didn't expect to cry that day but I did. Tim Sanders told the story of Lenny, who was visiting suicide chat rooms, planning his demise, and feeling profoundly alone and unhappy. Lenny chose to live and decided to pawn his gun. Why the change of heart? His boss demonstrated caring by simply asking about him, making conversation, cutting through the melancholy. Sanders asks us to give everyone two compliments; one personal, one performance-based. We can only guess what impact our words may have on another human being.

Laughing, crying, thinking . . . it doesn't get better, from where I sit.

The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by
Wanda
Waterman
St. Louis





The Wayward Soul

When I younger, my soul was something I took for granted. I would think nothing of sharing it with the magpies and the squirrels, with the stray dogs that came to beg scraps of food at our porch door. I would scatter it on the wind, and spread it like ashes on the surface of the lake. I would toss it like a bright, sturdy-seamed softball high in the air, while the sun marinated my childhood afternoon picnics in sweet orange barbecue-sauce light. I wouldn't hesitate to send my laughter alone into the woods. Or I would throw it down abandoned wells, where the moon floated on the surface of still black waters. Always, I knew it would find its way back to me, would come bounding back to me across wide-open fields with the loose-hipped gait, the matted fur, the infallible nose of a true and loyal hound dog.

When I was younger, and so much more trusting than I am today, I would lend my soul to any old passerby. I would leave it in taxicabs and city buses. I would hang it around the neck of scarecrows at country crossroads. I would seal it in an envelope and send it off to unknown places, with no return address. My soul was an article of faith, and I never doubted its safe return.

When I got older, I became more suspicious. I began to understand the sly covetousness of the people who pretended to be my friends. I would catch their sidelong, conspiratorial glances out of the corner of my eye. I began to understand the value of the thing I had for so long been careless of. I began to be more protective of my soul.

At night, I would make sure it was safely indoors. I began to keep it hidden when strangers were around. I hid it underneath flowerpots, like a spare door key. I hid it behind photographs of myself, smiling into the camera. I had a secret pocket sewn into the lining of my coat, and so I kept it close to my beating heart, precious as a rare watch, on the end of a golden chain.

Whenever I was forgetful or unaware, though, it would take the opportunity to slip away from me. It would sneak out the back door when I was daydreaming or napping on the couch. It would slip out through any open transom or window.

Lately, it has taken to being gone for days on end. I spend my time wandering lost and afraid down empty, evil streets. I leave "lost soul" posters nailed to twisted trees in bad parts of town. I fall asleep in my clothes, with my windows open, waiting for it to find its way back home.

Nine Black Alps - *Everything Is*



Release date: June 13, 2005

Label: Island Records

Tracks: 12

Rating: 8

Looks like this album has been sitting on the floor of the office collecting dust for a while, so the time is ripe for a review considering that it's already been followed up! Not having heard any subsequent releases, I've entered blindly into this record, and that's the way I like it. Nine Black Alps is touted as a grunge, punk, or indie band and I'm inclined to lean more toward the last incarnation but to add a shadowed edge; it's

got a very similar heart to The Strays but with a softer resolution and a somewhat more satisfying feel that is reminiscent of Nirvana.

This band named itself after a line in Sylvia Plath's poem "The Couriers": "Frost on a leaf, the immaculate cauldron, talking and crackling, all to itself on the top of each of nine black Alps." Given the name, one naturally assumes a melancholic and darkened vein to the band's songs, and while this is a safe assumption for many of the tracks on *Everything Is*, there is also a very upbeat and purely English cadence to the record.

The band comes from Manchester in the northern region of England, and you can hear the nationality pouring out immediately in the same way you can with Oasis or Coldplay; English bands are usually unmistakable to our ears and I think it's the well-placed juxtaposition between the Manchester natives and the American poetry of their name that explains the worldly atmosphere of *Everything Is*. The actual talent of the musicians is showcased to perfection with the electric and acoustic guitar riffs and the lowered and early McCartney-esque vocals alongside purely rock tracks; the versatility of all the band members is highlighted in "Behind Your Eyes," a soft song altogether suggestive of the Beatles and Simon and Garfunkel. The song and its close sibling "Intermission" sit in well between the rest of the songs on the album, which are mostly of a very English rock sound.

It's a great record, on the whole. If you are into that English sound in the vocals and the guitar, indie rock in any of its forms, or are just into something a bit different from your usual records then I highly recommend Nine Black Alps—at least this record, that is! As for myself, I'm putting the next release on my long and ever-growing list of CDs to buy. Do the same!

AUSU THIS MONTH



AGM 2007

All AUSU Members Invited

The AUSU Annual General Meeting for 2007 will be held on June 18 at 6:00 p.m. by teleconference. All AUSU members are invited to attend. If you are currently in an open AU undergraduate course, or have completed a course in the last six months, you are an AUSU member.

While members are invited to observe all AUSU meetings, at the AGM, members may also participate in the meeting, ask questions, and vote! This year we will present important updates to our bylaws, so member input is vital. There will be discussion on all proposed changes.

Contact our office at ausu@ausu.org or 1-800-788-9041 ext. 3413 for more information. Also, watch our website for a link to our annual report, which will be available shortly.

Changes to Council Executive

The AUSU "cabinet" does the shuffle

AUSU councillors are elected for two-year terms and, traditionally, the three executives also serve for two years. In early 2005, however, council began to discuss the possibility of holding a mid-term executive election. This term, councillors developed a new executive election policy to allow for the option of a mid-term election each term. In mid-March, council decided to hold a mid-term election for this year.

Lonita Fraser, VP External for AUSU for the last two years, decided not to run at this time due to a high course load, and she has moved to a regular councillor without portfolio position.

New councillor Huma Lodhi, who has been with council for one year, chose to run for VP Finance, due to her experience on the AUSU Finance Committee over the last year.

VP Finance for the past three years, Karl Low, chose to run for the vacant VP External position.

Lisa Priebe, President for the last two years, opted to run again for her position.

The three candidates were acclaimed to their positions at a special meeting of council held on April 16, 2007. As both outgoing executives are still with council and available to assist their successors, the changeover is expected to be very smooth.



At Home: Behind the Canadian visa

The [CBC website](#) has posted profiles of six people who have been refused a visa into Canada. The report offers an unusual glimpse into the immigration and visa process that most of us would usually not give a second thought to. Applying for a visa in most countries is a fairly straightforward process, but despite this I think it's safe to say that each of us feels a little anxious every time we're waiting for confirmation on a visa application or when we're standing in line at the airport customs. In most cases, applications are approved and the passport is stamped when we want to travel; but who exactly isn't getting this treatment when they try to come to Canada? The six people profiled on the CBC report give us a little glimpse into the various reasons our own visa office won't grant entry.

Thomas Mapfumo is a singer from Zimbabwe who has made the United States his home; he was denied entry to Canada on the basis that American customs might not let him re-enter

the States. This is to be expected, certainly, in some cases, for example that of Mobb Deep, Tony Yayo, Olivia, and M.O.P.; all are part of rapper 50 Cent's backup group. They were refused entry due to various criminal records, something that the group must have thought about prior to applying to enter Canada in the first place.

Less clear cut are the reasons surrounding the denied entry to Canada of Jacques Edouard Alexis, the former Haitian Prime Minister. He was refused entry in 2006, and although he was issued a personal and formal apology from Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, there has been no actual explanation as to the reasons for refusal. According to the organization Konbit Pou Ayiti, Alexis was "accused of complicity in the commission of crimes against humanity"¹ in his home country following the deaths of several political opponents at the hands of the police force. The police involved in the matter have been apprehended, though, and, formally speaking, Alexis has been cleared of any wrongdoing. His entry into Canada was eventually granted, but following this clearance he refused to enter until he received a formal apology from a Canadian government official.

Other people refused entry into Canada, according to the report, include Malik Zulu Shabazz, a member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in the United States; Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, a woman connected with the kidnapping and death of a young activist; and several people connected with the Outgames, an event for homosexuals that took place in Montreal in 2006.

Shabazz was ousted on the back of a 5-year-old misdemeanour, and the mass protests of the Jewish community in Canada are thought to have made an impact as well; Shabazz is admittedly outspoken against the Jewish faith. Mandela remains uncleared for entry with reference to the kidnapping charges, although her supporters (and they are many) maintain that she is a crucial South African activist, notably the ex-wife of Nelson Mandela. The Outgames, on the other hand, have apparently called up an entire international crop of so-called criminals; they have been labelled as such because of the anti-gay stance of their home countries, in which homosexuality is a crime.

The reasons for non-entry to Canada are most commonly criminal-related, it seems, although the criminality of each act and of each individual could perhaps use some more focused research on the part of Canadian customs and visa.

¹ Konbit Pou Ayiti. "Haiti Report for June 10, 2006." Retrieved June 13, 2007, from <http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:RIbJT4LiH1cJ:www.konpay.org/wordpress/2006/06/+Jacques+Edouard+Alexis+refused+entry+to+canada&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=ca&client=firefox-a>

In Foreign News: Spy satellite launched by Israel

Israel has launched a spy satellite this week, the latest in the Ofek series: Ofek-7. The satellite was so called because of the Hebrew meaning "horizon,"¹ and this technological advancement follows the research and testing of the rest of the Ofek missile series. The satellite research was put forth to give "Israel an extended capacity to monitor military developments in the region and also demonstrates its advanced missile ability,"¹ and it has been said that the main centres of surveillance will be Syria and Iran.

In conjunction with this project, Israel has also been developing an anti-missile program called Arrow with the help of the United States. The U.S. has been quite forward in its support of the Israeli government and its defence programs, especially following the recent violence between the Israeli state and Lebanon. The American government will have realized that the advancement of Israel's security and spy technologies will aid in its own surveillance of the Middle East; according to the Jerusalem Post,² Ofek-7 will reportedly fly over Iran, Iraq, and Syria every 90 minutes.

Israeli engineers and government officials are pleased with the advancements of the entire Ofek series, noting that many of the endeavours outlived their allotted lifespan and that the Ofek 5 satellite is still providing pictures with a clear resolution to researchers. NDTV has said that Israel has discounted claims that it might use the satellite to strike Iran, but admitted it will be used to keep a close eye on the nuclear capabilities being developed by its neighbour.

¹ SPACE.com. "Israel launches spy satellite." Retrieved June 13, 2007, from http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/israel_satellite_020528.html

² Jerusalem Post online. "Israel launches Ofek 7 spy satellite." Retrieved June 13, 2007, from <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1181228591351&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Often, too often, we build, we use, then we exit and forget. Sometimes this goes beyond merely leaving a place, and extends to the point where everyone has left and everyone has forgotten. Following are links that will take you to some very interesting examples of abandoned and unused places, and urban decay.

The Nostalgia Glass - <http://nostalgicglass.org/index.html>

Photographic explorations of the ruined historic architecture of Russia and elsewhere; estates, palaces, their histories and fates.

Japanese Urban Decay - <http://home.f01.itscom.net/spiral/research.html>

Some interesting, and a little disturbing, examples of abandoned places. This site is not in English.

Abandoned Britain - <http://abandoned-britain.com/>

"This site documents the urban decay of Industrial sites, Hospitals, Asylums," and so much more.

Disused Stations on the London Underground - <http://underground-history.co.uk/front.php>

It is not just what's on the ground that we abandon, it is also what is underneath.

London's Abandoned Tube Stations - <http://www.abandonedstations.org.uk/>

This site also documents the abandoned tube stations of London.

Abandoned Past - <http://www.abandonedpast.co.uk>

"Urban Exploration is about visiting and experiencing these often forgotten places and photographing and documenting them before they disappear forever. We visit everything from vast disused lunatic asylums, abandoned military establishments to industrial sites to underground bunkers from Victorian times to World War Two and even the Cold War."

Ghost Towns - <http://ghosttowngallery.com/>

It is not just single buildings or train stations that go by the wayside, but entire towns as well—and this is by no means a complete list of the abandoned towns of North America.

Monument Ghost Town Gallery - <http://www.monument-gallery.com/GHOSTTOWNS/ghosttowns.html>

This site, too, shares with us some of the abandoned towns of the United States.

Modern Ruins in Finland - <http://www.thesilentthecomplete.com/gallery.html>

As you can see, modern ruins are a universal condition.

Ghosttownpix - <http://www.ghosttownpix.com/>

And, finally, ghost towns that could be right outside our Canadian front doors.

classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

THE VOICE

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THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.VOICEMAGAZINE.ORG

The Voice is published every Friday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: VOICE@AUSU.ORG

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions

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