

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Volume 15 Issue 39

October 19, 2007



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### AU Profiles

Katie Patrick

### Turn, Turn, Turn

Getting that old vinyl feeling

Plus:

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We love to hear from you!  
Send your questions and  
comments to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org),  
and please indicate if we may  
publish your letter.

Re: "AU Profiles: Patricia Presti" by Christina M. Frey, v15 i38 (2007-10-12)

As Patricia's manager at Seneca College, it is my pleasure to confirm that Patricia not only talks the talk but walks the walk. Responsible for the campus blog, Patricia ensures students are aware of not only library issues but campus news, events and issues important to them.

Through her faculty liaison work, Patricia not only brings information research into the classroom, but into faculty offices as well. One on one work with students by appointment and through class discussions, Patricia brings the global information spaces right to their door, highlighting the differences between databases and the Internet, offering them the ability to make informed choices.

Sincerely,

Joy Muller  
Manager, Markham Campus Library  
Seneca College

## THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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## Up In Smoke

On October 10, the Governor of California signed a bill that bans adults from smoking in a vehicle carrying passengers under 18 years old. The law is scheduled to take effect January 1.

The Ontario Medical Association applauds the decision, and says that the province's doctors will push for a similar ruling. For the sake of the kids, let's hope it's not too similar.

On the surface, the new legislation looks good. We all know tobacco products kill; even cigarette packages spell out the dangers.

And according to the OMA's [website](#), there's no doubt that second-hand smoke is equally deadly. Bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), increased rates of adulthood heart disease and cancer: all these risks are associated with second-hand smoke (SHS). In an enclosed space such as a car, levels of SHS can be 23 times more toxic than in a house.

It makes sense, then, that adults should be prohibited from exposing kids to these health risks.

There are those who protest based on their right to privacy, on their right to parent without government interference. But if they're going to protest the smoking ban, they ought to be just as vocal about other laws designed to protect kids from known toxins: it's illegal to provide alcohol to minors; caregivers can be charged with negligence if their carelessness leads to a child taking poison or an illegal substance. The list goes on. The bottom line is that there are laws in place to protect kids from exposure to dangerous and potentially deadly substances. A proven carcinogen should be no different.

Yet while most people would agree that ensuring the well-being of children is important, Governor Schwarzenegger's legislation makes it only a secondary offense, impossible to enforce unless a separate traffic infraction occurs.

In other words, if a police officer observes an adult smoking in a car that is also carrying a young child, he can't enforce the law unless there's another reason to pull the car over, such as an illegal turn or speeding.

To draw a parallel, it's illegal to provide alcohol to a minor. It, along with SHS, carries known health risks, especially to children. Yet if enforcing that law was predicated on an adult committing another infraction before police could take action, there would be an immediate outcry. I'm not talking about police entering people's homes without cause; if an adult in a car was seen handing a drink to a young child in plain sight, authorities wouldn't be expected to wait until the vehicle made, say, an illegal left-hand turn before stepping in.

So while the headlines are congratulatory, they're also premature. For all the hyperbole, the Terminator's recent legislation amounts to little more than a feel-good gesture; one that isn't going to do a whole lot to terminate smoking in cars with kids.

Let's just hope that if Canadian legislators ever get around to enacting a similar law, it's more than just smoke and mirrors.

# AU Profiles:

Katie Patrick

by Christina M. Frey



In this week's profile we meet Katie Patrick, a 2005 graduate of AU's Bachelor of Science program. Katie, who is currently studying naturopathic medicine at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM) in Toronto, tells how her goal of becoming a naturopathic doctor kept her focused while working on her bachelor's degree. She also highlights some of the resources that helped her stay motivated while learning at a distance, and explains why she finds the naturopathic lifestyle appealing.

Katie's journey to AU resulted from a sudden change of career and school plans. Initially, she had enrolled in a clinical herbal therapist program at Dominion Herbal College (DHC). However, partway through her second year, DHC closed its Toronto clinic—in the middle of the semester. Katie was faced with a choice: quit

the program, or move to British Columbia, where DHC's other clinic was located. At the same time, Katie had become interested in obtaining a degree in naturopathic medicine, but she would need a traditional bachelor's degree before applying. She began researching her options.

Because of its flexible course contract system, AU stood out as the best choice.

"I didn't want to waste a whole year waiting to get started on my degree," Katie says. Athabasca allowed her to begin classes in the middle of a traditional semester. Its flexibility also allowed her to take a temporary full-time job, and to fluctuate between full-time and part-time work as her employer needed.

Once Katie had set her sights on attending naturopathic college, that goal became her biggest motivator. Planning ahead was key. Katie pre-planned most of her degree well in advance, doing the required courses and CCNM's entrance prerequisites early in the program.

"That left me with more choices during my final semesters, when I was starting to wind down," she says. She also balanced her semesters so that she was taking a combination of easier and more difficult courses at once.

During her final semesters, Katie made use of AU's letter of permission option to take some more specialized biology and ecology classes that she wasn't able to find at AU. This also allowed her to experience some of the newer developments in distance education, such as online discussion boards and other opportunities for student interaction. She found that participating in these interactive forums was an excellent way to stay focused.

"The other students helped keep me on track," she says. Since then, AU has implemented similar opportunities for online discussions in many of its courses. "It's a good idea," Katie says. "There's nothing like keeping connected with other students to stay motivated."

Although she enjoyed Athabasca's flexible course contract, which allowed her to spend more time on more difficult courses while working quickly through the easier ones, Katie liked the concept of the semester system that several other distance universities used.

"It helped me focus, since it meant that I was very structured in my approach to the courses," she says. AU now also offers a number of "grouped study" courses; they run on the semester system and are taught either in a classroom setting or through a web-based environment.

*"When you're feeling refreshed, it's so much easier to look at the big picture and remember why you decided to go after your goals."*

Katie further suggests that students take advantage of some of the other resources AU offers, especially the ability to access tutors by email or telephone. "The tutors are really willing to help," she says.

Currently, Katie is in her third year at CCNM. It is a four-year program, with the last year mainly composed of internships—something she's definitely looking forward to.

Katie was initially drawn to naturopathic medicine because it treats the whole person. "It focuses on finding the root cause of a patient's problem," she says. "There's no band-aid solution."

Because of this, she notes, naturopaths, who are trained in several areas, including botanical medicine, Asian medicine (traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture), diet and nutrition, lifestyle counselling, and homeopathy, "can tailor individualized treatments to a particular patient." Most naturopathic doctors specialize in a particular area, and Katie has chosen to focus on herbal medicine. In addition to regular courses and clinics, she takes more advanced herbal medicine classes, creates herbal teas and tinctures, and works part-time at a natural dispensary.

Katie applies the whole-person approach to her own life, ensuring she has time for family, friends, and hobbies as well as studying. "There's only so much school you can do!" she says.

She loves the outdoors, and tries to spend as much of her free time as possible hiking, biking, and walking, or painting outdoor scenes and animals. Another hobby is writing; for the past few years, Katie has written the *Voice*'s "Course Introduction" column, highlighting new and revised courses offered at AU. She has also been published in the *Herb Quarterly* and the *Canadian Journal of Herbalism*.

Although it might be tempting to study non-stop, Katie recommends otherwise. "Giving yourself a break, whether to exercise, pursue a hobby, or socialize a little will give you a chance to refocus," she says. "When you're feeling refreshed, it's so much easier to look at the big picture and remember why you decided to go after your goals."

## That Old Vinyl Feeling



Five years ago I bought a copy of NOFX's *The Decline* on vinyl. The 18-minute song was to me, and still is, one of the greatest recordings of modern punk and having it on vinyl made me feel like it was all the more a piece of musical history. For this one special record I hunted down a second-hand turntable, somehow managed to hook it up to my existing stereo (by nicely asking my more technically minded boyfriend to do it for me, if I remember correctly) and carefully set the needle on the vinyl. It made a terrifying zip sound as the needle made contact; it crackled, and then I sat in awe for the entire 18-minute song, plus the B-side of "Clams have Feelings Too." It was a wonderful moment, but soon my turntable broke and my record went into storage to await an uncertain fate.

When I took my things out of storage a few months ago, this record was reclaimed, stroked lovingly, and then fastened to my bedroom wall amidst posters of Bam Margera and Chris Cole, Nonpoint, The Strokes, and of course my beloved NOFX skateboard deck. It was at home; it had a purpose and even though I didn't fully expect to listen to it again I had some vague idea that one day I would find a working turntable in a second-hand store that could be sufficiently rigged up to a modern stereo. But it didn't seem at all plausible.

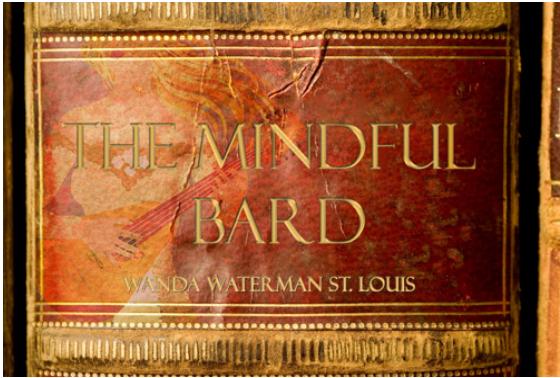
Today I happily stand corrected, however, as my brand new Emerson stereo not only boasts a three-CD disc changer, double cassette player, and radio but also a shiny new turntable on the very top! *The Decline* was immediately played, crackles and all, and I have to confess that the intimacy of the vinyl, the needle, and the visual spinning has something warm and affectionate to it that CDs and MP3s never will.

During the golden age of the CD player, it was unabashedly assumed that plastic was in every way superior to its vinyl predecessor and because of this the vast majority of record companies stopped pressing their releases on vinyl. If you wanted to buy music, you bought it on CD (after a previous affair with cassette tapes, of course). Subsequent to the end of vinyl pressings, stereo systems were no longer built to accommodate records, and trying to find something to play your old collection on was something that involved a lot of trips to second-hand shops and investigations on EBay.

Thanks to the perseverance of a few bands and music appreciators who just couldn't get over the bond between music and vinyl, however, a few special pressings were made available during the 1990s for bands like Green Day who had a tradition of pressing each album in green vinyl. Collectors scooped them up; most of us didn't see the point.

The strange thing is that, unlike the 8-track and the cassette tape, the record has retained a status within the music industry that seemingly can't be touched by modern innovations. Perhaps for some it is the nostalgia and for younger generations it is the novelty, but for whatever reason the vinyl pressing is something revered by young and old alike. I like to think of records in terms of old masters and new musical advances: an old Cheap Trick album is valuable because of its age, condition, and obviously because the music itself represents an era and a genre that directly affected much of what I listen to today; a new record pressed by Good Riddance, Lagwagon, Anti-Flag, or Diesel Boy is memorable because I adore the band and the music but also because its existence on vinyl is like a tribute to those who came before them.

Above all, vinyl represents prestige, and I'm glad to restart my own record collection aside from my many CDs and MP3 downloads.



## *Books, Music, and Film to Wake Up Your Muse and Help You Change the World*

CD Box Set: Jonathan Coulton, *Thing a Week*

Release date: 2006

Gals, remember that guy who used to bring his guitar over and sing you love ballads, gently fingerpicking those suspended fourth and major seventh chords and crooning in that teen-idol voice, smooth as cream soda?

He would have had you if it hadn't been so insulting to your intelligence, so carefully contrived to make you want to jump into the sack. But imagine that guy singing these words, and you'll have Jonathan Coulton:

If you could find some way to be a little less afraid of me  
You'd see the voices that control me from inside my head  
Say I shouldn't kill you yet.  
  
I made this half-pony, half-monkey monster to please you,  
But I get the feeling that you don't like it.  
  
What's with all the screaming? You like monkeys. You like ponies.  
Maybe you don't like monsters so much?  
Maybe I used too many monkeys?  
Isn't it enough to know that I ruined a pony, making a gift for you?

With this and 50 equally absurd songs, Jonathan Coulton has rendered the ballad-singing Don Juan extinct, leaving us to pursue the guy we should have been after all long, that nebbishy guy in the band or the computer club who was so much fun to talk to and who treated us with respect; the guy who, to our shame, we failed to think of as a guy at all.

Jonathan Coulton is the illegitimate son of a folk trio groupie. His dad was an as-yet-unnamed member of the Kingston Trio, and Jonathan's early years were spent listening to The New Christy Minstrels, The Courriers, The Chad Mitchell Trio, and The Limeliters. In the hippy dippy free school he was sent to, his Hawaiian-shirted pottery teacher played acoustic guitar just like James Taylor and passed his expertise on to young Jonathan, who secretly yearned to sing the heavy funk he heard on his big brother's James Brown albums. (His envy was later to break out in white-bread covers of hip-hop hits.)

The yearnings of adolescence granted an intensity and urgency to his musical efforts, but he somehow couldn't manage to break out of his waspishness. In eighth grade he visited an aunt in Waterbury who, punishing him for conducting experiments with houseflies in her microwave, shut him up in a dark room with every K-tel record ever made, a portable record player, and a broken stapler. He internalized the trauma by later obsessively producing reams of commercial-sounding songs with lyrics more twisted and hilarious than anything Captain Beefheart could have come up with on a diet of espresso, bennies, and No-Doz pills.

Okay, so this is the background Coulton *would* have had if I were God and had made him up from scratch. I wish I *had* invented him; he represents a pop-culture archetype that's really not all that new but which for good reason is attracting more and more attention from the world of internet music fans: The Geek Rocker.

*Whatever led to the success of nerd rock, anyway?* the cool kids ask (the same kids who yelled, "You suck!" to the Barenaked Ladies). Isn't rock all about anarchy? If so, then nerd rock is, beneath its squeaky-clean surface, the ultimate rebel yell.

While the cool kids are saying, "I wanna rock, but the old folks won't let me," the nerds are saying, "I wanna rock, *and I'm* a musical genius, but the cool kids won't let me into their parties." So often it's been the cool kids who've ruined rock, rendering it elitist, blasé, bland, and conformist. During periods of rock decadence (such as the one we're in right now) it's the geeks who must fill the breach and breathe new life into the form. Enter Jonathan Coulton.

Here we have a good-looking, polite, considerate, and self-deprecating young man, poking fun at himself while taking potshots at all the inanities of this vale of tears. He reminds me of Buddy Holly on the Ed Sullivan show, or of any one of those nice Southern boys graciously holding out their hands to be shaken by dead men in suits who had nothing but contempt for them and their music.

Compare these early bespectacled pioneers to the poseurs who, bloated with hubris at having been told they are the voice of oppressed and disenchanted youth, spew anti-establishment rants out of one side of their mouths while softly nuzzling corporate butt cheeks with the other. In Coulton and his ilk we have someone so humble and unassuming that no one notices him committing the ultimate subversion.

How? By choosing to express his creative urges free of corporate control and by disciplining himself to produce a brilliant body of satirical work in a limited period of time. In 2005 Coulton set himself the task of writing and recording a song a week for 52 weeks, releasing each song to the web for free as soon as it was done. When the year was up Coulton compiled all the songs into this CD box set. Jonathan quickly garnered an Internet cult following, and his fans have become his promoters.

When asked which *Thing a Week* CD was his favourite, Jonathan wrote: "Hard to choose a favorite, but I suppose I'd go with number four. It was the end of the year so I was really stretching, and the results surprise me more the more distance I get from that space."

Here's to stretching. Obviously it doesn't hurt.

*The Bard could use some help scouting out new material. If you discover any books, compact disks, or movies which came out in the last twelve months and which you think fit the Bard's criteria, please drop a line to [bard@voicemagazine.org](mailto:bard@voicemagazine.org). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.*



## *From Where I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

### The Invisible Man

On a recent beautiful fall Saturday afternoon I found myself driving in Edmonton. I was about the third vehicle back stopped at a red light at 137th Avenue and 97th Street heading east. There's a teeny median separating those of us going straight and those turning north onto 97th Street.

Positioned on that small piece of concrete was a young man with a cardboard sign. Instinctively I made sure my doors were locked. Though I wasn't aligned with him we were close enough that we could have made eye contact. I felt uncomfortable. For him. For me.

His handwritten sign said "Down on my luck, need money for food."

I tried to simply be an observer and not sit in judgment. This is what I observed during what seemed like an incredibly long red light. This was a very attractive nearly 30-year-old man. His dark hair was short and he was sporting the stubbly, unshaven face so popular now. He appeared buff and fit. He wore a dark T-shirt under a clean white/off-white button-down wool cardigan, jeans, and good black shoes. He could just as easily have appeared in a Gap commercial.

This stop was long enough for the driver of the first car and the young man to get into a verbal exchange. Body language would suggest they weren't talking about the unseasonably warm and glorious day or what Harper might do about Afghanistan. At one point I lip-read the young man saying "Mind your own business."

I couldn't see the driver or even the type of vehicle so I have no clue who was brave or angry or crazy enough to start an exchange. Safer (for all of us) to make the young man invisible.

I was glad I wasn't the first vehicle. I was glad he wasn't pushy like Toronto's squeegee kids. I would have preferred he wasn't there testing our generosity, compassion, and gullibility.

The cynical, hardened, redneck in me wondered why on earth, with thousands of jobs going unfilled, this young man was begging.

The more compassionate me wondered if there was some invisible barrier to employment, self-sufficiency, or pride that none of us could see. I hated that for those few minutes he made me think about things I would have preferred not to—homelessness, panhandling, con men, personal security, mental illness, the dangers of judging without the facts. I was grateful that neither I nor anyone I care about has to or chooses to live that way.

I hated to think I wasn't helping someone truly in need, though surely there are better ways than passing cash through a car window. I hated to think he was a con man separating some unsuspecting, less savvy person from their money. I hated that he brought discomfort to a glorious Saturday afternoon. I could have done without all this, from where I sit.

# The Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

by  
Wanda  
Waterman  
St. Louis



## AUSU THIS MONTH



### An open letter to Joy Romero, Chair of AU Governing Council.

Dear Ms. Romero:

On behalf of the students of Athabasca University, we are excited and encouraged by what Dr. Frits Pannekoek has called the “second greatest milestone” in the history of Athabasca University. The approval of \$30 million toward AU’s new administrative and research center, as announced today by Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner, is a tremendous step toward ensuring that AU will remain one of Canada’s finest educational institutions.

This funding demonstrates Alberta’s strong commitment to Alberta’s students, and the students of Athabasca University. Athabasca University also demonstrates this commitment through its focus on increasing affordability, accessibility, and quality of education for our members. Recent limits imposed on annual tuition increases are an important first step toward ensuring affordability. Today’s funding announcement will further address accessibility issues for AU students.

In early 2007, AUSU presented the government and AUGC with a document detailing our *Vision for a Skilled Alberta*. It is clear that our concerns have been heard and that steps are being taken to ensure that students’ views are incorporated into revisions to our education system and university services. We are encouraged that we have reached this milestone to improve the main campus of our university and ensure that AU has sufficient staff to address growing student needs.

We now look forward to learning how AUGC and Athabasca University will use these funds to enhance the quality of AU’s offerings and we request a communication from AUGC to our members explaining how this new funding will enhance student services.

We continue to look forward to reaching future milestones that will ensure that AU can address the urgent need for enhanced learning and virtual communication technologies, more courses and programs, and research opportunities for students.

AUSU

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK

What's new here and around the world

Mandy Gardner



### At Home: Will Harper's throne speech lead to an election?

In the few remaining hours before the Conservative throne speech on Tuesday, the New Democratic Party and the Bloc Québécois announced that they would not support the Conservatives' objectives for the 29<sup>th</sup> Canadian Parliament.

Immediately following the speech, in footage taken by CTV Newsnet, Members of Parliament in both parties further punctuated this initial statement amidst discussion that the Parliament could only persevere with the support of the Liberal Party.

While there was no shortage of NDP, Bloc Québécois, and Liberal Party members for the press to speak with, it seemed that the Conservatives had all abandoned Parliament Hill directly after the throne speech was delivered by Governor General Michaëlle Jean, solely to avoid giving their support or critique to Harper's objectives.

The Conservatives are focusing on five priorities for the next term in Parliament: cutting GST, creating an accountable government, guaranteeing patient wait times in hospitals, childcare allowance, and what has been termed an "omnibus" crime-tackling scheme. The speech also mentioned that Harper will seek to extend the mission in Afghanistan until 2011 based upon the outcome of a vote.

In all, critics from each of the Opposition parties have been accusing Harper of generalizations in his plans for government, and arguing that no specific targets have been laid out. They also claim that key Opposition objectives have been ignored, such as the campaign (backed by the Bloc) to salvage Kyoto protocols and the NDP's call to end the Canadian mission in Afghanistan.

In the weeks running up to the throne speech, Liberal Party leader Stéphane Dion had made clear his position concerning the vote of confidence, and that was to support the minority Parliament and keep Canadians from an election. Yesterday a posting on the Liberal Party of Canada's official website showed that Dion and his party intended to do just that:

Canadians can count on the Official Opposition to do everything it can to make this Parliament work. To that end, we will not make the government fall on its Throne Speech, which would cause a third general election in four years—something Canadians have clearly shown they do not want.

On the strength of full or Liberal support, the vote of confidence will succeed and Harper will continue as the head of his minority Conservative government. Whether or not the notably distraught Party can present an entirely united front on this matter remains to be seen.

## In Foreign News: Blackbeard's cannon claimed to have been found in North Carolina waters

It's one of those stories that we all actually enjoyed hearing in history class: the strength and courage of Blackbeard the pirate, doomed by his own bravado into wrecking his ship, the Queen Anne's Revenge, in the Beaufort Inlet in June of 1718. For anyone interested in the fate of this famous ship, it might be important to note that a cannon that is hoped to be from the Queen Anne's Revenge has been excavated from waters near Beaufort, North Carolina.

Archaeologists have been exploring the Beaufort Inlet waters intensively for several months now looking for clues to the life of the pirate whose real name was Edward Teach, but scientists have scavenged the waters for the last ten years with this in mind.

With this cannon being dragged from the waters, cleaned, and thoroughly analyzed, however, researchers and pirate enthusiasts alike are thrilled anew at the prospect of dredging up even more valuable items from the maritime dig site.

It remains to be seen whether or not this cannon actually belonged to the Queen Anne's Revenge or had any relationship whatsoever to Blackbeard. However, given the context of many other finds in the area—cannons, guns, and crude weapons designed to shred sails—archaeologists are upbeat about the prospect of this being directly related to the famous pirate and his last battle. The cannon is on display at the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

### **CLICK ON THIS - Bizzart**

**Lonita Fraser**

Art, like beauty, may be in the eye of the beholder, but there is no denying that what follows are some truly nifty fruits of the creative seed.

#### **Synesthetic Bubblegum Cards**

With five packs to choose from (so far), these digital sweets are a treat for the eyes. Sit back and watch them transform and mutate.

#### **Mr. Picassohead**

Who says you can't paint just like Pablo? Okay, so maybe you really can't, but this website will let you do a pretty nice job of faking it! Why not print out your masterpiece and tack it to the fridge?

#### **The Electronic Sketchbook**

A (nearly) monochromatic drawing tool that lets you draw anything you want—so long as it's red, white, or black.

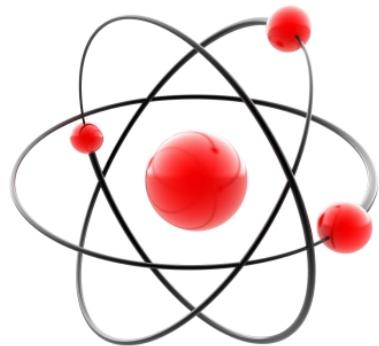
#### **Paint By Numbers**

Explore the history of this enjoyable pastime. I wish I still had any of the ones I did when I was a kid; I even did one on black velvet.

#### **Art of the Business Card**

Too often, methinks, we don't consider this tiny canvas, or a myriad of other pragmatic tools, in their more aesthetic sense. This site is proof that good things do indeed come in small packages.

## EDUCATION NEWS



### Canada could be discouraging young scientists

Ksenia Prints

WINNIPEG (CUP) - Canada is pumping out science graduates just as fast as they can be employed, leading some observers to wonder if our universities are doing enough to promote the sciences.

Bonnie Schmidt, president of Let's Talk Science, a national science literacy program, thinks that the federal government isn't doing enough to promote young people's involvement in the sciences.

"Our economy is moving into a knowledge-based economy that is going to require more people who are comfortable with science and engineering . . . and [the government is] going to be very hard pressed to attract that workforce."

According to the latest Labour Force Survey, employment in the professional, scientific and technical services was the third fastest growing in the country, surpassed only by educational services and public administration.

Let's Talk Science is one of several organizations across Canada hoping to increase the number of students and skilled professionals in the sciences and mathematics.

LTS, a charitable organization funded by donations and grants, offers programs and resources for children and adults.

The LTS partnership program has volunteer university students visit schools to share their experience in the field and engage the students with science- and mathematics-related activities. The program exists on 21 campuses, with over 14,000 volunteers.

There are also many regional programs.

"If we want to shift the culture, the drive for science and technology must permeate all walks of life," Schmidt said.

Schmidt believes the importance of science is becoming clear at the upper echelons of Canadian politics. Grants for outreach programs have increased along with concerns about preparing a workforce for the future.

"There's been a growing interest over the last 10 year within the scientist community to engage the public in scientific pursuit," Schmidt said. "Now, you'd be hard pressed to find a university that doesn't have at least one outreach initiative."

Educators are getting on board, trying to combat negative stereotypes about scientists and promoting awareness of career options. The perceived difficulty of the programs is also a drawback on recruitment efforts.

"I think we discourage people from sciences by requirements that might not be that important at an early stage," said Robert Campbell, president of Mount Allison University in New Brunswick.

Schmidt agree, noting that getting students in the door is the first step.

"Science and technology often gets grouped into this great big area," Schmidt said. While a growing number of jobs require a scientific background, students still believe being a scientist is the only option.

"Kids just don't know where the jobs are," she said.

Retention is also an issue to note. Once students have been attracted to the sciences, teaching them in a way that engages their imagination is key to their continuation in the program.

"The pedagogy of science is something we have to be looking at. There's no point discouraging students at the beginning," said Campbell. "Some of the mass-oriented science departments lose students . . . it's hard to learn if you're learning in a lecture format."

Campbell and Schmidt opt for more practical, "issue-based" experience and a hands-on approach to science.

"You've got to create an environment where students are engaged in their own education," explained Campbell. "Research gets the kids re-involved in the magic of science and creativity."

"To survive, you have to create opportunities for senior students to be useful in their work," added Schmidt.

This approach, though, is not indicative of current trends, according [to] Leslie Cormack, dean of arts and social sciences at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Nor is the relatively higher number of humanities and social science graduates.

"These disciplines have constituted the lion's share of the post-secondary system [for over 50 years]," she said.

Cormack added that the lower cost of running humanities programs ensured the flow of government grants, even during a recession.

Dale Kirby, however, an assistant professor of post-secondary studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland, believes that enrolment in the humanities over the sciences is motivated by demand demonstrated in the Labour Force Survey.

"We've got a growing services sector; it only makes sense that we have university graduates [in them]," Kirby said.

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## THE VOICE

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