

THE

VOICE

MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 26

June 27, 2008

Convocation 2008

Convocation, part 2

Photos, grad interviews,
and more

Edgy Without Risk

The fashionable resume

This World

Navigating the GPS war

Plus:

The Mindful Bard,

From Where I Sit, and much more...



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WELCOME TO THE VOICE PDF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



CONVOCATION 2008

Sandra Livingston

This is the second of a special three-part Voice report on Athabasca University's 2008 Convocation, which took place June 12, 13, and 14. The Voice offers its warmest congratulations to all this year's graduates!

If there was a theme running through the second day of AU's 2008 convocation, it was one of co-operation and the many goals it can help achieve.

As the ceremony got underway, even the weather was in a co-operative mood.

Skies were sunny, and the rain held off until everyone was safely inside the tent, ending as if on cue before the close of the ceremony!

The day began with the sound of drums and female voices drifting across the air as Asani, a contemporary Aboriginal women's trio from Edmonton, led the procession into the large red-and-white tent and onto the stage, where they performed a stirring version of "O Canada."



Vocal group Asani begins the procession

Under the protective dome, the first drops of rain began to fall as Joy Romero, Chair of AU's governing council, extended a welcome to the graduands, guests, and academics. She offered a special thanks to the AU staff and volunteers whose many hours of hard work help make convocation such a special day for the new grads.

Following official greetings from Colleen Powell, the mayor of Athabasca, the audience heard from Dr. Raj Sherman, MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Dr. Sherman shared his experiences of arriving in Canada at the age of seven, and being a strong believer that "all dreams can be achieved through education," as he became the first in his family to earn a degree.



The ceremony is about to begin

AU President Frits Pannekoek also welcomed the graduands and visitors, and affirmed AU's commitment to removing educational barriers—not only geographic, but financial and social as well—and noted that the university's capital expansion plan will play a large part in meeting those goals.



Friends and family gathered to share in the day

The day's spirit of co-operation was also visible as members of the Athabasca Advocacy Group were inducted into the Order of Athabasca University.

The advocacy group is an assembly of concerned individuals who are committed to AU and its importance in the community.

Their concerted actions exemplify the belief that AU is part of what makes Athabasca unique, and in the spring of 2007 their efforts on behalf of the university's expansion project led to over 700 letters being sent to the provincial government.

During the induction ceremony, it was also noted that AU's contribution to the

community plays an important part in the positive relationship between the two. Not only has the university donated the land for the town's new multiplex, but AU is also ideally positioned to play a research role in the river basin watershed area.

Then it was time for the moment so many had been waiting for: the awarding of degrees. Once again, Dr. Margaret Haughey, Vice-president (Academic) read the petition and, following Dr. Pannekoek's reading of the pledge, the graduands were ready to take centre stage.

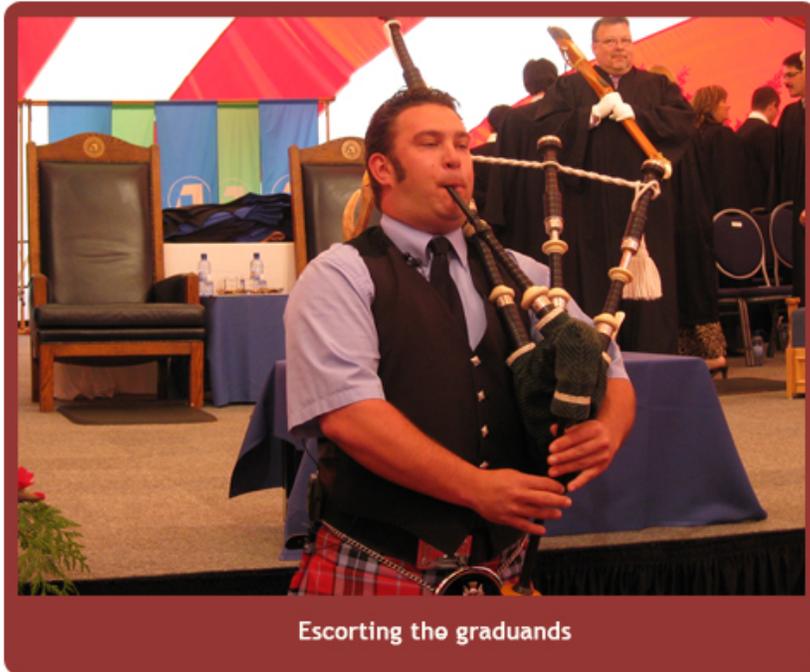
The graduate degrees presented on the second day of convocation were the Master of Health Studies, Master of Nursing, and Master of Science - Information Systems.

Another highlight was the presentation of an Honorary Doctor of Science to Dr. Janice Morse. A citizen of four countries and the author of over 140 academic papers (as well as books), Dr. Morse congratulated the grads on the wonderful time of change in their lives,



Almost there!

calling it “an adventure to be lived,” and encouraging them to walk through the new doors that their degrees will open, “wherever they may lead.” Along with publishing extensively in her field, Dr. Morse was instrumental in the conceptualization and building of the University of Alberta-based International Institute for Qualitative Methodology.



Escorting the graduands

Another inspiring speaker was Kathryn Gordon, the graduate speaker for the day and a graduate of AU’s Master of Health Studies program. Kathryn’s address is included in this issue of *The Voice*.

Along with the presentation of the master’s degrees, several brand new AU alumni received their undergraduate degrees, in the Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Systems programs.

Graduands from across Canada and beyond proudly crossed the stage to receive their hoods and parchments, and their biographies were as diverse as their

locations. Their current roles include director of cancer care, clinical supply manager, primary nurse practitioners, a former naval officer, pediatric nurse, and information systems consultant.

One thing they all shared, however, was the drive and dedication to succeed, and the personal glimpses into their journeys showed that it wasn’t always easy. One graduate gave birth to twins during her program, while another sold her home and took out student loans to pursue her degree.

Another began a master’s degree after a 30-year absence from school, while one grad lost her Internet connection during an exam and drove desperately around the neighbourhood looking for a connection.

But the bios shared plenty of light-hearted moments too, and one enterprising graduate offered a simple solution to balancing it all: less sleep.

Congratulations, graduates of 2008!

Watch for final coverage of Convocation 2008 next week



Family and friends greet the new alumni

CONVOCATION 2008 PHOTO ALBUM



The graduands begin their procession



Flags flying at AU's main campus

Time to celebrate!



Registrar James D'Arcy with the AU mace



Some future AU grads?

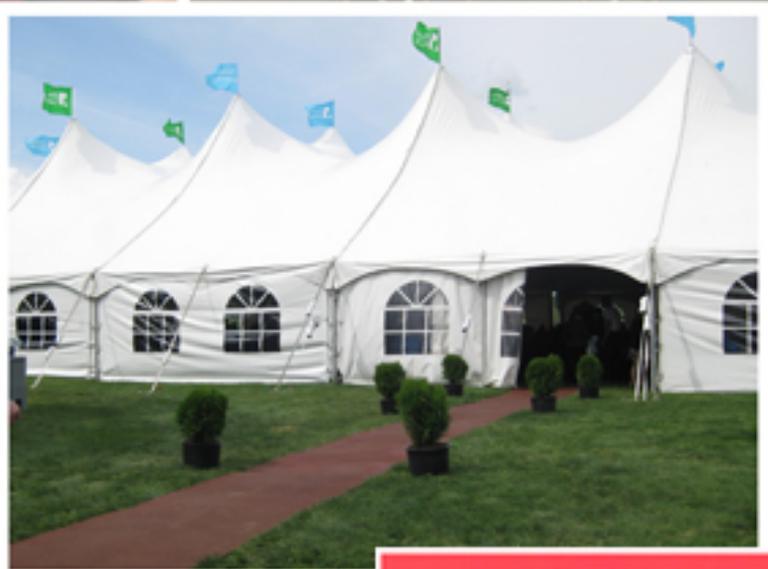
Welcome to the AU library



The Northern Cree Singers perform "Honour Song"



Delicious treats are waiting in the giant white tent



A white chocolate fountain tempts visitors



Elaine Fabbro sings "O Canada"

CONVOCATION 2008 – ADDRESS BY GRADUATE

Kathryn Gordon

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 Friday, June 13, the graduate address was given by Kathryn Gordon, of Calgary, Alberta, who received her Master of Health Studies degree.

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

Madam Chairman, Mr. President, distinguished guests, members of the platform party, graduates, and ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour to be asked to deliver the graduate address this afternoon. I don't know whether or not it is true, but I have often heard that public speaking is the number one fear of most people.

It's almost no comfort to me to know that I'm part of the statistically normal crowd in that respect.

My immediate reaction to this invitation was to decline the honour. My children reminded me of

my frequent preaching on the virtues of risk-taking, and I felt that I had to walk the talk.

As I stand before you today, it strikes me that what we have accomplished is something that would not have been thought possible when I first started nursing over 20 years ago. Many of us have not personally met each other, yet together we may have developed projects, written papers, engaged in debates, produced teaching and learning plans, and participated in research and evaluation activities. In the process, we have shared of ourselves, both personally and professionally.

In this way we have contributed to each other's successes. Our accomplishments are the direct result of the quality collaborative learning atmosphere fostered by Athabasca University. The true value of education is revealed in this type of approach.

It has been said that education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten. I suspect that most of us will forget many of the facts that we've learned over the time we've been students of Athabasca University.

I'm certain, however, that we will not forget the values we have integrated over the course of our studies. The values I'm referring to include: an openness to new ideas, the willingness to submit our own ideas and beliefs to critical reflection, and a belief in the power of collaborative learning.

I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on this unique institution and our experience of it.

Athabasca University was created in 1970 in response to rapid increases in university enrolment. Initially a traditional university institution, it faced challenges not many years later when the growth in university enrolments tapered off.

A pilot project was initiated to study new teaching and learning strategies that would enable students to have continued access to higher level learning without leaving their homes. The result was a learning centre that specialized in the delivery of distance education courses and programs.

Later, Athabasca University's focus on Internet-based distance education was innovative and trend-setting. It is an approach which many other universities now emulate.

Additionally, the value Athabasca University places on the provision of quality learning opportunities opens students to new possibilities . . . a necessary first step in addressing the complex challenges in our world today. Look around you. These graduates are evidence of the success of this university and its visionary thinking.

Athabasca University meets the increasing demands for higher education in a time when there are limited available seats in traditional education settings. It provides meaningful and relevant opportunities for growing numbers of professionals returning to university to obtain advanced academic courses and degrees.

It responds to, and supports, the technologically savvy population, as well as nurturing those among us who are still trying to catch up to the latest challenges of the information age.

In my case, mastering the double mouse click, alone, caused considerable stress and no small amount of conflict in my home. My kids were shocked at how little I knew about using the computer, and how fragile my confidence was each time I faced the screen. I'm certain that there are still fragments of my early assignments floating somewhere in the virtual universe as a result of random key strikes.

The Class of 2008 is a diverse group of individuals. We come from different countries and cultures, different backgrounds, different cities and towns, with different needs, challenges, desires, and goals. We have unique stories with respect to what brought us to Athabasca University at this particular time in our lives.

According to statistics, we are typically slightly older than the average university student. We are likely to be juggling the demands of family and career, with all that entails. Whatever our personal circumstances, we decided that Athabasca University offered us an opportunity to pursue our educational ambitions. Our presence here today, proves that our decision was a wise one.

Athabasca University is a demonstrated leader in breaking down the barriers of access to higher education. Not many years ago, few anticipated the type of virtual education which this institution now offers so successfully. Athabasca University transformed the way our education was delivered, and in doing so, facilitated a degree of collaborative learning that is rare in our competitive society.

For us graduates, this celebration marks the end of a significant phase in our lives. Speaking for myself, I know that I will truly miss the contact with others in my program, and the opportunity to have open conversations about issues of concern within my profession. These dialogues were characterized by the

***"These graduates
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success of this
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visionary thinking."***

sharing of experiences, insights, lessons learned, mistakes made, suggested resources, and most of all, a spirit of generosity.

Our futures hold unknowns which we cannot foresee. Learning can come in unexpected ways from unexpected people. Be open to the possibility of new learning as you progress in your careers, and be generous in sharing your insights, experiences, and knowledge with those you come in contact with.

“We have demonstrated the will and determination to succeed, and the ability and creativity to make a difference.”

Who knows what is possible? The collaborative relationships developed over our time together may inspire consideration of a dedicated venue for ongoing dialogue.

A graduate alumni association might assist individuals to explore their ideas further, to share learning and resources with a professional group committed to life-long learning. Community or online mentoring could offer support and learning for experienced professionals entering a new role or stage of their career.

We have collectively shared in each other’s successes and challenges. We have developed important learning skills for ourselves, and supported the development of those skills in others. We have demonstrated the will and determination to succeed, and the ability and creativity to make a difference.

As graduates of Athabasca University I suggest that this is our collective call to action: To cooperatively and collaboratively work to meet the needs of society in our personal and professional lives and to assist in the necessary problem-solving processes to effectively address the challenges faced by today’s society.

In closing I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the graduates of 2008. We have completed this portion of our educational journey. Our time, effort, sacrifices, and commitment to higher-level education have resulted in the attainment of this goal.

On behalf of the graduates, I would like to thank all of the people who supported us in this endeavour, particularly the faculty and staff of Athabasca University, for setting high standards and demanding the best from us, and for providing the many supports, technical and otherwise, that allowed us to do our best.

Of course, I also want to thank our families and friends, for supporting us through all the highs and lows of this experience. Without their love, encouragement and support, achieving this milestone would have been much more difficult. Thank you all so very much!

Now please join me in congratulating the Class of 2008!



CONVOCATION 2008 – GRADUATE INTERVIEWS

Sandra Livingston



This is the second of a three-part *Voice* series featuring interviews with some of AU's 2008 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 Paris, France.

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

Greg Murray

Bachelor of Professional Arts, Criminal Justice

Greg travelled from Edmonton, Alberta, to attend convocation, accompanied by family who made the trip from Kingston, Ontario, to be part of the celebration at the AU campus.

The BPA Criminal Justice program took Greg four years to complete, and he suggests that keeping to a regular study schedule can be a big help when doing online coursework.

"When you're doing the online programs or courses, they tell you [to] try and keep up the pace, and I found that was very important. I took that to heart right from the beginning."

He adds that combining work and studies can be challenging, "and you should almost try and stay ahead" of the recommended study schedule.

Greg combined convocation with a holiday from his job with the Edmonton police force, and plans to celebrate his achievement with family and friends before heading back to work.

Congratulations, Greg!



Robin Cameron

Master of Counselling

The Master of Counselling program took Robin approximately four and a half years to complete, and his advice to other AU students is to “try and keep balance between school and your work and your family life.”

Another key element, he adds, is to “recognize the importance that family and friends have” in helping achieve success.

Robin travelled from Lethbridge, Alberta, to attend convocation.

Now that his studies are done, he plans to take the summer off and enjoy the holidays “without any guilt.”

Robin works with the government in human services, and he would enjoy the opportunity to complete a doctorate program through distance education.

Congratulations, Robin!



Kathy Elm

Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations

Kathy began to focus on her degree in 2003, and found that AU’s PLAR process allowed her previous work and education experience to contribute to her success in the program.

She travelled from Edmonton, Alberta, to attend convocation, and after celebrating with family and colleagues is looking forward to an upcoming camping trip—without any textbooks!

A scholarship from the Department of National Defence provided the opportunity to study full-time, and Kathy says one of the highlights of the program was “seeing [herself] in a different setting.” As well, she found that her work experience often provided practical examples when writing academic papers.

She doesn’t have a specific program in mind for further studies right now, but plans to continue doing developmental work in mediation and conflict management.

Congratulations, Kathy!



Anna Fabbroni

Bachelor of Health Administration

Anna travelled from Ottawa, Ontario, to attend convocation, and was joined by friends who came all the way from Italy to help celebrate her achievement.

As well as receiving her Bachelor of Health Administration, Anna was honoured to be chosen as one of the three AU grads to give an address, and she shared her thoughts about her educational journey on the final day of convocation.

As Anna says, it's important to remember that "there are no boundaries of what a person is capable of doing, especially when you undertake university after so many years. You look at it from a different perspective."

After working and taking three courses at a time for the last several years, Anna is looking forward to enjoying a well-earned rest—although there's always the possibility of a master's program in the future. Congratulations, Anna!



Jeremy Fresz

Bachelor of Administration

Friends and family joined Jeremy at convocation, and he travelled from Fort McMurray, Alberta, to celebrate the day.

The Bachelor of Administration took Jeremy approximately eight years to complete, and after taking a break from courses he hopes to continue his studies in the future.

Currently working in the oil and gas industry, Jeremy says he enjoyed the flexibility of distance education, especially the ability to study at his own pace.

"All the tutors I had were great," he says. "The experience as a whole was excellent."

For students still in the program, he says the key is to keep at it. Although independent studies can be too easy to put it off, "If you focus," Jeremy said, "it can be done."

Congratulations, Jeremy!



Watch for more grad interviews in next week's Voice!

THIS WORLD

Christina M. Frey



Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost (but try telling that to my GPS system!)

The last time I used a GPS in-car navigational system, it routed me down a street that was closed off by construction.

I didn't have a map with me—relying on the GPS, of course—and spent so long arguing with the device about which way to go that I almost missed my cousin's wedding.

Fast-forward four years. We recently rented a car for a trip from Washington, DC to Pennsylvania, and found to both our delight and horror that it came with another GPS tool. But how bad could it really be? We'd made the trip dozens of times, so help from the sky would just be icing on the cake. If nothing else, maybe it would be able to guide us through the complex maze of the DC street system. Surely a little extra assistance wouldn't be amiss.

The trip started off without incident, although it took a little while to get used to the GPS tool's unique commentary. For example, why did it tell us every half mile to not exit ahead, but didn't warn us we needed to get three lanes over to actually exit until it was too late? How could we feel such anger toward it, and yet such fondness when it helped us take the next exit and then figure our way back onto the highway and out of the city?

As time went on, the commentary began showing personality, and we began referring to it not quite fondly, but familiarly, as Madam. Madam was a contradiction. For instance, for someone connected with such high-end technology, she was very intolerant, particularly of any attempts to find alternate routes.

Because we wanted to avoid a toll road, we tried veering off Madam's proposed course. She didn't realize my husband had grown up in the area, and her voice grew more and more desperate as she begged, "As soon as possible, make a U-turn and head west."

The more concerned she sounded, the more tempting it became to mess with Madam's mind. Wouldn't it be fun to, say, ask for directions to Maine and then drive down to Florida? If she sounded desperate after two miles, what would she do after 100 miles? Or 1,000?

Would she start name-calling or screaming invectives? If you eventually capitulated and turned around, would she say, "Finally!" or "I told you so!"? If you typed in an overseas destination, would she tell you to swim?

We considered provoking Madam's wrath to its limits, but for the sake of our future insurance premiums, decided not to test her endurance to the point of an explosion. We switched the system off and made it safely to our destination without outside help.

On the way back home the following day, we felt a little guilty about how we'd mocked Madam's guidance. Perhaps she was only trying to help. We switched her on. Eager to please, she immediately showed us a shortcut onto a highway. Suddenly, we relaxed. Maybe Madam was a friend after all. Maybe she had our best interests at heart.

And we became wise to her ways, and her to ours. When we took a circuitous route to avoid another toll road, we switched Madam off so our inability to stay on one road wouldn't cause her any anguish. And when the road directions became static as we stayed on the main highway, we turned her off again to allow her to rest her voice for a while.

Our shaky foundation gradually developed into trust as we and Madam were lulled into an amiable relationship. As we reached the outskirts of the city, we switched Madam back on.

With her guiding us, we were confident that we'd easily find our way home. She was that North Star that sailors used to find their way back to port. And she'd guide us through the mangled maze of highways sprawling around the city back safely to our apartment.

Or so we thought.

We should have suspected her abilities when she told us to exit the highway earlier than we expected. But, duped into a false sense of security, we trusted that maybe this was a shortcut.

In fairness, maybe it was a shortcut, if you count the number of miles. But 20 miles on a highway is preferable to three or four miles through a stoplight-ridden, traffic-congested, shady neighbourhood with drug dealers and prostitutes on every corner.

Was Madam in cahoots with a drug dealer? Were we their next victims? Or was she guiding us toward some hit man she'd paid to avenge her feelings after our mean-spirited teasing the day before? We made sure the doors were locked and drove straight ahead, hoping that eventually the area would start getting friendlier.

Then, "Exit to the highway, 0.5 miles ahead," Madam said, and we breathed a sigh of relief. But it was the longest half-mile we'd ever driven, and I'm sure Madam was enjoying every minute of our misery. We were furious, but how do you sue a satellite for intentional infliction of emotional distress? The minute we turned onto the highway, Madam was unceremoniously dumped from her place of honour and respect as we pushed the off button in disgust.

Then we tried to find the right exit on our own. We ended up on a dirt road. "Should we put on Madam?" I suggested tentatively. We both guffawed.

But it raised the question—would we have taken the wrong exit if she'd been switched on? By the time Madam rebooted, we would probably have passed our exit five miles ago and been on our way to the opposite side of the city. But that wouldn't have been so bad. Because no matter the one-way streets, weaving highway exits, and poor signage, we'd still have Madam to guide us through another burned-out neighbourhood toward home.

***We should have
suspected her
abilities when she
told us to exit the
highway earlier
than we expected.***

CAREERS

Behdin Nowrouzi



Consider a Career as a Dietitian

What is a Dietitian?

Clinical dietitians work as part of an interdisciplinary health care group of professionals by assessing the nutritional status of individuals, developing and implementing care plans, monitoring the effectiveness of nutrition intervention, and providing counselling.

In the community, they may develop programs and services to foster better nutritional choices for their clients, while those in research are engaged in examining issues and questions related to enhancing nutritional care.

Education and training

Dietitians are regulated health professionals who have a baccalaureate degree in foods and nutrition. Furthermore, their training includes clinical components in a hospital or community setting.

The typical length of these clinical placements is between 40 to 45 weeks but it may vary. Dietitians may also consider graduate degrees (Masters or PhD) and conduct research.

Being a regulated health professional, dietitians are held accountable to certain practice guidelines and also for the delivery of the care and services they provide.

Graduates who have met national standards for education and training and are registered with a regulatory board may use the title of Registered Dietitian (RD) or the French equivalent, Dt.P.

Difference between Dietitian and Nutritionist

As the Dietitians of Canada website explains, “the term nutritionist is not protected by law in all provinces, so people with different levels of training and knowledge can all themselves a nutritionist. The title ‘nutritionist’ is protected for dietitians in some provinces and dietitians do use the title ‘nutritionists.’”

Conversely, the titles “registered dietitian,” “professional dietitian,” and “dietitian” are protected by law and restricted to members of provincial regulatory boards. This is similar to other regulated health professions (i.e., nursing, pharmacy, etc.).

Admission requirements

Universities offering Dietitians of Canada Accredited Undergraduate Programs are the [University of British Columbia](#), [University of Alberta](#), [University of Saskatchewan](#), [University of Manitoba](#), [University of Western Ontario \(Brescia University College\)](#), [University of Guelph](#), [Ryerson University](#), [McGill University](#), [Université de Montréal](#), [Université Laval](#), [University of Prince Edward Island](#), [Mount St. Vincent University](#), [St. Francis Xavier University](#), [Acadia University](#), [Université de Moncton](#), and [Memorial University](#).

The University of Ottawa program has not yet been accredited by Dietitians of Canada.

The typical course work includes a variety of subjects in biology, physiology, chemistry, biochemistry, food nutrition and service, statistics, and social sciences, as well as courses in communication.

Where do dietitians work?

Dietitians work in health care facilities including nursing homes, community health centres, hospitals, or in the community as public health dietitians.

Moreover, some can be found working as consultants in private practice or in industry engaged in research, marketing, product development, and consumer education. Those working in private practice may provide expertise in diet therapy, nutrition to individuals, industry, or the media.

In government positions, dietitians are involved in developing and implementing nutrition and food policy based on scientific research.

They are also involved in evidence-based medicine in consultation with community practitioners. Finally, they may work in a public health capacity in the community and assess the nutritional needs of populations, identify community nutrition problems, and develop health promotion strategies.

Salaries and demographic information

According to Service Canada, dietitians earn \$30.17 per hour in Canada (within the broad grouping of pharmacists, dietitians, and nutritionists), which is above the national average (\$18.07).

Dietitians of Canada reports that dietitians' salaries can also vary across provinces and fields of practice. For example, those working in urban settings make more than their rural counterparts do.

As well, a clinical dietitian working in a large hospital may earn more than a dietitian working in a long-term care facility. The average salary for a new graduate is \$40,000 or more.

Women comprise 66 per cent of those in the pharmacist/dietitian/nutritionist category. The majority of workers (86 per cent) are 25 - 54 years of age, 11 per cent are older than 55, and 3 per cent are 24 or younger.

According to Dietitians of Canada, the employment outlook is strong as dietetics is one of the fastest growing job sectors in Canada. Employment rates are promising and a survey of internship graduates demonstrated that more than 90 per cent of new graduates find full-time positions in their field.

For more information regarding dietitians, please visit the [Dietitians of Canada](http://www.dietitians.ca) website.

THE FASHIONABLE RESUME

Lee Angerman



Edgy Without Risk

Following fashion trends may be a frustrating pastime for some, especially when countless hours of time and cash are involved. When it comes to resume writing, however, weighing the value of trends can be beneficial in determining your long-term financial outlook and career satisfaction.

Most of us strive to achieve a unique career, avoid being categorized, or catch a lucky break (or merely an opportunity to get noticed). Unfortunately, when we embark on the daunting task of a job search, a poorly prepared resume won't help achieve any of those goals.

A resume is the single most important document required to attract the attention of employers. In other words, no matter what career path we choose, we must submit a resume when applying for a position.

Herein lays the biggest challenge: how to create a resume with an attractive appearance, one that contains only pertinent info, is packaged attractively, and reads with grammatical perfection.

Just as it's easier to wear your comfy jeans on Friday night rather than be a little edgy and wear those ones with the skinny legs, it is so much more comfortable to submit your old resume than it is to upgrade it or create a new one. But if you truly aim to get noticed in your field, a polished resume is mandatory.

Getting your head into resume-writing mode is not a comfortable place for most people to be; doing so requires courage, stamina, and a certain investment of time. Unlike buying a quality knock-off that can pass for authentic, the effort spent preparing your CV (curriculum vitae) will be evident to a prospective employer.

Ways of obtaining the best possible resume come in a variety of packages. You may pick up a book from the library, or subscribe to an online resume site where you fill out their forms and come away with a web-published document. You may even opt to hire your sister, who's saving up for the newest version of GTA IV, or attend a seminar.

Attending resume seminars, such as the ones offered through your educational institution, is an affordable option. At these free seminars you can breeze through the recommendations, sample the suggestions as you go, and discard any unappealing aspects.

The problem with these seminars is that, just like listening to pop radio, they appeal to the majority and may not serve your unique needs. In an effort to stand out among the crowd, you must aim to stay as far away from mainstream as possible.

Choosing the most effective format can be daunting. There are many different styles: functional, chronological, vita (or CV), and narrative profile. First, take into consideration the job you are hoping to attract and choose a style that reflects it. More creative jobs, like graphic designer and make-up artist, are

going to have a portfolio-type resume with samples and a style that reflects artistic capacity. The resume may include shading, a fancier font, even columns, colour, and borders. An engineer or business analyst, on the other hand, will opt for a more conservative format—a chronological resume.

When the time comes to construct your resume, you'll need to become that fly on the wall or the star of your grandmother's brag book. For most of us, this isn't a comfortable place to spend an evening (or even a morning primed by Starbucks). But no matter how you get there, you must freely sing your praises and not be afraid to boast about the year you won the High School Lip Sync award. While you may not believe this is pertinent, it is! Being able to present yourself in public, and win an award for doing so, speaks volumes to a prospective employer.

Admittedly, resumes go through trends, but the best rule to follow is to get your message across in the fewest words and categories possible. Not long ago the trend was for resumes no longer than two pages. Another trend was that a resume should never expose the privacy of your references, and they should be saved for the interview.

These trends are no longer adhered to. More recently, a resume was best thought to portray convenient groupings of skills or experiences, with headings such as Communications or Technical Skills, sections that teemed with predictable words like "expert," "well-rounded," and "accomplished." The truth is, most employers want to see exactly what your tasks were at every job, rather than a grouping of skills into categories.

As well, aim to make your resume easily readable. If you make the reader's job easy, you have the greatest chance of getting an interview. You can fill in all the details in person when you have the interviewer's undivided attention. Initially, all you want to do is establish maximum effect while demanding minimal effort from the reader.

Before you begin writing your resume, consider your career objective. Describe your goal in a single sentence (two at the most). Here's how: state what you are seeking in your next position, what you bring to the organization, and where you wish to take your career.

For example: "Junior Geologist, with summer co-op experience at Husky Oil, a GPA of 3.5, and six years volunteering with the Kidney Foundation, seeking full-time employment with an Alberta oil and gas firm offering advancement and a forward-looking corporate vision." The reader has an immediate sense of who you are and where you wish to go.

Once you have created your objective, the rest of your document will fall into place. Below Career Objective come the following headings:

Education/Work Experience - If you're fresh out of university and haven't yet landed a job in your desired area, state your education next. If you have some industry or professional experience within the field, showcase that before Education.

Computer Skills - Many search firms use a computer program called OCR (optical character recognition) that picks up key words and pulls the qualifiers from the masses. So, if you are a geology student and have experience with ACCUMAP software, state that; if it is a program like ACCUMAP, say "similar to ACCUMAP" so the program picks it up anyway.

Volunteer Services - Being a contributor to your community carries weight. The person who has helped organize the Heart and Stroke fundraiser for the past five years may be chosen over someone who doesn't have any volunteer experience listed.

Awards or Merits - Proving you have achieved anything beyond the ordinary is never a bad thing, even if it was being the winner of the Prairie Exhibition pie-eating contest. At least you show spirit and endurance!

Special Skills - If you have First Aid, or hold a Class A driver's license, put it down. Knotting a cherry stem with your tongue should be left out.

Professional Development/Professional Memberships - Spending time with your future peers, especially before you are finished your degree, will help you gain the inside edge when the time is ripe for a career. For example, if you are grooming to be an engineer, geologist, or geophysicist, you should hold a student membership with APEGGA.

The people you've met on a social basis or shared volunteer duties with are the same people who will refer you to their manager or vice-president when a position arises. If you haven't already joined that professional group, sign up today. There's much truth to the cliché, "It's not what you know, it's who you know!"

Leisure Interests is an optional category but highly recommended. If you're a golfer or a hockey goal tender, you may be of increased interest to the department that takes every Friday afternoon off to play and can't seem to fill that vacant spot when they hit the ice or the golf course.

References is the final category. Many people don't wish to divulge this information until the interview. It's your choice, but full disclosure always brings added value. Saving potential employers the time of having to ask for the information can often be the difference between getting an interview or not.

You should have an assortment of business and character references, with your character references being those you already know within your chosen industry. Keep in touch with your references so they don't have the deer-in-the-headlights reaction when an employer contacts them.

On the topic of full disclosure, never leave voids in your resume. For example, if you studied from 2003 to 2005 and took a job in 2007 at Earl's for a few months before going back to school in 2008, a potential employer is going to wonder where the heck you slept in 2006.

If you took the year off to travel Australia or help care for your ailing mother, state that. Holes are considered red flags and may be a key to elimination before the first round even begins. Taking time off to travel is educational; helping others in a time of need, admirable.

Being on the edge without being risky will usually get you noticed. Choose a style of resume that is bold and suitable to your career, but not overdone. Create letterhead that includes your name, city (not your street address), your email and phone numbers. This can be used on your cover letter or additional documents like publication lists or profiles.

The owner of a concise resume that contains only necessary information is the candidate most likely to get called for an interview. The majority of applicants (the ones who write mini dissertations under each heading) will be the ones fighting the current rapidly careening toward the waterfall at the top of the recycling basin—the same candidates who will converge at the local watering hole to drown their sorrows and exchange numbers for the best professional resume writer.

If you took the year off to travel Australia or help care for your ailing mother, state that. Holes are considered red flags and may be a key to elimination before the first round even begins.

THE LEARNING CURVE

Heather Fraser



Travel Discounts with an International Student Identity Card

As a single parent, one of the perks of my full-time studies is the various discounts I receive when I show my Athabasca University ID card.

Not only do I not pay banking fees anymore, but I save money on my insurance and even receive discounts in some clothing stores in my town.

Recently, I learned about the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) program. Recognized world-wide,

this additional ID card opens doors for full-time students, as well as saves them a lot of money when travelling or even doing things close to home that may be considered tourist-related.

The cost of the card varies, but according to Via Rail's website, if you purchase the card at one of their locations it is only \$16 and it doesn't expire for 16 months.

According to the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) website, the following information is required to apply for the card:

- Acceptable proof of full-time student status, including either a copy of your university or student ID card (if properly dated and clearly indicating your full-time student status), or a signed and dated letter on official university or school stationery attesting to your full-time student status. An original copy is preferred, but photocopies and faxes may be accepted.
- You will also need a passport-sized photo and proof of your date of birth.

The discounts available would make the purchase of this card worthwhile even for a student who is not planning on travelling internationally. For instance, Via Rail offers students a 35 to 50 per cent discount, and children can still travel for free with a paying student-parent during the summer.

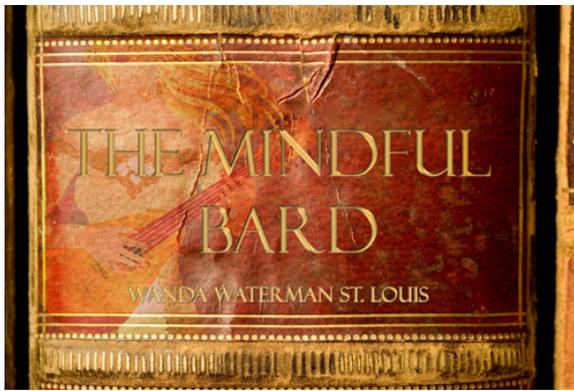
Greyhound Canada also offers a discounted price of 25 per cent off adult tickets for ISIC holders, and there are literally thousands of discounts available with the ISIC that are listed by country on their website.

From museums to student travel companies, this also seems to be a magic card for any full-time student living on a budget.

According to the ISTC website, the ISIC also offers other benefits to student travelers, which include access to a free 24-hour multilingual emergency help line, and a personalized trip planner and travel guide.

For a card that only costs \$16, it's an amazing deal. And with the card being valid for 16 months, it means that even if you apply for the card when only a month away from graduation, you can have a valid student identity card for 15 months—even when you are no longer a full-time student!

For more information, visit the International Student Identity Card [website](#) and Via Rail's Student Discount Information [page](#).



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

Book: Kang Zhengguo, *Confessions: An Innocent Life in Communist China*

English Translation 2007 by Susan Wilf, Norton: New York

Throughout his life in China, in response to some perceived thought crime against the state, Kang is ordered to write confessional essays. On one such occasion, he muses:

"By then I was an old hand at the confessional essay format. I would string together a series of exaggerated clichés, glossing over offenses wherever possible. Then I would attach meaningless labels to the misdeeds that I could not side-step and conclude with a self-reproach and a promise to do better."

You may be tempted to see this memoir as just another opportunity to cluck and shake your head over communist atrocities and to thank your lucky stars you live in a democracy. But if you are a creative, independent thinker, you will find much common ground here.

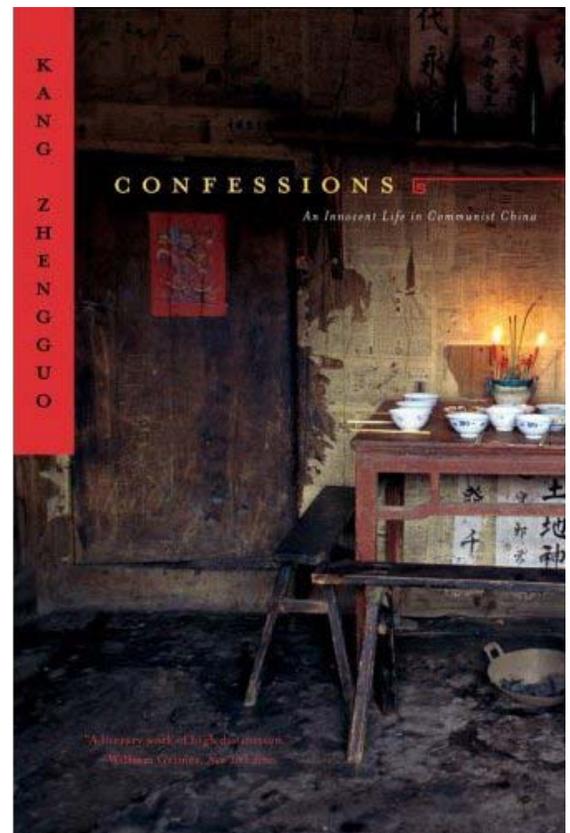
From pressure to study science instead of humanities to the keeping of clandestine diaries to ubiquitous propaganda, many a circumstance in Kang's life resonates with a similar experience of thinkers in the West. Even though we live in what is generally believed to be an open and free society, there is sometimes a price to be paid for being open. Airing nonconformist views about politics, religion, race, feminism, and prosperity in any culture is to some extent a risky venture.

I've never been forced to work in a brick factory or been publicly beaten and yet I have often been silenced, ridiculed, robbed of freedom, denied jobs, lost jobs, and sold short for standing my ground on some divisive issue or even for failing to be sufficiently enthusiastic about widely held beliefs. I have watched the same happen to others. And I have often noted the kowtowing and evasive language of those whose material success depends on mechanically currying the favour of those in power.

And yet there are glaring differences between my experiences and those of Kang, the main one being communist China's maniacal, erratic enforcement of subjective interpretations of Marxist ideology.

Another contrast is in attitudes toward literature. My greatest fear as a writer is that my outpourings may never be read, but in Kang's world, diaries, personal letters, and even marginalia are considered so significant that you have to go to great lengths to keep them from falling into the wrong hands.

In a twisted way, totalitarian repression forms an incubation zone for writers, a negative enabling of talent and effort. It's not something Western writers might trade freedom for, but it is something. And yet



although we should assume that much excellent writing was produced in China during the Mao years, little literary writing has survived the government's ruthless purges.

Kang is both threatened and redeemed by his reluctance to deceive as well as by his fear of being annihilated as a thinking individual. His cultured, middle-class family background, considered undesirable by the state, grants him continuity with Chinese classical literature, Buddhism, and traditional values.

It is clear that the Zhengguos' pre-revolution culture is a source of strength and solace for Kang during the Mao years, and that Kang gains a measure of self-esteem and objectivity from classical literature. But it is these old things that are always under attack by a state which would make all things new.

Confessions lives up to five of *The Mindful Bard's* criteria for books well worth reading: 1) it is authentic, original, and delightful; 2) it confronts and mocks existing injustices; 3) it renews my enthusiasm for positive social action; 4) it gives me tools enabling me to respond with compassion and competence to the suffering around me; and 5) it harmoniously unites art with social action, saving me from both seclusion in an ivory tower and slavery to someone else's political agenda.

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. For a list of criteria, go [here](#). If I agree with your recommendation, I'll thank you online.

CLICK OF THE WRIST – The Graduate

On countless campuses, graduates from 19 to 90 are donning their robes and receiving those long-awaited parchments. In honour of the class of 2008, here are a few observations on life's educational journey.

Conan O'Brien's Harvard Graduation Speech

The *Late Night* funnyman offers his own unique take on life and learning to Harvard's class of 2000.

Graduation Quotations

If you haven't crossed the stage yet and are looking for some inspirational words for your grad speech, look no further.

Funny Graduation Speeches

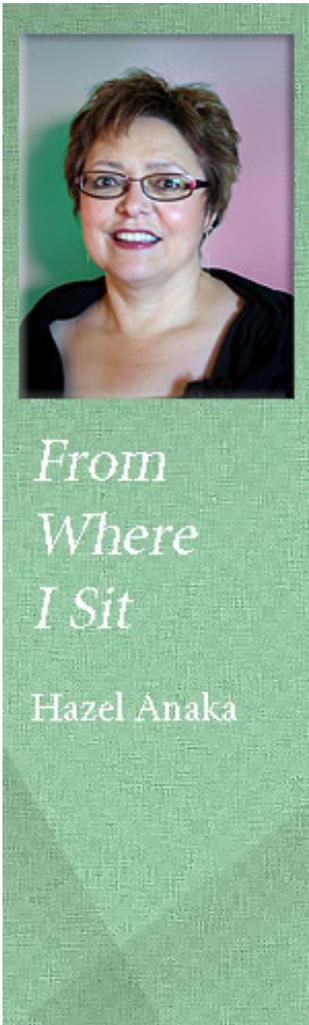
This is a great collection of graduation speeches from the likes of Will Ferrell, Steven Colbert, Jon Stewart, and even Ali G. If you're in the mood for something serious, you can even check out Steve Jobs's address to Harvard's class of 2005.

Oldest Graduate

If it feels like the end of your degree will never be in sight, here's a little inspiration from Australian Phyllis Turner—who earned her master's in Medical Science at 94.

Dancing 2008

What does this have to do with graduation? Absolutely nothing—except maybe as a reminder that the whole world is out there waiting.



Stories Worth Reading

During our recent plumbing emergency and all the preparation for a tour group of visitors to my art studio/gallery, a lot of things got neglected. One of the most annoying things to me was the lack of time to read the *Edmonton Journal* and *National Post* each day. Even when I have 14 or 16 papers piled up and waiting for me, I can't just discard them without reading them.

Here's just a taste of what captured my attention during the catch-up.

An *Edmonton Journal* article explained the results of a Colorado State University study into road rage. The study defines bumper stickers, window decals, vanity plates, decorative seat covers, and other adornments as "territory markers."

Their presence is also a predictor of a road rage response to offensive behaviour. They predict aggressive behaviour more reliably than vehicle condition or value. It seems that the mere presence of at least one marker (regardless how innocuous the message) led drivers to be "15 percent more likely to retaliate when they felt their territory had been threatened."

It appears these people have blurred the line between "the public territory of the road and private territory of the vehicle." They in fact think they "own the road." So the next time you're tempted to honk, tailgate, or block traffic, check first for bull's balls, oversized dice, bumper stickers, or the little-boy-peeing decal.

I can't say I'm impressed with the plan by the Kelowna airport to begin using technology to "see" through clothing while checking for weapons or explosives. Despite the safeguards in place I resent the invasion of privacy. The official

watching the screen is in another room and not able to see the passenger. Images are not to be stored, printed, or transmitted. Images are detailed enough to show an outline of underwear, inserted catheters, penile implants, mastectomies, and vasectomies.

Apparently, this will make Kelowna the first Canadian airport to use the technology. How soon before it comes to an airport near me?

Finally, a coroner's report into the death of a nine-year-old autistic boy in Montreal was released showing suffocation as the likely cause of death. The news was heartbreaking to the parents, who had been told he passed away "naturally and calmly." It appears that a teacher incorrectly used a 40-pound blanket as punishment for the boy, who was making loud noises. The blanket was wrapped around the 53-pound boy four times and left only the tips of his toes exposed. He was on his stomach, head covered for more than 20 minutes. Used correctly, the blanket has a calming, therapeutic effect on autistic children. Needless to say a lawsuit is planned. How tragic, how preventable.

Can't say I read a single word on the Mideast crisis, American flooding, or the municipal airport debate. I gravitate to the weird, the obscure, and the memorable . . . stories that explain the human condition. Stories worth reading, even late, from where I sit.

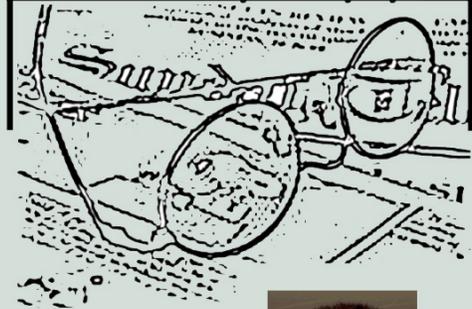
The Interviewer

written and
illustrated
by
Wanda
Waterman
St. Louis

Caramel Baby:

Welcome to My Nightmare

Today's paper reports that the 1978 murder of Wendel Gagnon, a black Cape Breton guitarist living in Montreal, has finally been traced back to the KKK but without a proven perp no arrests have been made.



Reuben Pike figures it's as good a time as any to hook up with the Klan.



The room is a box with white plaster walls and ceiling, shag and bedspread and drapes the same flaming shade of magenta...

...with one window showing nothing but...



...the silver vinyl siding of the next rooming house over.



The twin bed with the Hollywood vinyl cushioned headboard, the narrow white stove, the fat humming refrigerator, and the metal table with the white formica top dancing with little silver stars, all belong to this room.



Reuben supplies the stereo, the records, the typewriter, the phone, the coffeemaker, a stack of wool army blankets...



...and a closetful of worn out clothes.

Next: The Boarding House

AUSU This Month



Meet Your New Council

The AUSU Council and staff have added and updated their bio pages. If you're curious about who these nine people are, you can go to our [council page](#) to find out more, or meet our Councillors in the AUSU chat room at the times announced on the front page of the AUSU website.

Also, on May 26, at 6:00 p.m. MST, the new AUSU Council will be having their first council meeting open to public attendance. See the people you elected in action. Contact ausu@ausu.org or phone 1-800-788-9041, ext 3413 for details on how you can attend.

New Addition to Council Family

The VP Finance and Administration, Sarah Kertcher, was not able to participate in the most recent AUSU executive meeting, but her absence was understandable. The night before, Sarah had a baby boy by the name of Nathan Ross Kertcher. Nathan came into this world at 7 lbs. and 13 oz. AUSU sends its congratulations out to Nathan and his parents, and looks forward to the day when he's an Active Member.

AUSU Merchandise for Sale

Due to a high demand for AUSU merchandise, and delays in setting up our online store, we have put together a quick catalogue with a few items we have in stock now.

You can download the catalogue in PDF from the link on our home page, or go to <http://www.ausu.org/services/store.php> to see the catalogue online. Shipping costs will be calculated per order and we'll let you know by phone or email.

We are only accepting credit card orders at this time, unless you are able to visit our Edmonton office. We are in the process of selecting more product of good quality and use for our members, and some of these should start to be available soon. Suggestions as to other products are welcome.

AUSU Lock Loan Program

If you take exams at the Calgary or Edmonton campus, you can participate in our Lock Loan Program. Under this program, you can borrow a lock to secure your stuff while you take your exam, then return it at no cost and with no deposit. If you're not in Calgary or Edmonton, or would like to purchase a lock to keep, we are keeping the price close to our cost in the spirit of this program. However, to do this means we rely on you to return the borrowed locks, and to make sure the combination is reset to 0-0-0 when you do.



Employment Site Nearly Ready

Big news! AUSU has nearly completed the final testing of the new employment site developed in coordination with the Personnel Department. This site will be available to all of our members and their family or friends, and will help them to find employers looking for their skills.



Create professional-looking flowcharts, timelines, graphs, and more, in minutes, all by yourself. Then go spend some quality time with your family.

Free for AUSU members. Visit www.ausu.org



SmartDraw

Smart Draw – Benefit for AUSU members

AUSU has purchased a licence agreement to supply the award-winning SmartDraw software to all AUSU members (current undergraduate students). To access this deal and find out more, visit the front page of our website.

SmartDraw allows you to create a wide range of graphics for your assignments and submit them electronically in a Word file. You can also place your graphics in Excel or PowerPoint files, or export them as TIF, GIF, or JPEG files to make a web graphic or even a logo. Just a few of the graphics you can make include Venn diagrams, genetics charts, graphs, organizational and flow charts, and Gantt charts.

For any course that requires charts that cannot be easily created in Word or Excel, this should be a real time saver and make it easier to submit all portions of an assignment by email. Remember, though, that you should always check with your tutor to find out if there is a specific format he or she prefers. Your tutor does not have to have SmartDraw to view these graphics, however.

Installations under this program are good for one year. The package includes both the Standard and Health Care editions of SmartDraw.

AUSU Handbook/Planner 2008 in stock!

The 2008 AUSU planner is still in stock. We've added a few enhancements this year, including cheat sheets for common citation styles, a clip-in page-marker ruler, and a funky fridge magnet to remind you to get your weekly dose of *The Voice*.

As always, we're excited to know what you think of the planner.

It's Here! (really!)

14 month calendar
week at-a-glance
planning pages

**Click to order your 2008 Handbook/Planner
Free for all AUSU members**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK



At Home: General Rick Hillier named university chancellor

General Rick Hillier has been named the next chancellor of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

The appointment was announced by the province's premier, Danny Williams, in St. John's on June 26.

General Hillier, 52, will be retiring July 2 as chief of Canada's defence staff, a position he has held since February 2005.

A native of Newfoundland, Hillier graduated from Memorial in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

When he announced his retirement, in April of this year, rumours began to fly that his next move would be into the premier's office, but Hillier quickly dismissed the idea.

As he told reporters during a speech at the annual Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Association conference in St. John's in June, "Our country has some incredible men and women who are

our political leaders."

"I don't envy them one little bit. The cost of that on them, on their families and the way, if you will, they are perceived across the country. So I'm not going to become a political leader."

General Hillier will succeed John Crosbie as chancellor of MUN. Crosbie held the position until February 2008, at which time he became lieutenant governor of the province.

General Hillier has long been a well-respected Canadian figure, joining the Canadian Forces in 1973 through the Regular Officer Training Plan program and going on to take command of NATO's Stabilization Force's Multinational Division (Southwest) in Bosnia-Herzegovina (2000), as well as becoming commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2003.

In Foreign News: U.S. Supreme Court quashes DC handgun ban

On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court made a historic ruling: they struck down the District of Columbia's ban on handgun ownership, declaring, as the *Washington Post* reports, that "the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own guns for self-defense."

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the decision, which was a close 5 to 4 split and represents a drastic change in federal lawmaking.

The court's decision will still allow the government to impose some limits on gun ownership, but claimed that "the District's strictest-in-the-nation ban went too far under any interpretation."

The decision also made it unconstitutional to require that shotguns and rifles be outfitted with trigger locks or that they be stored disassembled or unloaded. The court ruled that these safety measures acted as a “prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense.”

Other justices voting in favour of the move were Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., Anthony M. Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel A. Alito Jr., while Justice John Paul Stevens denounced the decision.

Stevens argued that the decision was in violation of the Supreme Court’s precedent; specifically, that the Second Amendment allows citizens the right to bear arms for military purposes only. He said that decisions about gun control should be made by legislatures. Justices David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen G. Breyer also dissented.

Reaction from the White House was swift. President Bush’s press secretary, Dana Perino, issued a statement saying “the President strongly agrees with the Supreme Court’s historic decision today that the Second Amendment protects the individual right of Americans to keep and bear arms. This has been the Administration’s long-held view.”

Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, agreed, calling the decision a “landmark victory.”

Democrat Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.), on the other hand, offered a less enthusiastic (or clear-cut) reaction. He stated that “I have always believed that the Second Amendment protects the right of individuals to bear arms, but I also identify with the need for crime-ravaged communities to save their children from the violence that plagues our streets through common-sense, effective safety measures.”

This decision marks the first time the Supreme Court has ruled on the Second Amendment since 1939, and is bound to affect the existing handgun ban in Chicago (enacted in 1981).

EDUCATION NEWS

Nora Loreto

Student unions join forces for Fight Fees 14

TORONTO (CUP) - “Toronto students under attack, what do we do?” yells a megaphone-wielding student to the back of a rally at the University of Toronto.

“Stand up, fight back,” shout dozens of students in response.

Students shouted these, and other, chants as they took to the streets on June 3 to demonstrate against what they deem to be the criminalization of student dissent on campus.



As they weaved their way from the U of T to the Toronto Old City Hall, onlookers were handed information sheets that, among other demands, called for student/worker parity on all university decision-making bodies, and the elimination of tuition fees.

June 3 was the decision day for the so-called Fight Fees 14, a group of students and their supporters who were arrested during a sit-in against a fee hike at the U of T on March 20.

The university administration alleges the 14 protestors engaged in violent activities, but the students have denied all charges.

One of the June 3 rally speakers was Rosario Marchese, education critic for the New Democratic Party and Member of Provincial Parliament for Trinity-Spadina, the riding in which U of T is situated.

Marchese said that the NDP has continuously asked the Liberals about their record of education funding.

Marchese has written a letter to David Naylor, President of the U of T, expressing his disappointment in the arrests, but thinks that there needs to be more done to reach out to the broader community and garner support.

Aminah Hanif, an organizer for the rally, said that the broad support from other student unions and community organizations has been crucial to their campaign.

"It has been fundamental to have support from students across Canada and internationally," she said.

Among the supporters present were representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-O), an organization that has passed motions of support for the campaign, including monetary and resource donations.

"CFS-O has been participating in organizing meetings as a coalition partner with Always Question and the Committee for Just Education, the two groups who spearheaded the campaign around the 14 arrested students," said Ontario Chairperson Shelley Melanson.

"We recognize that education in Ontario is inaccessible and students should have the right to voice their dissent to tuition fee increases without fear of retaliation by oppressive tactics used by administrators."

There were many other student unions represented at the rally, both from within the U of T community, and from other universities.

One such supporter present was Jermaine Bagnall, chairperson for the Graduate Executive of the Ryerson Students' Union.

Bagnall said that he was there to stand up for all students' rights, including students at Ryerson University, which is also located in Toronto.

"U of T is setting a troublesome precedent with these arrests. Dissent is part of our fundamental right of freedom of expression," said Bagnall.

Sandy Hudson, President of the University of Toronto Students' Union, echoed Bagnall's comments.

"Students have been appalled to see the collusion of the administration with Toronto Police Services that resulted in these charges," said Hudson. "The students see no reason for charging individuals for engaging in critical political discourse; we're encouraged to do so by our professors in our classes."

After the rally, the protestors attempted to get into the courthouse to witness the proceedings. Once the room was full, the doors were locked and dozens of students were turned away. The next hearing for some of the Fight Fees 14 will be on July 3.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

THE VOICE

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