

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE
Vol 25 Issue 16 2017-04-21

Convocation Hints

What to do and what to avoid when you're there.

E-Text Survivor

The Tribulations of A Paper Text Lover

Eventual Apologies

The Event we Missed and Why

*Plus:
Council Connection
Creative Spark!
and much more!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a [Facebook page](#)?

No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.

EDITORIAL**Eventual Apologies****Karl Low**

One of the things that people at the recent town hall talked about was finding ways for AU to engage and communicate with students. I suggest that making an effort might be a good start.

For instance, there will be a second presentation from AU's Writer in Residence, John Vaillant. If you missed the first one, that's a shame because the presentation itself was extremely interesting (the Q&A period after, perhaps not as much). But the problem is that I only found out about that this morning, Friday, April 21, and the presentation will be happening today, Friday, April 21, at 3pm. By the time you read this, the opportunity will probably already be gone. Our apologies for not finding out about it sooner.

I don't like that. We know that AU already makes it difficult for students to find out what's going on at AU, that's why we run the events column, to try to bring these things out to you. Unfortunately, AU doesn't like to share what it's doing. The only announcement you can find for this activity on AU's site is on the page for the Writer-in-Residence. No wider distribution was made, not even to AU's own news page. This might seem reasonable at first blush, but then you start to look at how many of these individual departments there are. The Write Site, the Math Site, Writer-in-Residence,

IT Help Desk, Library Services, TEKRI, the Athabasca River Basin Research Institute, AU Press, are just a few among many others, there is no single page that will give you a complete listing of every service or department that Athabasca University has. You can find a partial one at <http://www.athabascau.ca/aboutau/offices/>, but that's not the entire list, because that doesn't touch the faculties or centres. If you want that, you'll have to go to <http://www.athabascau.ca/aboutau/faculties/>. But even then you haven't found everything AU has to offer, as there are student resources that you won't find anywhere in AboutAU, as there is yet another link to be followed that will take you to <http://www.athabascau.ca/students/student-services/>. Yet the Writer-in-Residence can't be found on any of those three pages. No, to find AU's Writer-in-Residence, you have to dig into the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, where you'll finally find a link to his site, and only there will you find the news of this event.

It baffles me, with how much money, time, and effort that AU has put into developing its website to be user-friendly, that some of the things it could use to attract students (like, hey, we have a published author who is doing free talks about writing, with refreshments served if you happen to attend in person) are not just not publicized, but almost actively buried in the depths. Personally, I would think that if you wanted to find out what events are happening at AU, you might consider going to the events page that AU has: <http://news.athabascau.ca/events/> but you'd be wasting your time if you did, as there's absolutely nothing listed there, not even convocation for goodness sakes. What, is there some reason they're not entirely sure if they'll be running it yet, so don't want to announce it? What's the point of having the page if they're not going to use it for anything?

If Athabasca University wants to better engage students, perhaps it should consider taking the first steps to do so, and at least make sure that any events that might engage students are placed in a position people can find them. Since they don't provide that service, we try to do so here, but, apparently, even we're not good enough sleuths to find all that they hide. Our apologies, and we'll try to do better in the future.

In the meantime, our feature is some advice for those going to convocation, assuming it's happening, of course. As well as bounty of other stuff! Enjoy the read!

Things to Do And Avoid at Convocation

Deanna Roney



With convocation coming up I wanted to talk about some of the things that graduates going to Athabasca should do, some things to avoid, and some of the things I wish I had done.

I went to Athabasca a day early; I wanted to have some time to explore the town and the campus before the craze of convocation took over. I was surprised to find I was one of the few that did this, most arrived the night before and left the day of. But taking the time to explore campus, take in the library, and see the offices of the people I talked to on the phone numerous times was a great experience. It was special to be taking it all in just before convocation, there was excitement and a buzz in the air, and no one found it strange as we wandered the stacks, admired the greenspace, read the tree plaques, it was all expected during the time of year. I would absolutely recommend doing this, it is a great way to ease into it and prolong the feeling of celebration.

Something to avoid is booking a room at the New Western. We booked in here, I had checked reviews, pictures, etc and everything looked good, until we got there. It was *bad*. The only good part was when we walked out of there. The hallways were old, dark, and smelled; the lights flickered and buzzed—it was straight out of a horror movie. We unlocked the door and walked into a room that had not been thoroughly cleaned, with dust caked on the carpet behind the door and the roof had water damage and looked like it was about to fall in. The beds were old, uncomfortable, and the crème du la crème—bugs. I threw back the sheets ready to relax for the night, willing for that night at least to overlook the obvious pitfalls of the room, and there, between the sheets, was a black bug. We threw our belongings back into our bags, and I got on the phone to call other hotels while my husband went to my mom's room and said, "We're leaving."

We lucked out. I spoke to a very kind and empathetic lady from the Days Inn who had one room that would suit us. We rushed over and she took us up to the room before we signed off on it, I wanted to look first: it was a great room. We were sharing one suite between the three of us. But there was a separate bedroom and a pull-out couch. And, best of all, spotless. I felt like I could take my shoes off.

I asked for recommendations for dinner from the front desk staff (no longer trusting online reviews) and we went out the next day to the 49th Street Grill, this is a must stop, we ate here (aside from breakfast,) exclusively. It was amazing food and I highly recommend it.

There are some things I wish I had done. Before convocation, I was a bundle of nerves. Not sure where I was going to be going, worried I would trip and faceplant on stage. Excited to be there and a bit in disbelief I had done it. I had completed my B.A. I picked up memorabilia before the ceremony, I got a grad ring, a frame for my parchment, and spoke to AUSU staff. I did the things I didn't want to forget to do. I put on my gown and waited for everything to start. I got professional pictures. I went through grad, and then class pictures after we were shuffled over to where we return the dummy diploma holder, and then there was gown return. I never stopped after to take some pictures with my husband or my mom who had joined me on the trip. This is my biggest regret. I wish I had taken more time, left the gown on, and taken those pictures.

It will all be over quick, so at the end of the ceremony, after the class picture, you don't need to return the gown immediately. Take the time and celebrate it a little longer and get those pictures.

Deanna is an AU graduate who loves adventure in life and literature. Follow her path on the writing journey at <https://deannaroney.wordpress.com/>



The Fit Student Your Ten-Year Goal

Marie Well



What do you dream about?

Daniel Goleman, author of *Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence*, poses a similar question: "If everything worked out perfectly in your life, what would you be doing in ten years?" My ten-year dreams have changed over time. As a teen, I aspired to become a computer science professor. As a young adult, I longed to star as a singer-songwriter. As an adult, I yearned to win a Nobel prize in math for studies on the travel of thought. Shortly thereafter, I longed to become a professor of communications.

Now, as I near middle age, I no longer have a ten-year vision. But, I take comfort in the chance that I have forty-years-of-life ahead of me.

Most twenty-year-old youth feel old. Even a seven-year-old thinks turning eight's old: "at eight you're slow and weak." Why age yourself prematurely?

Even at age 70, you might have ten to thirty years. (My dad's almost 80 but looks 50, drives sports cars, and runs an industry-leading business. And my fit grandma rocks high fashion in her nineties.)

So, what can you accomplish in ten years?

Well, if you're not obese, you could get into top physical health within six-to-nine months. If you're obese, you could get into top physical health within eighteen months, assuming a disciplined physical regime along with proper nutrition and rest, says a local fitness trainer.

In five years, you could achieve financial independence, said the late motivational speakers Earl Nightingale and Jim Rohn.

In ten years, you could get an undergraduate degree, a master's degree—and a PhD. And you could celebrate your own tenth wedding anniversary.

In other words, if you're in your forties, you may need to plan not one, but *four* ten-year goals.

Author Daniel Goleman in his book *Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence*, says to focus on your dreams:

- Psychologist Richard Boyatzis (as cited in Goleman) says that focusing on your dreams and goals triggers your brain to "open you up to new possibilities" (p. 172). He also says that focusing on ways to fix your weaknesses shuts you down.
- In other words, when subjects were asked about fears, demands, and difficulties, their anxiety spiked. When subjects were asked about their 10 year goals, they conjured fond memories and felt happiness.
- The more positive we feel, the more prone we are to practice and learn. So, focus on your dreams—and not your failings. We need at least a 2.9:1 ratio of positives to negatives to flourish in life, says psychologist Barbara Fredrickson.
- But we need more than just dreams—we need to persistently practice the necessary skills to make those dreams real. Each minute of practice builds your dream-come-true.
- Experts have 50,000 chunks of info units they can readily recognize, says Nobel laureate Herbert Simon (as cited in Goleman). That means, you need a lot of instant-recall brain-candy—acquired through a lot of practice—to be the top in your academic field.

And in ten-year's time, you too could gather 50,000 chunks of expertise. So, dream up your ten-year plan to master your goals. Don't be slow and weak at eight; be rich and fit at ninety.



Canadian Education News

Scott Jacobsen



Malala Yousafzai Challenges Ottawa to make headway in education

The National Post reports that the teenage Nobel Prize winner, UN Messenger of Peace, and now honorary Canadian citizen, Malala Yousafzai, spoke on "hope, perseverance and inspiration." As well, Malala is known as an advocate for girls' education.

She talked about the difficulties girls face. "... she urged the federal government to put its upcoming presidency of the G7 to good use," the National Post said. Malala emphasized the need to make girls' education a "central theme of your G7

presidency next year."

"...use your influence to help fill the global education funding gap," Malala said, "You raised billions of dollars and saved lives when you hosted the Global Fund replenishment in Montreal last year. Show the same leadership for education."

Possibilities lie in a Saudi-Canadian partnership in education

According to Arab News, there are over 11,600 students from Saudi Arabia studying in Canada in various disciplines. Saudis are the "sixth-largest" number of international students in Canada at the moment.

Canadian ambassador, Dennis Horak, noted that Canadian universities and colleges have some of the best technical training in the world. When finished their degree, students can return to their home country with an internationally respected degree or diploma.

Horak added, "Canada is internationally recognized for a competency-based teaching approach that prepares students to be productive in the workplace immediately after graduation."

Trans Issues Being Worked out in Canadian Forces with Hopes for Education

CTV News said, "Shachar Erez recalls the day five years ago when, as an 18-year-old female Israeli soldier, the time had come to tell his commanding officer something profound about himself -- that he believed he was a man."

Erez told his family. His parents and two younger brothers weren't surprised. He wanted his hair cut at age 2 and threw out dresses and skirts at age 5. Erez became "international ambassador of sorts for the Israel Defence Forces" for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Erez was in Ottawa, recently, and met with "senior officials in the Canadian Forces." Canadian Forces are in the midst of sussing out its own policy on transgender issues. The aim is to provide better education for personnel to reduce the odds of discrimination and abuse.

Violent Crimes are Falling but Sexual Assaults Remain Steady

"The idea of mandatory and comprehensive legal training in Canada's sexual assault laws is proving to be a hot topic at a week-long seminar for new federally appointed judges," CBC News: Politics said, "Dozens of judges appointed to Canada's superior courts last fall and this spring are attending classes this week in Quebec, to which CBC News was granted rare, limited access."

Chief justice of Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench, Neil Wittmann, described the scrutiny of the judiciary based on management of sexual assault cases. Some Canadians express outrage and disgust over some recent sexual violence-based court decisions.

CBC News: Politics stated the cases relied on outdated myths about women and sex. The retired British Columbia Supreme Court judge, Lynn Smith, stated that violent crimes continue to 'fall' and sexual assault crimes remain steady.

A Call for the Protection of Canadian Education from Attack

It has been stated in a letter through Human Rights Watch that Canada needs to protect education from attack. Members from the International Child Protection Network of Canada (ICPNC) and Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG) wrote the letter.

They "commended the Canadian government" for its protection of education with such things as the Safe Schools Declaration and the implementation of the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*. The Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, Human Rights Watch, ICPNC, and CIEPWG welcome opportunities for discussion.

The ICPNC supports the Canadian leadership in child protection. "Canada should continue to work to see that civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools, are respected and protected in the conduct of hostilities, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law," Human Rights Watch said.

Innovative Program Helping to Break Barriers

The Waterloo Chronicle noted that an "innovative program" is helping to break barriers for newer Canadians at Waterloo Collegiate Institute. It has earned national recognition for its "smoothing" of the transition to acceptance for about a decade.

The program is called Crossing Borders. It was recognized by the Canadian Education Association (CEA) with the Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. The recognition is for the "efforts to connect students to their adopted communities by giving them a sense of acceptance, increasing their resiliency..."

CEA president and CEO, Ron Canuel, said, "This outstanding school-community program deals with such a timely challenge that our education system is facing in such a creative way, and could serve as a newcomer student integration model delivered in schools across the country."

Scott Douglas Jacobsen is the AUSU VPFA. He works with various organizations, and runs In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal, and In-Sight Publishing.



Music Review The Archer

Drew Kolohon



Artist: Adam Melchor

EP: *The Archer*

On February 27, Adam Melchor dropped his new single, "Brook Revisited", as a teaser for his EP, *The Archer*. Adam is a 24-year-old folk singer--song-writer from New Jersey. The timing of the release is perfect, as it gives us a tease for the EP. Adam is not only a solo artist, he also plays guitar for Frances Cone, an Indie-pop band based out of New York. Frances Cone has been praised by such publications as *NYLON* and *Paste Magazine*.

The five song EP is an intense journey of personal hardship, and has a strong feel of vulnerability. Adam's soft, well rounded voice plays perfectly to the feel of this album. The first song on the EP, "Don't Invest in Me", is a soulful song that sets the tone for the rest of it. The simplicity of a guitar and a voice create a sense of intimacy, making him connect more with his audience. "Brooke Revisited" is the second song and it lets us into Adam's feelings about a death of a friend and reconnecting with an old friend. Adam tells a story in this song, painting a picture of sadness, but also of hope. The next song is also the title of the EP. "The Archer" is like "Brooke Revisited" in its story telling, however, this song uses more metaphors to get its message across. Naming the EP after this song is fitting because of the tone of the EP. Adam uses back-up vocals to drive home the feeling and depth of this song.

"More than anything" is the fourth song on this EP, and it follows suit in looking into Adam's thoughts and emotions. An interesting thing Adam does is matching the guitar progression to the lyrics and tone of his music.

This creates an interesting relationship between his voice and the guitar, melding them together in a pleasant harmony. The final song on this EP is "Past Hound". Adam shows off his range by dipping down to his low notes but also ripping those high notes in the chorus. A feeling of finality and closure accompanies this song. Compared to the rest of the EP this song feels like Adam comes to a catharsis in this closing number.

Through my digging into Adams career and social media I found an excellent series on [YouTube](#) called One on One, where Adam plays in a winery in New York. The acoustics are awesome and only add to Adam's amazing voice. While listening to Adam I couldn't help comparing his vocals to that of Grizzly Bear, an American folk rock band. You can find all of Adam's social media on his [website](#). His EP is available on iTunes, Spotify, and GooglePlay. I strongly suggest picking this up.

Drew Kolohon is an avid music fan who is finishing up his Bachelor's degree in English.

Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: NEADS National Student Awards

Sponsored by: National Educational Association of Disabled Students

Deadline: April 30, 2017

Potential payout: \$1000 to \$5000

Eligibility restriction: Applicants must have a permanent disability (as defined on NEADS' website), be citizens or permanent residents of Canada, and be currently registered in a full-time (at least 40% course load) program at a Canadian college or university. See full [eligibility criteria](#).

What's required: An online application form, confirmation of post-secondary enrolment, proof of permanent disability, a résumé, an academic transcript, and both a community reference and an academic reference.

Tips: Check the [FAQs](#) for tips on completing the application. Forms for the community reference and academic reference are provided.

Where to get info: www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/ete2/scholarship/



E-Text Survivor

Barbara Lehtiniemi



I made it through an e-text course! This month, I completed my first—and last—e-text course for my AU degree.

I wasn't looking forward to e-text. Like I wrote in [E-text Initiation](#) last November, I chose courses with real text whenever possible, avoiding or delaying courses that had been converted to e-text.

Now I've made it through one course, [NUTR 331 Nutrition for Health](#), with e-text. The e-text for that course used the VitalSource Bookshelf program. I chose not to buy the paper textbook so I could give e-text a chance to impress me. Following are a few observations from my experience.

Some e-text features initially seemed cool, until I had to work with them. For example, when I copied bits of text into my notes, the e-text supplied bibliographic info. Great! A page number every time! However, the bibliographic info was either fully on (the full citation including title, author, publisher, more suitable for a works cited/bibliography page) or fully off (not even a page number.) If an e-text is going to provide this feature, it would be more useful if the user could customize it according to their preference.

Another feature that could have been cool but wasn't was the audio reading feature. I can imagine students with long commutes listening to their textbooks in a car or the subway. However, the reader read exactly what was on the page, exactly how it was laid out. That meant breaking off in mid-sentence to read from a graphic illustration or chart, simply because that's how it was placed on the page. The automaton-like reader also diligently read the footer notes off every page—including the chapter title and two lines of copyright information.

Other aspects were just perplexing. Why can't I navigate to the next page with my keyboard's right arrow? I had to use my mouse to click on the next page indicator, which was a right-arrow symbol. Eventually I realized I could use my down arrow to advance pages—some of the time—but I found that inconsistent with other online publications and the markings of the e-text itself. Then there was the highlighter tool which provided three stock colours—pale, sickly shades of yellow, green, or blue—but I found it cumbersome to switch between colours.

E-text pages—at least for this course—were oriented as though they were paper texts. That meant that the e-text page was portrait, while my computer monitor is landscape. I couldn't see one full page on my screen, so I constantly had to shift the display to continue reading, especially on pages with the text arranged in columns.

Part of the problem seems to be that e-text publishers haven't gotten over real texts. The text for my course appeared to be laid out the same as a paper text. But e-texts don't function like paper texts. In the rush to produce e-texts, publishers seem to have skipped some steps in the design process. Perhaps e-texts five years from now will have a form that matches their function.

At a personal level, I found the e-text a strain on my eyes. Even after adjusting the page size I had difficulty reading with the ease I get from a real text. Because I wear progressive bifocals, reading dense text off a screen means holding my head at an uncomfortable angle so I can read through the lower part of my lenses. And if I was tired, my eyes just weren't up to the added strain of reading off a screen.

The best thing I did to improve my e-text experience was to buy a larger monitor. Having a 22-inch monitor to work with instead of my laptop's dinky 14-inch made the e-text tolerable. Although I didn't buy the monitor specifically to help with my e-text—although I note doing so was cheaper than purchasing the hard-copy text—having a larger screen substantially improved the e-text experience. Not only could I see more of the e-text page at once, but I could have both the e-text and my notes open on the screen at the same time. I also had the option of using dual screens for greater flexibility.

While I recognize there are some conveniences associated with e-text, for me the drawbacks don't outweigh the benefits. Thankfully, this is the only course I have to take with an e-text. I need a few more courses to complete my degree, and, so far, none of those courses feature e-text. It was interesting to try one but I'm not in a hurry to repeat the experience.

I gave e-text a chance, but the experience has just confirmed my opinion that paper text is better, at least for me. Instead of being an e-text convert, I consider myself an e-text survivor.

Barbara Lehtiniemi is a writer, photographer, and AU student. She lives on a windswept rural road in Eastern Ontario.

Student Sizzle AU's Hot Social Media Topics

Following what's hot around AU's social media sites.

AthaU Facebook Group

Shivani seeks insight into the French program. Paul seeks study tips for the PSYC 333 exam. Jessica wonders if it's difficult to obtain professor approval for those courses that require it.

Other posts include AU's psychology program, exam invigilation, easy courses for summer, and AU's game development and programming certificate.

Twitter

@AthabascaU tweets: "Planning to graduate in June? Be sure to check off that #AthaU17 Convocation Checklist: <http://ow.ly/m7Fd30aXrmM> <http://gph.is/2aRAqLN>."

@AthabascaUSU (AUSU) tweets: "Learn how to use Word 2016 and hundreds of other programs through <http://lynda.com> - FREE to AUSU members! <http://bit.ly/1Qvg8pb>."

@AthabascaUBiz tweets: "DYK that both @WestJet & @AirCanada are offering discounts for #AthaU students attending convocation? Get codes here <https://goo.gl/H4syzH>."

Youtube

Get a foretaste of AU's 2017 convocation by watching some clips from last year, starting with "2016 Convocation - Thursday, June 9 - segment 1".





Council Connection April 11, 2017 Council Meeting

Bonita Arbeau

After the lengthy and eventful AUSU council meetings of the past few months, the April 11 meeting was a change of pace: short and sweet. The meeting started at 5:30 sharp, and all councillors were present. Outgoing VP Finance and Administration Kim Newsome kicked off the meeting by providing an update on the progress of AUSU's 2016/2017 goals. In short, AUSU aims to launch their annual membership services survey by May, bylaw revisions are in the final draft stage, and AUSU continues to be an active participant in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), including winning a bid to host the next CASA conference in Banff, Alberta in July 2017. It was noted that AUSU will not incur any additional costs as host (aside from relatively more expensive accommodations and meals in Banff for any councillors who attend the conference). AUSU is responsible to plan two social events and CASA staff will handle the rest of the conference.

It was also noted in the quarterly goals update that AUSU council has been meeting regularly for an hour prior to each public council meeting, to accommodate informal discussion and brainstorming among councillors on a variety of topics. Each councillor is paid an honorarium of \$75 per council meeting for their attendance, and considering that much of council has scarcely said more than "aye" in the past several public council meetings, I hope that councillors are actively participating in these pre-meeting meetings. On the other hand, perhaps councillors are saying all they have to say before the public meeting starts. Either way, saving money on honoraria by combining these meetings is, in my opinion, a judicious decision.

Next, AUSU President Shawna Wasylyshyn introduced the monthly AUSU policy revisions. Although policy 3.01, *Election Conduct*, was on the agenda for the April council meeting, its review was postponed to a later date after Kim Newsome pointed out that the membership had not been provided 21 days' notice, as is required by AUSU's bylaws. The only other policy revision on the agenda was for policy 3.02 *Election of Executive Officers*. The AUSU Executive added a point to this policy that executive election meetings are not public meetings, although meeting minutes will be taken and made public afterwards. The policy was also amended to require an executive election be held "as soon as one can be facilitated" but no more than 21 days following a vacancy. The policy previously stated that executive elections must take place "immediately or by the next regular council meeting," and this wording remains in AUSU's bylaws. The changes were approved unanimously.

The AUSU Executives then delivered their monthly reports to council. Shawna commented that she was especially busy in April performing the duties of executive director in addition to her usual responsibilities as president. In addition, Shawna continues to advocate to AU for student choice between e-text and hard-copy textbooks, noting that this issue was the most frequent advocacy request made by students during AUSU's recent #AUGoals drive. Councillor Andrew Gray asked about the Alberta government's decision not to award any capital project funding to AU in the 2017 budget. VP External and Student Affairs Julian Teterenko and Shawna Wasylyshyn both asserted that the main reason that AU did not receive additional funding was likely due to the ongoing third party review. That is, they believe that the government does not want to invest any money in AU unless the third-party report demonstrates that AU needs such an investment to be competitive or at least until AU balances its budget.

Following the monthly reports, CASA Executive Director, Michael McDonald, joined the meeting and presented an overview of CASA's purpose, priorities, and accomplishments. AUSU pays annual membership fees to CASA, amounting to \$16,320 for 2017, so it is important that council believes that AUSU's participation in the association is of value to AUSU members. Mr. McDonald outlined CASA's vision, which is to promote

"affordable, accessible, innovative post-secondary education of the highest level" by advocating to the federal government on behalf of post-secondary student associations. He highlighted several of CASA's accomplishments over the past few years and identified their current priorities: economic barriers to post-secondary education, student employment, student wellness, and research and innovation. He also praised AUSU's contributions to CASA over the past year and stressed the importance of the perspective that AUSU brings to the association, especially considering the government's increased focus on providing support for part-time, adult, and other non-conventional learners.

The final item on the agenda was the official executive changeover, where the new AUSU Executive started their one-year terms. Shawna and Julian will each serve another term as President and VPEX, respectively, and Scott Jacobsen will serve as VPFA for the first time. When I recently asked each of the newly elected AUSU Executives about their goals for the next year, their responses varied, but all were squarely focused on advocating for student interests and improving the AU student experience, through federal and provincial advocacy, AU advocacy, and increasing student engagement.

Shawna: The most important thing that I advocate to AU about is quality of services for students. In recent years with the financial strain AU has seen, too many cuts have been made to student facing budget lines. Students deserve the best quality of programs and services and I do my best to remind AU Administration not to forget about who they are serving.

Julian: One area that is important to me is making sure that Athabasca University, being an online university, has been pursuing all options that it can to be leading the industry in distance and online education tools and services. This would mean both that the university is focusing on improving its technological infrastructure and that they are receiving the proper funding from the government to do so.

Scott: One perennial area for AU/AUSU advocacy - as many know - comes from the electronic means of communication with, dissemination to, and education of AU current and prospective students. It comes in the form of a question, "How can students stay, or even be more engaged with AU/AUSU?" An even deeper question I ask, "Why do students come to AU for education over other postsecondary institutions?"

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at 5:30 pm MST, and AUSU's annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23 at 5:30 pm MST. Members are welcome to attend both meetings, but the AGM provides a unique opportunity for AUSU members to be active participants in the meeting. Any motions that members would like to put on the agenda for the AGM must be sent to ausu@ausu.org by April 24.

Bonita is a 3rd year bachelor of commerce student at AU, a mom-of-three, a political junkie, and an impassioned tennis fan, who just so happens to enjoy attending AUSU council meetings in her "spare" time. You can follow her on twitter @BonitaRenee88.

AU-thentic Events

Upcoming AU Related Events

APA Style

Wed, April 26, 1:00 to 2:30 pm MDT
Online

Hosted by AU's Faculty of Graduate Studies

fgs.athabascau.ca/news/presentations/
e-mail fgseducation@athabascau.ca to register

Google Scholar Webinar

Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 to 7:00 pm
MDT

Online

Hosted by AU Library

library.athabascau.ca/orientations.html
no pre-registration necessary

The Creative Spark!

A Rotten Juicy Onion

Marie Well



Does Hollywood strike you as shocking? Well, one cinema manager said her mother refuses to watch anything Hollywood. Why? Because Hollywood bases itself on a model: one of sexuality, violence, criminality, and revenge. We all know that—on the surface.

When I first drafted this article, I included a soul-sucking characterization of Hollywood's depravity: a quote from the book *Audition* by Michael Shurtleff. In his quote, Shurtleff links the most explicit, darkest fantasies of humankind to stage-performances-come-alive. That's Hollywood.

I drafted, debated—and then deleted the quote. Peeling the skin off Hollywood's model reveals a rotten juicy onion.

As a little history, back in 2006, I submitted an academic proposal to write a paper on scriptwriting. When my proposal got accepted, I drafted an article criticizing the model of rising tension in scriptwriting. I preferred a model of rising wisdom—one evidenced in my boyfriend's manuscript. He hadn't been trained in scriptwriting—and his book had little tension—yet his book overflowed with wisdom and proactive ideas.

When I submitted my paper, the committee trashed it. I received an email plastered with criticisms. However, the committee chair reassured me, "At least you stirred debate."

Even when I was a child, I disliked most cartoons—too much violence and tension. The one cartoon I liked featured a ghost, Shmoo, who often said "I love you" while smiling and cooing.

Hollywood's no Shmoo. Over the last several months, I've explored the Hollywood model by reading books on auditioning, acting, and directing. Today's article dug up some extra graphic depravity.

But, I'll let you be the judge. In fact, I'll include the quote I deleted.

Michael Shurtleff's quotes, from his book *Audition*, show-up in bold below. I follow with a synthesis for academic writing.

When acting, choose the wild and fantastical motive over the dull and dry. Michael Shurtleff confesses, "In our fantasy lives and in our dreams we all commit rape, murder, incest, and any number of grandiose and bizarre sexual activities" (p. 155). So, in your essays, like in an actor's scene, choose the wild and extreme, Shurtleff style. If you discover that a philosopher you cite womanized, weave that into your argument: "He showed a lack of commitment to his theories, his predecessors—and his wife." Don't bore your reader.

As a disclaimer, this strategy makes Hollywood sparkle—but trashes integrity. Use it cautiously, as it can be seen as irrelevant or an attempt to bias through emotion. Better yet, avoid it.

Don't act like a cliché whore, lesbian, gay, or pimp, says Schurtleff. Similarly, when you write about marginalized people, don't focus on clichés. Even the criminally insane may have "outward behavior ... no different than anyone else's; it is the interior emotional life that is important to explore" (p. 161). Find the common humanity in the outward behavior. Superimpose that humanity with a unique, deep, rich inner world. Only then will you bypass the cliché—and do a service to the people you explore.

When acting a disabled character, "strongly determine what you are fighting for, rather than drowning in [the character's] afflictions," says Shurtleff (p. 162). Similarly, when discussing people with disabilities, don't focus on their afflictions; focus on their dreams—the fight for what they want and need. An advocate with multiple personalities disorder might fight to change the system—so she, too, may one day have access to government-funded psychologists. Focus on the fight, not the affliction.

In acting, listening is reacting, feeling what you've heard, and making a difference with the way you react. When you listen to a lecture, don't just jot down what you hear verbatim. Instead, take notes *and* react with both your gut and a commitment to get proactive. In other words, when the professor speaks to you, respond with silent dialogue. If your professor said that people with intellectual disabilities deserve an education, what would you think? I responded by helping one child labeled a "vegetable" get an education. To listen respectfully, react proactively.

Sometimes, revenge is creative—and not harmful or destructive. A doctor once told me, "Success is the best revenge." When we seek out revenge to prove naysayers wrong, we use revenge in a creative way. So, use revenge creatively in your student life. If your dad said you'd never amount to anything, then go chase that law degree. If your parents said you were selfish, then enroll in that social work or psychology program. Use revenge as a creative force—only.

Hollywood sells shock. And the shock worsens every decade. Many low budget international films sell story. I love wisdom. Which is best? You be the judge.

A paradox? I call it a creative spark!

Women of Interest

Lillian Moller Gilbreth was born May 24, 1878, in Oakland, California and died January 2, 1972, in Phoenix, Arizona. She was known for seminal contributions to human factors engineering and ergonomics that came to be known as Therblig. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Therblig>) Lillian married Frank Gilbreth and they began a business together and eventually had twelve children. Following Frank's untimely death, Lillian Gilbreth was the sole supporter of the family. She continued the work she had started years earlier which was trying to find ways to save time and energy for homemakers so they would have more time to enjoy their family life. Gilbreth created the foot pedal trash can; and developed shelves for the inside of refrigerator doors. Two of her children coauthored two books, *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *Belles on Their Toes*, which were about life in the Gilbreth home. Lillian Gilbreth received many awards and in 1921 became the first female member of the Society of Industrial Engineers.

Lots more information on this remarkable woman can be found at the following websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lillian_Moller_Gilbreth

<http://gilbrethnetwork.tripod.com/bio.html>

<http://faculty.webster.edu/woolfm/gilbreth2.html>

In Conversation ..with Speedy Johnson

Wanda Waterman



Speedy Johnson is a Montreal-based surrealist minstrel who's long divided his creative energies between the meaningful and the absurd. After having contributed his talents to the performing stage with friends for years (notably the band Ol' Savannah), this month he released his astoundingly marvelous debut solo album, *Before It's Dark* (read the *Voice* review [here](#)). He recently took the time to talk to us about French literature, Montreal as co-writer, and artistic goals (one of which may involve deranging of the senses).

What role did music play in your childhood?

Beatles' records dominated my early childhood. I used to play a snare drum—an upturned cylindrical metal trash can, and would kick the snare case while my younger brother played electric guitar and sang songs that he wrote. We were probably nine and seven years old at the time. I never became a good drummer, but we knew how to rock n' roll.

What or who in your musical training had the most—and best— influence on you, as a musician, a composer, and a human being?

I guess I'd thank Don Henley most of all. He cancelled a show back in the fall of '99 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, not too far from where I grew up. Bob Dylan and his band picked up the date fairly last minute, and I ended up going. I remember hearing "Masters of War" during that set and being blown away.

What was the most mesmerizing musical experience of your life?

Performing or performance unto itself is undeniably the driving force to creation. I write and record in order to perform. The connection that exists between the performer(s) and the audience is indelible. Can't say there would be one specific experience that beats out the rest, but I can always seem to go back to and recall some pretty great moments, or hear certain songs the way they were played on a given night.

What's the meaning of those strange sounds you make in "Ua Mau (Pussy Cat)?"

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono is the motto of Hawaii. It translates to "The life of the land is maintained by righteousness." Wrote that tune right after Obama won his first presidential election, and a few months after I arrived in Montreal.

What life conditions do you require in order to go on being creative?

Food, money, wine, whiskey, friends, at least one string.

Is Montreal an inspiring city for you?

Montreal can be considered a co-writer to almost all of the songs on this album. I don't think there's anywhere else in the world I could have moved to when I did and found that I could create as much as I have over these past 10 years without going hungry.

What do you feed your muse? Are there any books, films, or albums that have deeply influenced your development as an artist?

François Rabelais is in "A Ship Full of Demons." Arthur Rimbaud can be found in "Assez eu." I spent a lot of time reading French writers in university—not always the ones for classes. The list of artists that have inspired me could go on and on.

If you had an artistic mission statement, what would it be?

I feel like the goal of the artist should be to threaten the establishment and question the status quo, all the while projecting love upon the world. Other times I feel like the goal is to derange one's senses enough to somehow glimpse the unknown, never quite being capable of expressing it, but having seen it to at least be better off.

What will you be doing after the album's release?

Touring around Quebec. One show in Ottawa. I also have a recording date set up for some new Ol' Savannah songs at the end of April. Then, I'm heading down to Georgia for a month to see an old friend and drummer who I'll be getting up to speed for an Ol' Savannah European tour (Oct/Nov 2017). I mainly plan on playing a bunch of country blues while down South.

Wanda also writes the blog The Mindful Bard: [The Care and Feeding of the Creative Self](#).



Canadian Science News

Scott Jacobsen



Marching for Science

Maclean's reported that many Canadians are making plans for the March for Science. They will be marching, Maclean's notes, more for solidarity with Americans for their science rather than issues in Canada.

The United States has undergone significant funding cuts in various areas of research, which has affected their research labs and initiatives. Canadians have been "volunteering time and server space to preserve vulnerable data.

The attraction of global talent is an issue in the 21st century. Canadian universities have seen a "surge" in 2017 of applications. Also, Canada has a "new role as a seed bank," which is "where science goes for safekeeping."

McGill University Researchers Looking into Metal Fuels

CBC: Technology stated that cars in the future could be fuelled by iron powder rather than gasoline. Canadian researchers at McGill university have made this a goal in their study of the combustion capabilities of metal for a "cleaner, greener alternative for our vehicles."

There was a recent experiment launched into space for more data for analysis on the combustion capabilities. Based on the experiment, the scientists were better able to know "how metal particles react in weightlessness."

"Metal fuel is created when a metal is ground into a powder, which is then fed into a burner," CBC: Technology said, "It's so efficient that it releases as much energy as gasoline does — but more energy and heat is generated per litre of iron powder, compared to one litre of gas."

An Indo-Canadian science program collaboration

According to a brief report from [Mathrubhumi](#), there is a collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology, and The India-Canada Centre for Innovation Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS).

The intent is "to promote multidisciplinary research partnerships." There are 5 initiatives intended to address the Clean Water technologies issue. These are being implemented in departments at 572 lakhs and has "matched funding from Canada." 1 Lakh is 100,000 rupees (Rs). 57.2 million Rs is about \$1.2 million Canadian dollars.

The technologies are being developed for implementation in India. They are "being adapted and modified for Indian conditions. Technologies developed will be taken for feasibility studies and shall be implemented on pilot scale within two years," according to Shri Y.S. Chowdary, the minister of state for the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Federal funding for research less than expected, and granting council funding "static"

"Wind chills here approached -30°C as Finance Minister Bill Morneau unveiled the Liberal government's second budget on Wednesday. Spring may eventually arrive in Canada's capital, but the deep freeze for Canada's research community will continue into fiscal 2017–18 as the granting councils received no significant boosts in funding," [Science](#) (AAAS) said.

The budget proposed by Morneau is \$247.7 billion. Last year's was \$236.4 billion. Researchers in the university system can use money for national programs intended to "promote innovation" including those devoted to the preparations for the "health risks posed by climate change."

One main take-away from the new budget is the modification of the existing programs. Also, granting council funding is "static," which means the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council will have the same financial support as last year.

Canadian clean technology research behind 11 other countries

According to the [National Observer](#), clean technology research and its "influence and reach" relative to and in the international scientific community is "mediocre at best." This is based on "results of a federal review panel," which examined the federal support for science.

Canada was behind 11 other countries with respect to "research articles and review papers published on clean" technology from 2011-2015. This is based on reporting from the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science.

"Canada's share of global publications in clean technology has been just 3.1 per cent in that time period," National Observer said, "and has hovered around the three per cent range for 15 years, according to the report, "Investing in Canada's Future: Strengthening the Foundations of Canadian Research."

Scott Douglas Jacobsen is the AUSU VPFA. He works with various organizations, and runs In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal, and In-Sight Publishing.



Me and my Place in the Tribe

You know how sometimes you look around at your tribe and wonder, "Who the hell are these people and how can I possibly be related to them?" I'm happy to report that, as most of us gathered for Easter Sunday dinner at my mom's, the thought never once entered my head. It's not that I'm above that kind of thinking; God knows I've done my share in the past.

But something has shifted. The prism I'm looking through is softer, kinder, gentler. Cynical me is being supplanted by someone *choosing* a different way of looking at things. Maybe it has to do with remembering that I chose **kindness** as my 'one perfect word.' Readers may recall that in the New Year I chose to follow Debbie Macomber's lead in choosing one word, one concept to focus on for an entire year. Initially, my motives may have been suspect. I thought it would help with self-kindness. Treating myself at least as well as I treat others would be a step in the right direction. Who among us hasn't endured those continuous play, destructive internal, self-talk tapes?

Anyway, that's one theory.

On Sunday I recognized that the matriarchs (mother and favourite aunt) of the family are feisty, old broads who are healthy, involved, and generous. My sisters and I are capable, caring people who married solid, salt of the earth guys. Together we had seven offspring. While each of those young adults chose a different path they are all, in their own right, successes. With the exception of one, they are all homeowners. I heard about job promotions and raises and improved working conditions. Most of them have traveled far, far further than their parents. Only three are married, though one is engaged and the other is common law. They appear to have chosen well. Their partners have added depth to the family. The married ones have five kids between them. Those grandkids are leading balanced lives of opportunity and privilege. They're smart, well behaved, healthy.

Some of these very people have ticked me off in the past. Or like me, done something dumb or unkind that lives on in family lore. But, in the end it doesn't matter. As a group, we've been blessed. No serious health issues. No birth defects. No life-shattering addictions. No jail time or chronic unemployment. Just one divorce. Enough money to do what needs to be done. Plus extras. A retirement plan and hopefully the good health to enjoy it.

As we talked Trump, politics, and the Oilers; admired grandkids; shared a meal; compared ailments; I enjoyed these people and our time together. A sister and brother-in-law did the 23andme DNA test and shared some of the reports. I'm intrigued and want to spit in a vial too. It might also mesh nicely with my kindness focus. It might explain a few things. Then again, imagine what it could reveal about me and my place in the tribe, from where I sit.



The New Socialization

Dear Barb:

My husband and I have been together since we were teenagers and we are now in our mid thirties. We have always gotten along well and shared similar interests. We have two children who we both love tremendously. Bit in the last six months I have noticed a growing distance between us. My husband is pursuing new interests and doesn't seem to want me involved, and to be honest I'm not really interested anyway. He has taken up golf and bowling: two activities that do not appeal to me. Along with these new activities, he has met a whole new group of people. I fear that our relationship is changing and we will just continue to drift. I don't know whether I should see this as a new phase in our relationship and develop some of my own interests, or should I see this as the beginning of the end. I would appreciate some advice. Thanks, Bonnie.

Hi Bonnie:

The message I am picking up from your letter is that you have a good marriage, but recently you are feeling insecure about your husband's new interests. Your insecurities are normal. What you are feeling may simply be growth within the relationship and growth as individuals. Relationships change just as people change. Don't overreact. Develop some of your own interests but remember save time for each other. If you overreact this may cause a serious rift in your relationship and your husband will not want to speak to you about his new activities and as a result you will definitely grow apart. I suggest you enjoy this phase of your relationship Bonnie.

Dear Barb:

I have been dating my girlfriend for six months. Everything is good, except she is always on social media. When we are out for dinner it is very annoying when our evening is constantly being interrupted. I have been joking with her about how often she checks her Facebook, but I haven't had the courage to tell her how I really feel. Am I being unreasonable to want to have an uninterrupted dinner with my girlfriend? Daniel.

Hey Daniel:

Thanks for writing and no you are not being unreasonable. You said you have been joking about your girlfriend checking her Facebook, I think you need to have a serious discussion about how you really feel. Obviously, she doesn't realize the extent to which this is bothering you since you are joking about it. It's best to talk about these things early in the relationship before resentment begins or it becomes a habit. If you approach her in a non-confrontational manner you both should be able to discuss this. Suggest that during dinners or movies etc. that she turn off her social media, so your time together will be exclusive. It is a healthy in a relationship to spend time together without interruptions.

Follow Barb on twitter @BarbGod

Email your questions to voice@voicemagazine.org. Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality; your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.

AGITATIN' BUNNY

IN:

GAPING VOID



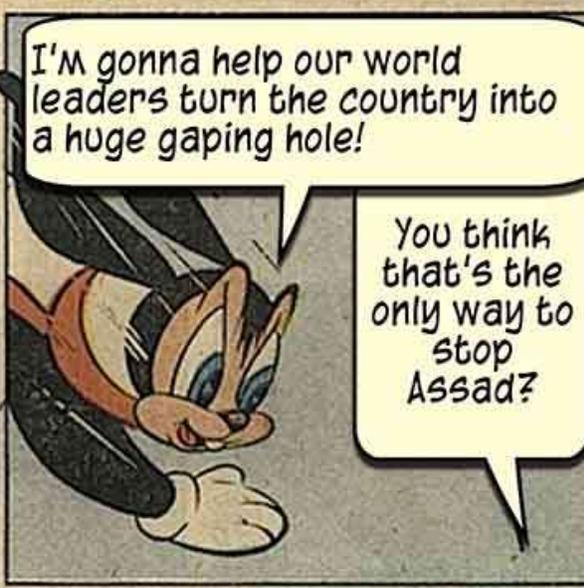
I can't wait to tell Captain Underground about my latest plan of derring-do!

389/



Hey, Captain Underground, I'm headin' fer Syria!

What the hell-?!



I'm gonna help our world leaders turn the country into a huge gaping hole!

You think that's the only way to stop Assad?



It was Assad's idea!

WRITTEN BY WANDA WATERMAN



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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Apr 28:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for June](#)
- **Apr 30:** [Deadline to apply for 2017 Convocation](#)
- **May 5:** [Deadline to finish courses for 2017 Convocation](#)
- **May 10:** [Deadline to register in a course starting June 1](#)
- **May 14:** [AUSU Council Meeting](#)
- **May 15:** [June degree requirements deadline](#)
- **May 28:** [Deadline to apply for course extension for July](#)

Awards and Bursaries- Deadline May 1

Applications are now being accepted for AUSU's May cycle awards and bursaries. Each award is worth **\$1000**.

Academic Achievement Award (2 available): For students who have achieved academic excellence.

AUSU Bursaries (5 available): For students in financial need and/or with exceptional life circumstances.

Balanced Student Awards (2 available): For students who balance multiple commitments.

Returning Student Awards (2 available): For students who have returned to studies after a long break of two or more years.

Single Parent Bursary (2 available): For single parents in financial need.

Student Service Awards (2 available): For students who do volunteer work.

Make note: all AUSU awards and bursaries require a minimum of *12 AU undergraduate courses completed with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Apply online [here](#). **DEADLINE: MAY 1.**

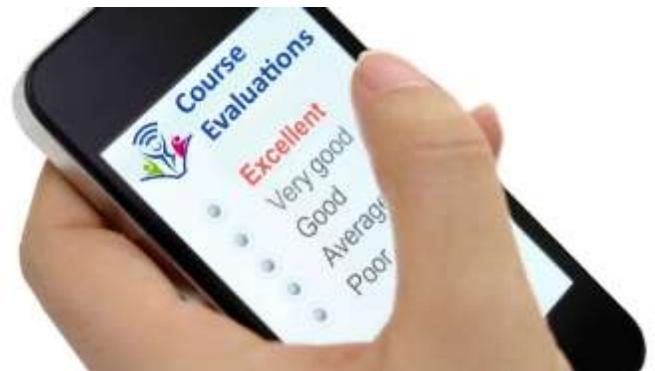


AUSU
Awards &
Bursaries
Deadline
MAY 1

Course Evaluations

Completed any AU courses in the past year? Please fill out an AUSU Course Evaluation online [here](#).

AUSU's course evaluations are available anytime. Also, although they are completely confidential, you can see the evaluation results online as well! The more evaluations receive, the more useful the information is!



Eyewear Savings

AUSU has partnered with FYidoctors to bring some great eyewear savings to our membership.

Discounts include:

- Select brand name frames starting at \$200
- Everyday value packages starting at \$159
- 20% off upgrades, lenses, and non-scrip sunglasses
- 10% off contacts

Find our more on the AUSU website [here](#).



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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