



March Newsletter

President's Message

I hope this message finds you enjoying some spring-like weather. Thank you to everyone who stepped forward to run in the elections for the 2016/2017 AUGSA Executive. It's never easy to put your name forward and I wish all of you the best of luck.

If you would like to get involved outside of the executive please consider running for a position as a Faculty Representative on our Council. There are monthly meetings with the option to sit on committees like Engagement or Governance.

Finally we will be posting the results of our survey on our website shortly. Briefly I am happy to say that close to 400 members completed the survey and the data we got will help us shape our advocacy work in the next year. Keep an eye out for more information.

Cynthia Gordon, President

Election 2016:

Have a look at these fabulous folks running for Executive positions on AUGSA for 2016-17 as follows:

Candidates running for President of AUGSA:

Teagan Gahler:

My name is Teagan Gahler, I am currently pursuing my Masters of Arts - Integrated Studies with a focus in Leadership Development. Last year I served the Athabasca graduate students as the Vice-President Academic for AUGSA. Through this role I worked with

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Athabasca University and students to ensure graduate students needs were being heard and acted on. I believe that my experience as AUGSA's Vice-President Academic would set me up perfectly to serve as AUGSA's President for the 2016/17 academic year. Currently, I work at the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region in corporate relations and campaign management.



Teagan Gahler

Michael Lalande:

Michael Lalande has held a variety of positions, with the common competencies of leadership (technical, business and people), entrepreneurship and communication skills that cross the business and technical domains. With experience in financial services, retail and technology companies, a 360 degree focus on people relationships and pragmatically approaching solution delivery has driven positive business results. Current focus is on refining my leadership skills through Athabasca's eMBA program and exercising these leadership skills by managing business and technology senior leadership to drive multiyear, multi-million dollar program solution architectures for RBC Insurance.

For more information, please see my LinkedIn profile: <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/mlalande>



Michael Lalande

Candidates for Vice President Operations and Finance:

Margaret Clappison

Margaret Clappison, BIS, MBA, CPA, CGA

Using my professional skills as AUGSA's Vice President of Operations and Finance would be an honour. Participation on AUGSA's governance and engagement committees and helping organize the Graduate Student conference illustrates my commitment to governance, ethics, high standards, and internal controls. I worked in public practice and industry as a CPA, CGA and lived in the UK. As the local CGA chapter PD chair for five years, I have organized seminars and co-organized two-day conferences between chapters. As a DBA student, I have starting working on my research proposal on corporate social responsibility.



Margaret Clappison

Govind Pillai:

Govind Pillai holds professional designations as a Chartered Professional Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant. He has completed a degree in business and is now continuing his learning as a graduate student. Govind has been elected to represent numerous student bodies including: President and Vice President External of the NAIT Students' Association, Director of Finance for the Alberta Student Executive Council, and has served on three non-profit boards, including Volunteer Alberta. Govind thoroughly enjoys representing students and has utilized his knowledge of business operations and his passion for post secondary education to strengthen his community throughout his career



Govind Pillai

Candidates for Vice President Academic:

Lisa Gray:

My name is Lisa Gray and I am a second year Master of Counselling student. I have a Social Service Worker diploma and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Before starting graduate school, I was a Student Success Coordinator at a College.

I am currently living in Calgary, Alberta with my husband, who is also an Athabasca student. I completed the last two years of my undergraduate degree with Athabasca. I am passionate about Athabasca University and would be honoured to serve on the Executive Committee and represent the voice of AU Graduate Students.



Lisa Gray

Steve Green:

Good Day Everyone, I'm in the final stage of MAIS, served as your FHSS representative for two years on AUGSA, soundly preparing me for VP Academic. I've been an AU Grad Student for three years, presented at AUGSA Grad Conference, and attended AU-FHSS Strategic Planning sessions in 2015. I have a progressive approach to representing AUGSA. I boldly and represent all Grad Students. I refuse to permit your student voices to be muzzled/prematurely silenced. Background: community engagement and project management; urban agriculture; social enterprises; writing. Previous work: penitentiary; transitional housing for homeless. I specialize in implementing project vision into reality.



Steve Green

Lisa Schultz:

Lisa Schultz, MAIS program student.

Born in Timmins, ON, I worked as a land surveyor, Personal Support Worker and Occasional Teacher while earning my BA in Philosophy/English at the University of Guelph.

Thirteen years ago, I became a sandwich generation caregiver for my ailing parents and aunt while having my four kids, now 8-12 years.

With all my kids in school and my elderly folks gone, earning my MAIS degree and volunteering as Assistant Editor of the Journal of Integrated Studies are bridges for my return to professional life — hopefully along with serving as AUGSA's Vice-President Academic.



Candidate for Vice President External:

Jamie Czerwinski: **Won by acclamation**

I am an Edmonton, Alberta native -- born and raised. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Computing Science and Mathematical Sciences from the University of Alberta in 2012, and am currently in my first year of a Master of Science in Information Systems at AU. I have worked for small businesses, charities, and government in administration, fundraising, IT, program delivery, and research, and currently work for TELUS in software development and customer support. I am also a proud union member. As VP External, I promise to work hard to get AU grad students the best deal possible.



James Czerwinski

Please ensure that you vote for AUGSA Executive when the polls are open March 12-14. We would like to see a representative turn-out at the polls this year.

Faculty Representatives Election

Faculty Representatives will be elected in March/ April with nominations open on March 16 and polling April 3, 4. Watch for news coming to you via email to nominate yourself for Council as a representative for your AUGSA council. There is a monthly honorarium paid to Council members for attending meetings.

Student Life Line:

This service is offered to you on behalf of AUGSA. Student Life Line offers monthly links to help you in a number of areas of your life. Click on the PDF link to see the topic this month: [PDF](#)

To access full free services go to: www.lifeworks.com

To access more areas of Student Life Line simply login with username: AUGSA and password: wellness

Graduate Student Conference 2016- “Research Beyond Borders”

Owing to our success last year Athabasca University and the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association are co-hosting the 2016 Graduate Student Conference in Edmonton, Alberta on September 16, 17, and 18th. The conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Conference Centre at 4485 Gateway Blvd on the South Side of the city. This is a new venue this year.

The conference is an opportunity for graduate students from AU and elsewhere to present their research, seek feedback, gain experience, network, and come together with other students in an academic forum. The evening of the 16th will include a reception, with student research presentations on the 17th and the morning of the 18th.

The conference steering committee is presently seeking volunteers for a number of subcommittees including IT, marketing and sponsorship, registration and other day-of support. If you are interested, please contact AUGSA's Executive Director, Ross Tyson, at ed@augsa.com with a brief description of your experience and skills and any preference for placement. Some committees (such as day-of support) require the volunteer to be in Edmonton, but many others do not.

Here is a list of the committees that you are able to serve on:

- 1) Social, Venue, Food
- 2) Peer Review Committee
- 3) Program
- 4) IT
- 5) Marketing and Sponsorship, and
- 6) Conference Day

Part time Job Opportunity

During the spring/summer of 2016, students from Australia, Brazil, China, France, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Vietnam will come to Canada to complete a 12-week research internship at a Canadian university through the Mitacs Globalink program. Most of our Globalink Research Interns (GRIs) have never been to Canada and they will need on-the-ground support during their stay. We are hiring a small but mighty group of mature students to help our GRIs get settled, work hard, see Canada, and participate in all we have to offer! Mitacs is seeking undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students to

work as Globalink Mentors for the summer of 2016. As a Globalink Mentor, you are expected to commit on average five hours/week to this four-month or five-month position, and will be compensated \$1,400 CDN and \$1,700 CDN, respectively.

For more information Email: globalinkhire@mitacs.ca

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Attention all Thesis-Route Master's and Doctoral Students

Are you ready for the Three Minute Thesis?

Can you explain what your thesis is about in lay language and in 3 minutes?

If not, attend the *Preparing a Successful 3MT Presentation* being held by *Kathleen Kelava*, AU's internal winner from the 2015 competition

AU's 2016 internal 3MT competition will be held in March 16, 2016

To register, contact fgs@athabascau.ca by March 11, 2016

Cash prizes available - provided by the Research Centre

The winner from AU's internal competition will go on to compete in the Western Regionals hosted by University of British Columbia, Okanagan on April 29th in Kelowna, BC.

See more - <http://fgs.athabascau.ca/news/announcements/>

Contact fgs@athabascau.ca for more information