



December Newsletter

President's Message

Hello AU Graduate Students!

Vice President External, Heather DeBoer and I are currently in cold and snowy Ottawa to meet with MPs and Senators as part of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Advocacy Week 2018. With about 150 meetings and over 60 student delegates, CASA has one of the biggest advocacy weeks in Ottawa. We are advocating for post-secondary student needs, and in particular two asks that involve graduate students, as well as consulting with stakeholders like the Mental Health Commission of Canada. Our work and advocacy with CASA is just one of the many projects that AUGSA representatives are involved in to make sure that graduate student voices are heard at all levels of government. You can read about CASA's advocacy priorities and more at <https://www.casa-acae.com>.

With December starting, I hope everyone is able to take a break from their studies and have a chance to spend time with family and friends. We wish you a happy holiday season and a new year full of health and happiness!

All the best,

Lindsay McNena

President, AUGSA

Volunteers for our 2019 Research Conference:

We are looking for a small number of volunteers to serve as Committee chairs for our 2019 Graduate Student Research Conference which will take place in September/October time frame in Edmonton.

Some of the committees are listed below with a description of duties/ expectations for each. We anticipate starting our meeting dates in January for the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee: (meeting monthly at least) This is the main planning group consisting of the Steering Committee Co-Chairs, the Program Committee chair, the IT Committee chair, Registration Chair, Venue Committee Chair, and as we move the planning forward pertinent chairs will join in.

Steering Committee	This committee co-ordinates the various committees; makes decisions regarding the theme of the conference and speakers; structure and membership of committees (although individual committee chairs may find their own volunteers); responsible for the budget and contracts; facilitates communication between the committees; approves program
Social/Venue/Food Committee	Negotiate venue contract; confirm number of meals; types of meals/breaks; confirm dietary restrictions; deal with venue and catering staff during the conference; arrange and confirm entertainment for conference.
Peer Review Committee	Develop Call for Abstracts announcement, online submission form, with instructions; receive the abstracts; review all abstracts, provide feedback to submitters, give deadline for receipt of revisions; receive resubmissions; ensure all abstracts and bios have been received, and formatted consistently(check for spelling, correct degrees, title); sort poster versus paper presentations and virtual versus in-person presentations; work with program committee on types of abstracts and presentations.
Program Committee	Provides ideas to Conference Planning committee regarding topics, names of speakers, number of speakers; organization of the program; sorting of presentations and rooms and times; proofing of the final program; works with Peer Review committee when receiving abstracts, bios, from them; confirms speakers, times, topics; obtains the bios of the speakers; has discussions with speakers regarding travel, honorarium, hotel room and other expenses; makes arrangements for out-of-town speakers as needed; prepares thank-you cards (and small gifts) for speakers to present to them at conference; makes arrangements for announcements RE: changes in programs with the Conference Day committee; works with IT committee and Conference Day committee on IT needs and tripods,...for the various modes of presentation and delivery; works with IT committee on assigning a facilitator and an IT moderator to each room at the conference; work with IT committee in training of facilitators and moderators.
Finance Committee	Oversees the budget; works with AU regarding online registrations and registrations during the conference; reports to the Overall Conference Planning committee RE: revenues and expenses; prepares a preliminary budget and makes changes as needed;

<p style="text-align: center;">IT Committee</p>	<p>Develops and loads the system for abstract submission; identifies someone to assist submitters with problems; loads program, power points,...into system for all conference participants to access; determines the appropriate technology; assesses venue for adequacy of technology; makes arrangements with venue regarding appropriate equipment and supplies that are provided by venue and by AU; arranges for identifying, delivering and returning AU equipment; arranges for AU staff to be available for AC, internet issues,; Obtains teleconference numbers (4) from AU; provides directions with passwords for all conference participants; arranges for technology in each room and for adequate video and audio for in-person and virtual participants and speakers; assigns IT individuals to each room at the conference; arranges practice sessions at hotel in September to test equipment; work with Program committee on training of facilitators and moderators.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Marketing Committee</p>	<p>Develops a plan to advertise the conference to all students and staff at various critical times leading up to the conference; prepares materials and templates for the program; call for Abstracts, name tags and arranges for printing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sponsorship Committee</p>	<p>Advancement and several other staff volunteered for this; create a list of potential sponsors; find individuals who could contact these sponsors; send thank you to sponsors; developed a sponsor information package; assign sponsors to a level; ensure they are recognized in the program on the website, and announced at the conference.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Conference Day /Registration Committee</p>	<p>Works with IT and Program Committees to ensure signs, tripods, posters are in appropriate locations and changes appropriately; provide box of equipment and supplies; arrange for volunteers at Registration desk and as 'gophers'; ensure announcements are done as needed; obtain cash box, credit card machine; arrange for stuffing of conference bags for in-person participants; arrange for 'helpline' for virtual participants and presenters and have a volunteer available to answer calls.</p>

Please forward your name and level of interest along to Ross Tyson, our Executive Director at ed@augsa.com by December 31, 2018.

Awards for AU Faculty- Outstanding Distinction

Our congratulations to the following instructors for their excellence in working with our students:

Academic Staff: Dr. Sandra Collins, Melissa Jay, Dr. Simon Nuttgens, Dr. Pamela Walsh

Non-Academic Staff: Kaitlyn Hilliard, Skylar Malito

Homewood Health – New Free Counselling and Help Services for AU Students

Homewood Health is a 24-hour help service available to all AU graduate students. Student Lifeline is no longer being offered by AUGSA. We have been proud to offer these services on

behalf of students for the last six years. Watch for increase in other services and opportunities in the New Year from AUGSA.

The University has now taken on the online health program offered by Homewood Health. See the announcement from AU: <https://news.athabascau.ca/announcements/introducing-a-new-mental-wellness-support-program-for-students/>

External Scholarship: **The Heer Law Entrepreneurship Scholarship**

'At Heer Law, we know students have great entrepreneurial ideas. We also know that many startup businesses start by bootstrapping whereby the initial funding comes from the founder's personal funds. For young entrepreneurs, a lack of personal funds combined with educational costs can seriously stall the progress they make in moving their business ideas forward.

So, we've set up a scholarship to help. To apply for the scholarship please send us, in confidence, a copy of the business plan for your current or prospective business, together with the details outlined in the scholarship criteria below. Since we are an intellectual property law firm, your business plan must include a section outlining your business's intellectual property strategy for our consideration.'

Heer Law Entrepreneurship Scholarship Criteria

In order to be eligible for the \$2000 CAD scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be currently attending university or college or set to attend during the 2018-2019 academic year;
2. Must be in good standing with their current or prospective institution;
3. Must apply via email and provide their name, address, university or college, major and expected graduation month and year;
4. Provide their application (a business plan for their current or prospective business which includes a section outlining intellectual property strategy) by December 31, 2018.

Applications will be judged on the strength of the business idea and the cogency of the business plan and intellectual property strategy. A winner will be chosen by January 31, 2019.

All submissions should be submitted via email to scholarship@heerlaw.com. All business plans submitted in application for this scholarship will be treated as strictly confidential.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Funding Opportunities

A number of external graduate awards are advertised on the FGS website. More info on these opportunities can be found on the FGS Funding Opportunities Page: <http://fgs.athabascau.ca/opportunities/index.php>

FGS Webinars

Challenges and Resiliency in Aboriginal Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Date: December 11, 2018

Presented by: Melanie Samaroden

Mode of Delivery: Adobe Connect

View the presentation abstract: http://alfresco-staging.athabascau.ca/alfresco/fgs-mvc/docs/Samaroden_Abstract.pdf

Register for this presentation: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fgs-presents-the-graduate-student-research-series-featuring-melanie-samaroden-master-of-counselling-tickets-52673469766>

Adventures in Indigenous Methodologies: Making Space for Métis-Specific Approaches

Date: January 11, 2018

Presented by: Dr. Chantal Fiola

Mode of Delivery: Adobe Connect

View the presentation abstract: http://alfresco-staging.athabascau.ca/alfresco/fgs-mvc/docs/DrFiola_Abstract.pdf

Register for this presentation: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/adventures-in-indigenous-methodologies-making-space-for-metis-specific-approaches-presented-by-dr-tickets-52828994946>