



## February 2020 Newsletter

### President's Message

AU Graduate Students,

For some of us, this is our first month of graduate studies, and for others it's close to the end of our academic journey. I am nearing the end of my own program with the Faculty of Business and upon reflecting on my educational experience with Athabasca University, I have learned a lot. Without a doubt, I am excited to (almost) be finished; however, I will miss my readings of texts, journals and articles as continual learning is a gift to cherish lifelong. As a drop in the bucket for advice, one student to another, here are some tips and insights I picked up along the way that enriched my experiences at AU while pursuing a graduate degree.

1. Foster the student relationships you make. You learn as much, if not more, from your fellow students and these are relationships that you can lean on and celebrate as friendships long past your graduation date.
2. Embrace how lucky we are to have access to higher education and maximize your learning to its fullest potential by reading and learning as much as you can while you have the chance. Enjoy the moment while achieving your long-term goal.
3. Make time for family and friends. Part of balancing online learning is balancing life too and carving out time that is meant for you.
4. At some point in your program, recognize you can be a source of inspiration, a mentor, to share advice with new students embarking on their journey. Consider the opportunity to give them the pointers or support you wish you had when you began your studies here at AU.

I wish you all a wonderful month and continued success in your academic pursuits. If you're looking for ways to expand your experience and become more involved in the AU/AUGSA community, please take a look at the information below regarding the upcoming elections.

Thank-you,

Meaghan Sullivan

AUGSA President

## AUGSA Awards

In 2019 AUGSA created a number of new awards and bursaries for its members. We now offer the following awards and bursaries:

1. Outstanding Distinction Award – 5 awarded annually – \$1125 – Apply by October 15
2. AUGSA Bursary – 8 awarded annually, twice a year – \$1000 –Apply by **March 1** & November 1
3. Computer Bursary – 5 provided annually for a computer valued up to \$700
4. Travel Bursary – 4 provided annually up to \$1000
5. Emergency Bursary – 5 provided annually up to \$700

Go to <https://www.augsa.com/resources/student-awards/> for more info.

## More awards for AU Graduate Students

These awards specific to AU grad students have upcoming application deadlines in February and March:

[AU Access to Students with Disabilities Education Bursary](#)

**\*\*\*Approaching deadline! Apply by March 15\*\*\***

[AU Award for a Mature Graduate Student](#)

**\*\*\*Approaching deadline! Apply by February 15\*\*\***

[AU Graduate Glass Ceiling Award](#)

**\*\*\*Approaching deadline! Apply by February 15\*\*\***

[Cathy Bray Essay Award](#)

**\*\*\*Approaching deadline! Apply by March 1\*\*\***

[Walker Family Master Of Counselling Scholarship](#)

**\*\*\*Approaching deadline! Apply by February 15\*\*\***

For more info on these and other awards please visit:

<http://registrar.athabascau.ca/studentawards/graduate.php>

More awards and financial assistance are available here:

[Government of Alberta Scholarships and Bursaries](#)

[Government of Canada Loans, Grants and Scholarships](#)

## Elections 2020

**Volunteer Elections Officer needed:** The Elections and Referenda Committee require a student at large to participate in the elections process. This is a short-term position wherein the selected student will work alongside Chris Fukushima, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) attending meetings as necessary. It is not expected that this position will require a significant time commitment, though the role is invaluable to the integrity of our elections process. Any interested students should email [ed@augsa.com](mailto:ed@augsa.com).

Please watch for additional Election 2020 information in our special edition newsletter on Feb. 17.

**Town Hall Dates:** The Engagement Committee will be hosting 2 “virtual town hall” style elections information sessions during the week of Feb 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Dates/times will be confirmed soon. Keep checking the AUGSA Facebook/Instagram/Twitter pages, as well as our website [www.augsa.com](http://www.augsa.com) for more information.

## AUGSA Social Media

Augsa has updated its social media pages including Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Linkedin. These pages will be monitored and updated much more frequently moving forward. Please follow to stay informed.

[Facebook link](#) / Instagram - @athabascaugsa

[Linkedin link](#) – Athabasca Graduate Students Association

Twitter - @augsa

Our website [www.augsa.com](http://www.augsa.com) will also be maintained on a regular basis with AUGSA news and information.

## Faculty of Graduate Studies

### AU'S 7TH ANNUAL 3MT COMPETITION

*Save the date!*

**MARCH 17, 2020**

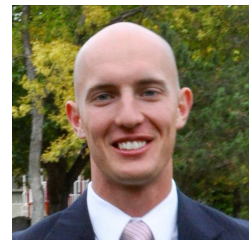


FGS is gearing up for the 2020 [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT®\)](#) competition which will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. March 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register.

Big news! MBA students (or any graduate students with an applied project) may compete this year!

Click the link above for more information, including registration information and timetables.

You may also wish to register for the webinar presentation [“Creating a winning 3MT presentation” by David](#)



[Purnell, last year's 3MT winner, on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.](#)

For more information on exciting Graduate Funding Opportunities, Events, Webinars and Announcements please visit the [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#) website.