January 2019 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello AU Graduate Students!

I hope everyone was able to take some time and spent it with the important people in your life, that we have all recharged our batteries, and that the New Year will see us all healthy, wealthy, and wise.

With a new year, I would encourage everyone to see if they are eligible for any of the scholarships from AU, including ones that might help you present your awesome hard work at a research conference! We've had several successful applications for the Graduate Citizenship Award and Outstanding Distinction Award – read on to see how you too can access the increase of scholarships being offered from AUGSA to AUGSA students.

Here's to a great start to 2019!

All the best,

Lindsay McNena

President, AUGSA

New Awards Policy Approved by AUGSA Council

Effective January 1, AUGSA has increased its Awards capacity by $19,000 annually.

Please have a look at our new awards and bursaries policy: https://www.augsa.com/about/policies-bylaws/

We are very proud to be adding to our awards a number of bursaries available to our students:

1. **AUGSA Bursaries** – (8 awards (4 per deadline) of $1000 each totaling $8,000);

2. **Computer Bursaries** – (5 awards of one computer valued up to $700 each totaling $3500);

3. **Travel Bursaries** – ($1000 maximum each; $4,000 initially budgeted);

4. **Emergency Bursaries** – (5 awards at $700 maximum each for a total of $3500)Volunteers for our

We will still offer our five **Outstanding Distinction Awards** annually. ($1125 each)

Elections 2019

We are looking for one student member to serve on our Elections and Referenda Committee commencing in February until this year's election cycle is completed in April. This will be at most one or two meetings called by the Chief Returning Officer. If interested please send an email to ed@augsa.com.

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;
IT Committee	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.
Marketing Committee	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.
Sponsorship Committee	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.
Conference Day /Registration Committee	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.

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 Graduate Students-
Outstanding Distinction
Our congratulations to the following graduate students for their excellence in achieving the Outstanding Distinction Award for 2018:

Debra Dell

Gabrielle Heselton

Corine Kozuchowski

David Newman

David Thomson

Graduate Citizenship Awards (Province of Alberta)
Lindsay McNena

Heather DeBoer

Meaghan Sullivan

Our congratulations to all of our winners.

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

Dr. Chantal Fiola: Jan 11 , 1:00 pm
Dr. Chantal Fiola from the University of Winnipeg is back to give her presentation on *Adventures in Indigenous Methodologies: Making Space for Métis-Specific Approaches.* In her talk, she will be discussing the joys and challenges of using Indigenous methodologies in the context of her community-centred research on Métis relationships with ceremony. register to attend>>

Christopher Rudan: January 23, 2:00 pm. As part of the Graduate Student Research Series, FGS is pleased to announce January's showcased student, Christopher Rudan from the Master of Counselling Program. His talk *Transgender Mtf Youth and the Sex Industry: Determinants and Risks,* sheds light on the needs of those employed in the sex industry. register to attend>>

Dr. Hongxing Geng: Feb 5, 2:00 pm: Get a doctoral degree while working full time? It seems impossible, but it's not! Dr. Hongxing Geng tells his story on how he did it and provides tips and strategies so that you can too in his talk *How to Get a PhD While Working*.   register to attend>>