



January 2020 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

### President's Message

Hello Graduate Students,

First and foremost, Happy New Year! I hope that you were able to enjoy the holiday break, spend time with family and friends, and recharge.

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to the AUGSA Council for a fantastic and memorable 2019 year. Accomplishments include working collaboratively with Athabasca University on student representation, the delivery of another successful graduate student research conference, distribution of student awards, advocacy representation at the federal and provincial government, and the development of a 3-year strategic plan. I would also like to welcome our newest staff member, Bob Cole, in his role as Communications Coordinator.

In February, AUGSA will be preparation for elections for Executive and Council positions. I encourage anyone interested in becoming more involved with AUGSA to please contact us for more information. We look forward to hearing from those interested and will gladly discuss the opportunities available.

Meaghan Sullivan

President

### New Communications Coordinator Hired!

Bob Cole has been hired as our new Communications Coordinator. Part of his role will be the production of this newsletter and updating our website: [www.augsa.com](http://www.augsa.com). Please join us in welcoming Bob to our team. Bob can be reached at [BobCole@augsa.com](mailto:BobCole@augsa.com)

### Elections 2020

#### Executive Committee Election Nominations

Executive Committee nominations will open on February 22 and close on February 28 at 4 pm MST. If you are thinking about running for one of our paid executive positions but aren't sure, please reach out to any of the current Executive Committee members and ask any questions that might help you decide!

Meaghan Sullivan, President – [president@augsa.com](mailto:president@augsa.com)  
Mary-Anne Parker, VP External – [vpexternal@augsa.com](mailto:vpexternal@augsa.com)  
Heather De Boer, VP Operations and Finance – [vpof@augsa.com](mailto:vpof@augsa.com)  
David Thomson, VP Academic – [vpacademic@augsa.com](mailto:vpacademic@augsa.com)

The deadline for submitting nominations is February 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm Mountain Time. A separate email will be forthcoming on February 17 to describe the positions and will include the self-nomination form. <https://www.augsa.com/news/2020-elections/>

### **AU/AUGSA Graduate Student Research Conference- fall 2020**

GSRC 2020 is in the planning stages! Thank you to the students who have stepped forward to volunteer their time at for the planning and implementation of this conference. We are still looking for additional volunteers. If interested simply email our Executive Director at [ed@augsa.com](mailto:ed@augsa.com). We ask you to watch this space for future information on our annual conference co-sponsored by AUGSA and the Faculty of Graduate Studies at AU.

### **Seventh Annual National Student Paper Competition**

I am pleased to inform you that the Seventh Annual National Student Paper Competition, organized by the Canada School of Public Service was launched on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are very pleased to announce that this year, due to the excellent submissions received during our last competition, the President of the Canada School of Public Service, his Deputy Minister colleagues, and the executives responsible for Federal Government – University relationships have promoted the competition and informed the university deans with whom they have relationships of this year's launch. In addition to their efforts, we would be grateful for your assistance in promoting the Competition on your campus, to ensure the broadest coverage as possible.

This competition, open to Masters and Ph.D. students in any faculty, offers a great opportunity for students to share their views on key policy questions, develop new ideas to improve the federal public service and allow these students to positively influence Canada's future. The winner of the competition gains the opportunity to join the Public Service under a four month contract, and the finalists get the opportunity to present their paper to a panel of Deputy Ministers. The Competition allows universities to share the successes of any student who advances to the finals to promote their programs and the university as a whole.

To ensure your students can participate, we ask that interested departments at your university register a professor to act as a departmental coordinator and reviewer. Please note that the 1,500-word submission can be built into the students' course requirements.

We encourage any interested professors and students to visit the [Institute of Public Administration of Canada website](#) for more information, including the call for papers and this years' Competition Guidelines.

I have set the AU internal deadline for the National Student Paper Competition for February 17, 2020. Submissions can be sent to: [fgs@athabascau.ca](mailto:fgs@athabascau.ca)

and we will have a committee review the submissions in FGS and send the top two papers to the national competition.

Shauna Reckseidler-Zenteno, PhD.

Vice Dean, Operations

Email: [shaunaz@athabascau.ca](mailto:shaunaz@athabascau.ca)

Phone: 1-866-894-1519

### **Cyberscitech 2020**

The AU Faculty of Science and Technology invites you to Cyberscitech 2020.

See information on this exciting conference held in Calgary, Alberta:

<http://cyber-science.org/2020/>

### **Faculty of Graduate Studies**

The latest update from the Faculty of Graduate Studies is [here](#).

### **Funding Opportunities**

Several 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>