



## July Newsletter

### President's Message

Hello AU Graduate Students!

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the students who both attended convocation in June or celebrated their graduation wherever they are in the world. Achieving a graduate credential is a huge accomplishment, and you all deserve recognition of the hard work you've put in!

One of the good news stories coming out of convocation was the Hon. Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education, announced a \$4.9 million grant to modernize the digital learning environment and IT infrastructure at Athabasca University. Athabasca University also bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Laws on Chief Wilton Littlechild, an Honorary Doctor of Letters on Aritha van Herk, and inducted Margaret Mrazek into the Order of Athabasca University.

With the upcoming Policy Strategy for CASA at the end of July, and the ab-GPAC retreat at the beginning of July, it is time again for AUGSA to consider advocacy priorities. I'm curious to hear what students think we should be focusing on: mental health, graduate grant funding, access to OERs, opportunities for academic employment as an RA or a TA? Please email me at [president@augsa.com](mailto:president@augsa.com) early in July, so I can bring our AUGSA concerns to both conferences and ensure our voice is heard both provincially and federally.

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer!

Cheers,

Lindsay McNena, President

President, AUGSA

### [Student Lifeline – Free Counselling and Help Services for AU Students](#)

Student Lifeline is a 24-hour help service available to all AU graduate students. Student Lifeline provides a variety of counselling and support services, free of charge. Access Student Lifeline online or by telephone:

URL: <https://app.lifeworks.com>

Username: AUGSA

Password: wellness

Telephone: 1-877-418-1537

**Student Conference:**



**2018 Graduate Student Conference**  
*Imagine: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities*  
**October 12-14, 2018**

Join us at the 2018 [Graduate Student Conference](#) on Oct. 12-14, 2018

**Featuring Keynote Speaker**

**Dr. Stefanie Ruel**



**Title of Keynote Presentation:** “At the margins of space: Transforming exclusionary social orders one story at a time”

In late 2017, Dr. Ruel successfully defended her dissertation and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Business Administration from Athabasca University.

Dr. Ruel was, until recently, a Senior Mission Manager in Life Sciences at the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), leading more than ten life sciences missions into space. She was also the Increment Payload Manager for Canadian Commander Chris Hadfield's return to space, aboard the International Space Station, in 2013. Dr. Ruel now holds an Assistant Professor position at Concordia University, John Molson School of Business. Her research agenda includes a critical examination of gender and diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) contexts, framed within intersectionality scholarship. She focuses on both historical and contemporary concerns in these STEM contexts, putting forth social justice initiatives to move individuals and society away from systemic discriminatory practices in organizations.

Take advantage of the early bird rate and [register for the conference today!](#)

The 2018 Graduate Student Conference will be held virtually and in-person at the Holiday Inn Conference Centre – Edmonton South on **October 12 - 14, 2018.**

View the [conference website](#) for more details.

### Funding Opportunities

Several external funding opportunities are available on the [FGS website](#)

### Internal Funding Opportunities

AU offers a number of graduate student awards.

Please visit the Student Awards Website for more details:

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

**Research Study: 'Women in online learning who have lived with depression: A descriptive phenomenological analysis'**

### PARTICIPANTS REQUESTED FOR RESEARCH INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN IN ONLINE LEARNING WHO HAVE LIVED WITH DEPRESSION

I am looking for volunteers to take part in a study of the experience of women who have lived with depression in post-secondary online learning contexts, I am conducting as part of the requirement to complete my degree at Athabasca University. To be included in this study you will:

1. Be registered in one of University of Athabasca's online degree granting programs (undergraduate or graduate).
2. Have completed at least three courses in your program. Have been diagnosed with depression by a health professional during your online studies.
3. Have recovered from depression.

As a participant in this study, you would be asked to participate in 2 interviews by phone or computer-mediated audio call of approximately 60 minutes for the first interview and 15 to 30 minutes for the second interview

For more information about this study, or to volunteer for this study, please contact:

Tracy Orr, Graduate Student, Doctor of Education in Distance Education  
at  
403-846-8717 or  
Email: [orr.tracyd@gmail.com](mailto:orr.tracyd@gmail.com)

Thank you for considering participating in this study.

This study is being conducted under the supervision of: Dr. Susan Moisey, Athabasca University

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through the Athabasca University  
Research Ethics Board

[Faculty of Graduate Studies](#)

[FGS Webinars](#)

### **Wikipedia and Academic Research Webinar, Thursday, July 5, 12-1 pm MT**

Many students turn to Wikipedia, the collaborative online encyclopedia, when carrying out research for assignments and papers. Wikipedia is not an appropriate resource to rely upon when carrying out university course work, but it can be a launching-pad to quality scholarly research. This webinar will show you how to use Wikipedia as a basic guide to finding scholarly resources, and how to critically evaluate Wikipedia articles.

The Adobe Connect link is: <https://athabascau.adobeconnect.com/library/>.

Questions or concerns? Get in touch with Jennifer Rempel ([jrempel@athabascau.ca](mailto:jrempel@athabascau.ca); 780-675-6257) for more information.

### **PRESENTING YOUR WORK AT A CONFERENCE**

**Date: September 11, 2018**

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (MT)

Presented by: [Linda McCloud-Bondoc](#)

Mode of Delivery: Adobe Connect

View the [presentation abstract](#)

To register for an upcoming presentation, please email [fgs@athabascau.ca](mailto:fgs@athabascau.ca)

### **A note from The Journal of Integrated Studies (JIS):**

*The Journal of Integrated Studies (JIS)* is produced by MAIS and MScIS student volunteers and coordinated by faculty member Dr. Reinekke Lengelle. This online journal includes peer-reviewed articles, poetry, narratives and cover art by graduate students (and from the AU art collection). Any graduate student nationally or internationally may submit work.

Each issue now also features an editorial by an AU faculty member. These guest editorials tell inspiring and humorous stories about the joys and pains of writing for academia.

The journal gives graduate students a chance to learn both sides of the peer-reviewed academic publishing process.

Winning poems from the recent poetry contest will appear in the next issue of JIS along with AU artwork.

The most recent issue has just come out, enjoy.

<http://jis.athabascau.ca/index.php/jis>