



## July 2019 Newsletter

### President's Message

Hello AU Graduate Students!

Congratulations to all the students who attended convocation in Athabasca, Alberta and to all Athabasca University graduates who celebrated their graduation from around the world. What an accomplishment! Athabasca University also bestowed an Honorary Doctorate degree to Rick Hansen and Commonwealth of Learning President Asha Kanwar at the ceremonies.

Please join me in welcoming Mary-Anne Parker as a new member of the AUGSA Executive team. As our newly appointed VP External, MaryAnne's efforts will continue the advocacy work we do with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC).

In June we had the opportunity to represent Athabasca University graduate students with the provincial government on advocacy work. While advocacy ranges vastly, we would like to hear from our graduate student population on current student priorities here at Athabasca University. In the next day or so you will see a survey from AUGSA, and I encourage you to take a few moments to complete the survey. You can also email me at [president@augsa.com](mailto:president@augsa.com).

AUGSA is busy right now planning the Graduate Student Research Conference taking place October 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Mark your calendar or register online. The conference is a great networking opportunity and a great opportunity to enhance your overall learning journey with Athabasca University.

Lastly, AUGSA's Annual General Meeting will take place on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00PM MDT. We encourage all our students to participate in this meeting to learn more about our organization.

Here is the information, link and agenda for our Annual General Meeting:  
<https://www.augsa.com/news/augsa-annual-general-meeting-july-16-2019/>

Thank-you,

Meaghan Sullivan

President

WE ARE *E-LIVE!*

Just a reminder that AUGSA has expanded their outreach via strategic online channels so that you, the grads, are connected to up-coming events, career news, industry trends, entrepreneurship, applied research trends, grants, government activities and the exciting research work you are doing at Athabasca University. In addition to our traditional newsletter, the following social media channels must be followed to stay connected with us, stay connected to the world as we are ONE AU:

Twitter: @augsa

Instagram: @athabascaaugsa

LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/2UqU9UN>

Facebook: <https://bit.ly/2EEZPFG>

Join us today!

**AU/ AUGSA 2019 Research Conference: Note change of date to October 25-27, 2019  
Graduate Student Research Conference 2019**

**The theme for the 2019 conference is “One AU”**

“If you want to go far, go together.” ~African proverb.

As stated in the Athabasca University strategic plan, *Imagine*, “We are one university. We achieve more together.” We embrace collaboration and connectivity among our diverse individual community members. We are a vibrant and inclusive community that welcomes and celebrates the success of our learners. We provide accessibility to education for everyone to achieve their individual learning goals and to reach their highest potential. Our learners are part of our community, and in turn can enrich their communities.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), the Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association (AUGSA), and the university community have come together again to present our annual Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC). To highlight the theme of “One AU” we will include the following topics through our keynote speakers, panel discussions, and student presentations:

1. Transdisciplinary research
2. Diversity
3. Inclusion
4. Accessibility
5. Connections and collaborations
6. Technology to support coordinated communities
7. Strengthening communities

We look forward to the participation of all graduate students, faculty, and staff.

*“One life, but we’re not the same, we get to carry each other” ~U2*

Please mark October 25, 26, 27 on your calendars to attend this conference in Edmonton at the [Executive Royal Hotel](#) at the Edmonton International Airport. Watch our newsletter and additional posts on our [website](#).

Once again, the link for the conference is: <https://augradconference.athabascau.ca/>

[With AWS Educate the world is your oyster \(reposted from last month\)](#)

We’ve heard the [news](#) about AU being the first Canadian post-secondary institution to officially collaborate with Amazon Web Services (AWS), and you might be wondering what it actually means for AU students.

In short, it could mean anything and everything! That is the beauty of the partnership and what students now have access to in AWS Educate. Whether you are in an information technology and/or business-related program and learning stream, or in the arts and humanities side of studies, how you – as an AU learner – decide to explore your goals, curiosities and creativity, is entirely up to you! Any entrepreneurial endeavor you may embark upon, or as your own employer goes through its digital transformation, the new models of service delivery and business design the cloud enables are a growing part of all our futures. And AU wants to bring that knowledge to you, for your own exploration!

With AWS Educate, AU learners have access to a range of tools and resources including \$75 in AWS Educate usage credits that you’ve been provided with to help explore the possibilities of innovation.

[insert [AWS Untold Stories YouTube video](#)]

Through AWS Educate, AU learners have access to:

- Career Pathways that develop and test your cloud knowledge with the ability to achieve badges or certifications;
- Online labs to develop hands-on skills and experience in utilizing the multitude of AWS services available;
- AWS training content;
- Job posts from top companies on the AWS Educate Job board.

As part of our partnership a special [AU AWS Educate registration page](#) has been set-up. To successfully register you will have to use your AU e-mail account as non-AU accounts will not be recognized. If you have not activated your AU e-mail account you can [follow the instructions here](#).

Your AU e-mail account is not only your key to AWS Educate, it opens the door to a broad range of [additional student benefits](#).

Please see the AWS data card: [here](#)

## 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>