



## June 2019 Newsletter

### President's Message

Hello AU Graduate Students!

### **Presidents Message**

Congratulations to our graduates who will be attending convocation this week and to all students who have graduated this year. I look forward to attending convocation, celebrating everyone's accomplishments, and meeting so many of our graduate students in person. Please note the announcement sent out by Athabasca University on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 regarding the relocation of convocation ceremonies from the Athabasca Multiplex to Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta.

Our hearts are with our graduate students in High Level and surrounding communities in Northern Alberta with the emerging wildfire situation. AUGSA provides emergency bursaries intended to reduce impacts to our student's academic journey due to unexpected circumstance. Athabasca University also provides bursaries if you are a student displaced or affected by a natural disaster. If you would like more information or require support, please reach out to AUGSA and we will assist our members any way we can.

Our Graduate Student Research Conference has been rescheduled for Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. This conference is an opportunity for AU students to showcase their planned, ongoing, and recently completed research. The call for abstracts is open and you can find more information here:

<https://augradconference.athabascau.ca/>

AUGSA is committed to advocacy at the federal and provincial level in pursuit of continually improving an accessible, affordable, and high-quality post-secondary education system in Canada. This month we had our VP External, President, and a Faculty Representative attend the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Foundations Conference in Ottawa where we reviewed federal advocacy issues, the politic climate, discussed the upcoming federal election, and had AUGSA representatives elected onto the following committees:

- Graduate Advisory Group – Lindsay McNena, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
- National Advocacy Committee – Meaghan Sullivan, President
- Member Relations Committee – Greg Vilks, VP External

One of the initiatives you may see soon is Get Out The Vote (GOTV), which is a national campaign to educate and raise awareness among the student population for the upcoming federal election on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank-you,

Meaghan Sullivan

President

WE ARE *E-LIVE!*

This Month, 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: @augsa\_oneau

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](#)

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>