



## April 2015 News

### AUGSA News:

### President's Message:



I want to start by saying 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has supported the executive team this year. We have had a fantastic time serving our student membership. Council members should be very proud of the work they have done to ensure we are always thinking **Students First**. The 2014/15 council was able to secure an agreement in partnership with AUSU to develop a mobile app that will be available for students in September 2015. We've ensured students have access to mental health services through the Student Life Line, as well as health and dental benefits. We've co-hosted a Grad Development Day in partnership with the Faculty of Grad Studies, and are working on the planning of the 2015 Graduate conference to be held in September, also co-hosted with FGS. This year AUGSA and AUSU will be sponsoring the student luncheons at convocation as a way of saying thank you to the students who support us. On a national level, we've had the honor of advocating for graduate students on parliament hill, and closer to home at the legislature in Alberta.

It's been a very busy, yet rewarding year. I know I personally will miss being involved with AUGSA, but I want to wish the incoming executive who will be taking office May 1<sup>st</sup> all the best, and I hope your year is as productive and exciting as ours has been.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> I will be walking into the sunset, but I won't forget this experience and will treasure the students I had the pleasure of interacting with and the amazing team I got to be a part of over the last year. Thanks Everyone!

With appreciation and gratitude, 2014/15 President, Lynde McKinley

## AUGSA Elections 2015

**Our executive election process is complete and we are pleased to say that we have a full slate of officers for the 2015-2016 year as follows:**

**President:** Cynthia Gordon



Cynthia is a student in the MA-IS program with a focus on Work, Organization, and Leadership. She has an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Guelph. She has worked in post-secondary education and the public sector and was first elected to AUGSA Council in 2013. She lives in Innisfil, ON, with her husband and 7 year old son.

**Vice President Operations and Finance:** Kat Hillier (re-elected)



Kat is the current VP Operations and Finance of AUGSA. With a year of experience, she is looking forward to beginning the 2015-2016 term with expertise. Kat feels confident that the skills and experience she has obtained through this past year in office have prepared her for the upcoming year and is most eager to represent grad students once again.

**Vice President External:** Ken McKinnon



Ken worked in IT management for 15 years and is employed at the Alberta College of Art & Design. He has been fortunate to be able to sit on multiple collective bargaining committees (representing management), so would be more than happy to share his experiences with AUGSA from a management perspective.

**Vice President Academic:** Teagan Gahler



Teagan is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts - Integrated Studies with a focus in Leadership Development. She has extensive working knowledge of students associations and postsecondary in Alberta; was the Vice President Academic, and the President of the NAIT Students' Association in 2011 and 2012 these roles were in a full-time capacity representing the student body on the NAIT Board of Governors and Academic Council. Currently, Teagan works at the United Way of the Alberta Capital region in corporate relations and campaign management.

We go to the polls April 3 and 4 to elect Faculty Representatives. Watch for that announcement.

**Graduate Student Conference:** (Now Taking Registrations!!)

Athabasca University and the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association are co-hosting the 2015 Graduate Student Conference in Edmonton, Alberta on September 25, 26, and 27th.

The conference is an opportunity for graduate students from AU and elsewhere to present their research, seek feedback, gain experience, network, and come together with other students in an academic forum. The evening of the 25th will include a reception, with presentations on the 26th and the morning of the 27th.

The conference steering committee is presently seeking volunteers for a number of subcommittees including IT, marketing, sponsorship, and registration and other day-of support. If you are interested, please contact AUGSA's Executive Director, Ross Tyson, at [ed@augsa.com](mailto:ed@augsa.com) with a brief description of your experience and skills and any preference for placement. Some committees (such as day-of support) require the volunteer to be in Edmonton, but many others do not.

The URL for the Graduate Student Conference is:

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

## **AUGSA Mobile App:**

Our newly developed Mobile App for your smartphones will become available on September 1! Watch for the exciting addition to our communication suite. The app will be entitled AU Students and will meet the needs of both undergraduate and graduate students of Athabasca University. This service is being brought to you by AUGSA and AUSU in partnership.

**Student Life Line:** This service offered to you on behalf of AUGSA.

Student Life Line offers monthly links to help you in a number of areas of your life.

Click each link below to access a PDF e-flyer containing a description of the topic, as well as your link to the resource.

- [Q1 2015 Newsletter](#)
- [Parenting and Sleep? \(PDF\)](#)

Simply log in **user name: AUGSA** and **password: wellness** to log in to your program website.

**Ceridian EAP/EFAP is here for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with expert help for work, life and everything in between.**

## Faculty of Graduate Studies News:

### 2015 AU Internal Competition

#### Attention all Thesis-route Master's Students and Doctoral Students

Athabasca University's Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) is participating in the Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT®)

AU's internal competition will be held virtually on **April 7, 2015**.

One winner from AU will be eligible to compete in the Western Competition on

**April 30, 2015** at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC

#### Cash Prizes

AU's Research Centre is sponsoring prizes for the top 3 AU contestants and travel funds for 1 AU winner to travel to

the Western Regional competition hosted by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS)

**1st Place AU FGS 2015 3MT award: \$1000 (plus up to \$800 travel expenses)**

**2nd Place AU FGS 2015 3MT award: \$500**

**3rd Place AU FGS 2015 3MT award: \$250**

Deadline to register is: **March 31, 2015**

Email the Faculty of Graduate Studies at [fgs@athabascau.ca](mailto:fgs@athabascau.ca) with the following information:

**Your Name, Student ID, Degree being sought, Program enrolled in, Supervisor & Title**

## Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship

Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures in partnership with the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education is providing scholarships intended to enable academically

superior graduate students to undertake full-time research education at an Alberta university, leading to a research-based Master's or Doctoral degree.

The structure of the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship program (GSS) is designed to connect scientific enabling platforms with strategically focused research areas. In Alberta, this means accelerating the development of the enabling platforms of [Information and Communication Technology \(ICT\)](#), [Nano](#), and [Omics](#), in support of the application areas of [Health](#), [Bio-industries](#), [Energy](#), and [Environment](#).

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 20, 2015**

Further information is available on our website at -  
<http://fgs.athabascau.ca/opportunities/index.php>