



September 2015 News

AUGSA News: Student APP Is Launched!!

AUGSA and AUSU create platform for student engagement

Our mobile app will provide students with access to other AU Grad and Undergrad students. Further, the app will provide students with scheduling and course information, program information and any and all AU events open to AU students. The purpose of the app is to aid us at Athabasca have an element of post-secondary life that we do not usually get in distance education - a space with which to grow and develop relationships with other students in preparation for our professional lives after school. Additionally, the app itself will help put faces to the names we have been reading online and thus, create strong, professional relationships with our colleagues for the future.

Kat Hillier, Engagement Committee



President's Message:

Hello AUGSA members! As summer is winding down there is a lot on the go at AUGSA. First and foremost is the Graduate Student Conference to be held September 25 – 27th in Edmonton, AB. Please visit the website for more information: <https://augradconference.athabascau.ca>. There is still time to register to attend either in person or virtually.

We are also excited to be launching our new Athabasca University Students app. I encourage all of you to download it to connect with other student and keep up with AUGSA. ([Athabasca University Students](#) in your app store) The app is a joint project with the undergraduate student's union (AUSU) and we are looking forward to your input to make it a useful tool.

And finally AUGSA has joined the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Get out the Vote campaign. The goal of the campaign is to motivate as many students to vote as possible. To pledge to vote visit <http://ausu.getoutthevote.ca/> and make a plan to get to the polls, take your kids if you can and introduce the next generation to the importance of having your say!

Thanks and Good Luck!

Cynthia Gordon
President
Athabasca University Graduate Students Association

AUGSA Awards for 2014-2015:

AUGSA is happy to announce the winners of the 2015 Outstanding Distinction Awards. Each recipient displays commitment to Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association and continues to be a leader in our community.

Student award winners

- **Josh McKeown**
- **Kathleen Kelava**

Academic staff award winners

- **Dr. Anshuman Khare**
- **Dr. Paul Jerry**

Non-Academic staff award winner

- **Vikki Bellerose**

AUGSA is still accepting applications for the Graduate Citizenship Award. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and leadership to fellow students and the community. AUGSA would like to encourage all students to review and apply for this award. More information can be found on our website.

<http://www.augsa.com/index.php/graduate-student-awards.html>

Also found on AU's website: [Student Awards](#)

Teagan Gahler, chair, Awards Committee

New Student Orientation:

AUGSA is presenting a session for new students that is designed to inform you about our organization and its place and purpose in Athabasca University. The orientations are booked for September 13 at 6 pm and a repeat session on September 14 at noon. To register please email vpa@augsa.com. These sessions will be online using GoTo Meeting.

Graduate Student Conference: “Research in Practice”

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, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Edmonton.

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 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://aogradconference.athabascau.ca/>

To book a room:

[Athabasca University Graduates Assoc.](#)

<http://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=ex&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=YEGED&PMID=99801505&GPC>

Some Interesting Facts about AU:

- AU researcher Dr. Martin Connors was one of a team of scientists that discovered the Earth's first known Trojan asteroid (Nature, July 28, 2011)
- Construction of a new and expanded AU Geophysical Observatory, with full sky cameras, was completed in 2012
- AU researcher Dr. Jeff Vallance is exploring the role of physical activity in improving the health of cancer survivors and the negative effects of sedentary behaviour.
- AU is home to Canada's only UNESCO Chair in Open Educational Resources.
- AU is also home to three Canada Research Chairs (in hydro ecology and environmental health, and computational sustainability and environmental analytics) and the NSERC/iCORE/Xerox/Markin Industrial research Chair in Adaptivity and Personalization in Informatics.
- AU Press, North America's first open access scholarly press, was launched at AU in 2008.

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.

[Tackling Your To-Do List \(PDF\)](#)

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.

See Student VIP options at: <https://www.studentvip.ca/augsa/>

Faculty of Graduate Studies News:

The Library is offering a free webinar via Adobe Connect for students from 6-7pm MT on Wednesday, September 2. The webinar will provide an orientation and overview of the Library and the services it offers. All students are welcome to attend.

Tutors are also welcome to attend, and AU Library is grateful to them for encouraging their students to attend our orientation sessions and for participating in past sessions.

The Adobe Connect link is: <https://connect.athabasca.ca/library/>.

Major topics include:

- Overview of AU Library collection (books, e-books, journal articles, databases etc.)
- Services available to students
- Tour of the Library website
- Basic search for journal articles
- Using the Library catalogue
- Finding full text journal articles from a citation
- Getting help for writing, citing, and research
- Reference librarians (an amazing resource available to students!)

Questions can be directed to Colin Elliott (coline@athabasca.ca; 780-675-6824) or Jennifer Rempel (jrempel@athabasca.ca; 780-675-6257).

Due Date Extended for the Write Site 10th Anniversary Academic Essay Contest

The due date for both the undergraduate and graduate categories of the Write Site 10th Anniversary Essay contest has been extended until midnight, September 8, 2015. This means that if you have a paper that you think is exceptionally well written, there is still time to enter and have a chance to win a free graduate or undergraduate course of your choice. All graduate and undergraduate students registered at Athabasca University can enter. Please see the submission details below. For further information, please contact the Write Site Coordinator, Linda McCloud-Bondoc, at lbondoc@athabasca.ca

Submission details

Entrants should submit to one of two categories: graduate students or undergraduate students. Duplicate essays submitted to both categories will not be accepted. All entrants must present a valid AU student number and are restricted to one submission per student number. Graduate essays should be between 1000-1500 words and undergraduate essays between 800-1000 words. Entries to both categories should be on topic of academic interest and should be in traditional essay form with a formal introduction and conclusion. Essays can be from any discipline at a graduate or undergraduate level, and assignments from AU courses that have been previously marked are eligible.

Judging

Submissions will be judged on choice and originality of topic, clarity of expression and thinking, thesis development, organization of ideas, essay structure and style, and adherence to grammar and punctuation conventions.

Submission deadlines

Submissions should be emailed to the Write Site Coordinator, Linda McCloud-Bondoc at lbondoc@athabascau.ca no later than midnight, September 8, 2015. Winners will be announced and notified by September 30, 2015.

Linda McCloud-Bondoc
Write Site Coordinator
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

2015 Graduate Student Research Fund (GSRF)

Application Deadline: Three times per year

February 10, May 10 and October 10

Graduate students involved in major research projects or theses, please be aware of the Mission Critical, Disciplinary, and Dissemination categories of research awards available to you under AU's Graduate Student Research Fund (GSRF).

[AU Student Awards](#)

As a reminder, AU's Students Awards Program offers the following two awards to support dissemination/presentation opportunities for AU graduate students:

[Graduate Level Student Travel Awards](#)

[Profiling Alberta's Graduate Students](#)

More information on these two awards is available at

[Student Awards](#).