



October 2019 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello Graduate Students,

With Thanksgiving around the corner, I am thankful for the opportunities Athabasca University (AU) provides to our graduate students. AU supports students to achieve graduate degrees while working and/or balancing a family life, and this still amazes me. My MBA in-residence elective takes place later this month, and it will take me, and fellow MBA students, on a flight around the globe to Singapore for a course on Doing Business in the Asia/Pacific Region. My word of advice to others in the MBA program or to students with in-residence options within their studies, is do not wait until the end of your program for your in-residence like I did. Dare yourself to take a leap and try something new. The exponential value these experiences bring to your studies is significant. You form connections with other graduates in your program, and are broadening your scope of knowledge and skills in the most experiential way. Additionally, you can give yourself the opportunity to do an in-residence more than once.

The deadline to register for the AU Graduate Student Research Conference is October 11th. To register, please visit <https://augradconference.athabascau.ca>. The conference program is available on the website for viewing. Registration includes a professional headshot photography session courtesy of AUGSA. The perfect headshot can open doors and can be used for resumes, ePortfolios, LinkedIn profiles, and much more.

Please also watch for the AUGSA student awards and bursaries. Applications are due this month. If you require assistance or more information to get your applications in, please reach out to us.

Meaghan Sullivan

President

Awards

AUGSA is pleased to announce that the Fall application period is now open for the Outstanding Distinction Award. The Outstanding Distinction Award recognizes Athabasca University graduate students who have demonstrated a high degree of leadership and engagement in their communities, their studies, and /or professional lives. There are four (4) available awards of \$1125 each. Application deadline is October 15. Please visit the website for more information and to apply.

<https://www.augsa.com/resources/student-awards/>

Bursaries

The AUGSA Bursary application period is fast approaching; September 16-November 1. AUGSA Bursaries are intended to aid Athabasca University graduate students in financial need. Additional circumstances such as disabilities, single parent/caregiving, etc. may be taken into consideration. Application Deadline is November 1st. Application will not be accepted until September 16. There are four (4) bursaries available at MAX \$1000 each. Please visit the website for more information and to apply:

<https://www.augsa.com/resources/student-awards/>

Get Out the Vote (GOTV)



AUGSA Launches Nationwide Get Out the Vote Campaign to Encourage Students to Vote in Federal Election

During our non-partisan get out the vote campaign, AUGSA will be hosting in-person socials, offering on-line spaces to discuss all-party debates, and discussing how your voice, as a concerned student, can be heard and help shape the future.

For many years, younger generations have been noticeably absent in elections. To combat this problem, CASA ran its first iteration of the Get Out the Vote campaign in 2015 and managed to get 42,000 students to pledge to vote. Due to the success of CASA's 2015 campaign, AUGSA has decided to participate in the 2019 campaign and help the student body get to the polls this fall.

Mary-Anne Parker, VP External for AUGSA, suggests that "Pledging allows us to continue AUGSA's influence in creating advocacy strategies and being counted in with other graduate student associations when lobbying and developing policy. Even if you already plan to vote, pledging your vote identifies you as a concerned student - it's so important that our elected officials understand the numbers of students voting – we are many, we have a unique voice, and we need to be heard."

“Throughout the Get Out the Vote campaign, we will be asking students to pledge to vote <https://www.getoutthevote.ca/> explains Adam Brown, Chair of CASA and VP External at the University of Alberta Students’ Union. “Studies have shown that having a person promise to vote, especially to a peer, is an effective way of ensuring that they show up on voting day.”

Athabasca University graduate students who wish to participate in the campaign can visit [getoutthevote.ca](https://www.getoutthevote.ca/) to pledge or make your way to one of the in-person socials listed below.

For more information please contact AUGSA’s VP External, Mary-Anne Parker at vpexternal@augsa.com

[About CASA:

Established in 1995, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, national student organization composed of 23 student associations representing 280,000 post-secondary students from coast to coast. With its partnership with the Quebec Student Union (QSU), CASA represents a total of 360,000 students across Canada and presents a national student voice to the federal government. CASA advocates for a Canadian post-secondary education system that is accessible, affordable, innovative, and of the highest quality.

Contact:

Lindsay Boyd, Director of Operations and Communications

E-mail: communications@casa.ca

Phone: 613-236-3457]

SAVE THE DATE GOTV EVENTS – Connect with your AUGSA executive and peers during the Get Out The Vote Campaign!

Our next social is scheduled for 7 pm in Red Deer on October 2 at Starbucks on Taylor and 67th St.

- Follow us on Facebook (AUGSA), Instagram (athabascaugsa), and Twitter (AU Grad Students), or on our web site at AUGSA.com for updates as the campaign unfolds.

[Faculty of Business Trading Challenge:](#)

"Interesting in trading? You know, stocks, bonds, and all the rest.

Have we got an opportunity for you!

We are still recruiting for a team of student traders for the CME Trading Challenge!

Learn more here: <https://news.athabascau.ca/faculty-of-business/cme-groups-university-trading-challenge-faqs/>"

AU/ AUGSA 2019 Research Conference:

I took a chance last year and submitted an abstract to present. I really wanted others to critique my study. Other than that I had no idea what to expect. The conference became one of the defining moments of my MAIS program. To have support from peers, input from faculty and the opportunity to prepare and sort out my ideas before presenting was phenomenal. I felt part of a bigger picture. For the first time I felt like a researcher.

Mary-Anne Parker
*MAIS Program, Faculty of Humanities and
Social Science*



Planning on attending our fabulous Graduate Student Research Conference October 25-27 in Edmonton? We now have a booking link for rooms at the Royal Hotel Edmonton Airport. <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/trademark/educ-alberta/royal-hotel-edmonton-airport-trademark-collection/rooms-rates?checkInDate=10/25/2019&checkOutDate=10/26/2019&groupCode=102519ATH>

[Book Online](#)

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 [Royal Hotel Edmonton Airport](#) . Watch our newsletter and additional posts on our [website](#).

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

Registrations close on October 11, so don’t miss out- register now!

KEEP IN TOUCH ONLINE!

As part of our ongoing efforts to connect you, our graduate students, to upcoming events, career news, industry trends, entrepreneurship, applied research trends, grants, government activities (there IS an election coming) and the exciting research work you are doing at Athabasca University, AUGSA has expanded their outreach via the strategic online channels listed below.

Twitter: @augsa

Instagram: @athabascaugsa

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

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

Looking forward to chatting with you on-line!
Mary-Anne Parker
Vice President External, AUGSA

Winners of the Abstract prizes announced!

This year we are presenting cash prizes to the top three abstracts that have been received for our Graduate Student Research Conference. The winners are:

1st place (\$250): Tara Diakow (MAIS) - A Gaybourhood Begins: Settlement and Community Building in Vancouver's West End

2nd place (\$150): Shelby Hopland Guidi (MAIS) - Cultural Model of Disability, Performance Art, and Mental Health: Challenging Perceptions of Mental Health within the LGBTQ+ Community

3rd place (\$100): Claire Granson (MC) - The Mental Health Benefits of Physical Activity for Children and Potential Use in Counselling

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>