

# FACULTY CIRCUIT

September 2004

Alberta Colleges & Institutes  
Faculties Association

acifa

Serving college and technical institute faculty

## President's Message



Welcome back! We hope you have had a happy and safe summer.

I would like to begin my message with a “thank you” to all who supported my nomination for president. I am looking forward to serving our membership and helping guide ACIFA through the challenging times that lie ahead.

In my five years as a member of the ACIFA executive, I came to appreciate the significance of this organization. ACIFA is the provincial voice of college and technical institute faculty. During the hard times we have faced recently, this voice has become increasingly important, and I believe it will be essential as we meet the challenges that lie ahead.

ACIFA gives our member associations an opportunity to learn from each other and to work together for our mutual benefit. When it comes to dealing with problems and finding solutions, effective communication is the key. Individual institutions have little or no voice, but collectively we can be heard. Our strength is in our unity.

The ten-year financial drought may soon be over: our government has been focused on eliminating our debt. But we should not forget that post-secondary education has paid dearly through funding cutbacks and freezes. Our institutions have been forced to make difficult decisions.

We have lost many colleagues to program cutbacks, disappearance of duties and early retirements as a direct result of financial hardship. Our institutions have built up tremendous backlogs in building maintenance; science and technology programs have lacked necessary capital funds, and, perhaps most important of all, we are seeing our faculty overwhelmed through increased workloads, increased responsibilities and rapidly advancing technology.

ACIFA must take a leading role in advocating for re-investment by government in public post-secondary education. As your president, I am resolved to work cooperatively with other stakeholders, including the student groups and our university colleagues; with our college and institute boards and administrations, through their organization, AACTI; and with Alberta Learning and the provincial Government. Through consensus-building and collaborative action, I believe that we can address challenges and achieve intelligent and meaningful solutions which will promote the professional and economic well-being of our membership, and the interests of the post-secondary system as a whole.

...Deryle Generous, President of ACIFA

### Biography

Deryle has over 21 years experience teaching at Lethbridge Community College. He is currently a full-time faculty member in the LCC Centre for Agriculture, Technologies and Trades. In addition to his role as program leader for the Computer Network Technician and Electronics Technician – PC Service Specialty programs, he teaches computer networking and electronics. Originally from British Columbia, Deryle taught electronics at Camosun College in Victoria before joining the LCC faculty in 1983. He holds a Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision, a Bachelors

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ACIFA Conference Draws Crowds

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Some two hundred enthusiastic delegates from our member associations across the province attended the twentieth annual ACIFA spring conference, *Learning, Leading n'Lightening*, at the Mountain Park Lodges, Jasper, May 30 – June 2. Co-hosted by the faculty associations of NAIT, Northern Lakes College, Keyano College, Fairview College, and Grande Prairie Regional College, the conference featured a stimulating and wide-ranging programme of sessions presented by colleagues, as well as a thought-provoking keynote speech from Maude Barlow, best-selling author and National Chair of The Council of Canadians. The atmosphere was relaxed and informal, the banquet and BBQ were well-attended, and as always, conference-goers made the most of the many opportunities to socialize and network, in the course of what has become the premier PD event for college and institute faculty in Alberta.

Deryle Generous, the newly-elected President of ACIFA, comments: “Our twentieth anniversary spring conference this year was a landmark for ACIFA. Delegates were informed, entertained, and energized, and the extraordinary collegial spirit which unites our organization was everywhere in evidence. Speaking on behalf of ACIFA, let me offer warmest thanks and congratulations to the programme committee, to the sponsoring associations, and above all, to Lynn Devlin in the ACIFA office, for excellent work in putting the conference together. I’m looking forward to ACIFA 2005, in Canmore! I hope to see you all there.”



Delegates jam at the ACIFA 2004 Conference, Jasper

## ACIFA Executive Council 2004 – 2005

At ACIFA’s Annual General Meeting, held June 1<sup>st</sup> in Jasper, elections were held for positions on the Executive Council. The 2004 – 2005 Executive will be:

- President.....  
Deryle Generous, LCC (term expires 2006)
- Vice-President, Negotiations.....  
Paul Hawthorn, Portage College (term expires 2006)
- Vice-President, Professional Affairs....  
Rocky Wallbaum, Lakeland College (term expires 2005)
- Treasurer.....  
Pat Asplund, LCC (term expires 2005)
- Secretary.....  
Dave Milner, GMC (term expires 2006)

**Members of ACIFA Executive can be contacted through the ACIFA office, telephone (780) 423-4440.**

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### President’s Biography (continued from page 1)

degree from Athabasca University, a Diploma in Adult Education from UBC, an Instructors Diploma from the British Columbia Ministry of Education, and a Diploma of Technology from BCIT. His industry credentials include Certified Engineering Technologist (CET), Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, NACSE Certified Network Instructor (NCNI) and Journeyman Electronics Technician (Alberta.) Deryle is also a facilitator for the Instructional Skills Workshop – a program that assists new instructors develop the skills necessary to begin teaching.

Deryle has received both the LCCFA/SA and the NISOD Teaching Excellence Awards He has been instrumental in bringing computer recycling to Lethbridge Community College. He currently supervises the computer recycling workshop in conjunction with Industry Canada’s Computers for Schools. More recently, he started the LCC “Computers for Life” initiative which has placed literally hundreds of computers in the hands of service agencies, students, persons with special needs, or impoverished people throughout Southern Alberta. In addition to numerous committee responsibilities, Deryle has served as president of LCCFA. He has been an active member of ACIFA and has served a total of five years both as Treasurer and Vice-President-Professional Affairs. In his spare time, Deryle enjoys restoring antique radios and vintage automobiles.

## My Encounter with Maude Barlow: A Reflection on Canadian Heroes

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September is a good month to reflect on Canadian Heroes. Many of us are long time participants in the annual Terry Fox run. I remember a discussion in my Grade 12 English class where we decided that only in Canada would we embrace so enthusiastically a National Hero who had actually failed to reach his goal. Canadians of course will point out that Terry's Marathon of Hope has succeeded beyond anyone's dreams, yet there is something about the underdog that the Canadian psyche loves.

Vaclav Havel says that "Hope is a state of the mind, not of the world":

"Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good."

Havel's thoughts on hope are an apt description of the actions of Terry Fox and other Canadian Heroes who have the ability to ceaselessly work for something because it is good. David Suzuki springs to mind as just such a Canadian hero as does Maude Barlow.

Maude Barlow has been a personal hero of mine for some time. I first encountered her writing in a Education Policy course at the University of Alberta. In her often quoted article: "Class Warfare: The Assault on Canadian Schools", she foresaw the increased stratification of the world's people due to the forces of Free Trade, globalization and the rise in power of NGOs like the IMF and the OECD.

In her most recent book, *Blue Gold*, Barlow continues to question pillars of our capitalist economy including the influential Washington consensus, which promotes trade liberalization, privatization, deregulation and protection of private property rights. Barlow argues that the majority of the world's population are not only excluded from participating in this consensus but they are also excluded from the benefits of it. Barlow's latest efforts are focussed on the protection of the



*Jacquie Flood, right, with Maude Barlow,  
at the ACIFA 2004 Conference, in Jasper*

world's fresh water supply from deregulation and privatization.

So what makes Maude Barlow a Canadian Hero? She has been called an extremist by many, naïve by others. I was delighted to be offered the opportunity to act as her guide for her day at the ACIFA Conference this last May. We had a warm and lively conversation about children and grandchildren and the joys of summer cottages. Nothing heroic there, you might say. Moreover, many of her protest efforts seemed doomed to failure as she faces off across from the Goliaths of Neoliberalism. Maude does not seem to grow weary of the battle however and in her role as the volunteer Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, she encourages all of us to get involved in creating the Canada we want: "If you want to know who is going to change this country, go home and look in the mirror."

In her speech to the delegates of the ACIFA Conference, one of the most compelling images Maude left us with was that of the Korean farmer atop of the large wall built to keep protesters out of the Summit of the Americas. The wall and the farmer's dramatic suicide are profound metaphors for what Maude ceaselessly works toward changing in our society. In my book, this makes her a true Canadian Hero.

... Jacquie Flood, Portage College

## 2004 MORGEX AWARD for Innovation in Teaching

The recipient of the 2004 MORGEX Award for Innovation in Teaching is Dr. Elroy Deimert, an Instructor in English Literature and Creative Writing at Grande Prairie Regional College. The Award, which is accompanied by a cheque for \$1,500, was presented by Mr. Jack Basterash of MORGEX Insurance Group Ltd. at this year's ACIFA spring conference in Jasper. A further \$500 was awarded to the Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association, which brought forward the winning entry. Certificates of commendation went to entries from Bow Valley College, Lethbridge Community College, and NAIT.

Sponsored by the MORGEX Insurance Group Ltd., the Award was established to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods and design leading to improved student learning. Each participating member association within ACIFA undertook its own selection process at the local level, and nominated an individual or group/team for consideration by the ACIFA Awards Committee, which made the final choice.

From a large number of entries received this year, the Awards Committee singled out Dr. Elroy Deimert's innovatory approach to fostering aspiring local and student writers by publishing their work, together with that of nationally-known and award-winning authors, in anthologies under the imprint of his own Smoky Peace Press, and by presenting highly successful series of writers' readings and literary events, featuring established authors, through the Wordspinner Writers Festival and Humanities Coffee House.

Dr. Deimert notes that the anthologies published by the self-funding Smoky Peace Press, for which he acts as publisher, editor, layout designer, publicist distribution manager and book-keeper, represent 'a vital intermediate venue' for student work. "Due to the nature of this local press," Dr. Deimert himself "can spend the time with apprentice writers and their manuscripts, pushing a promising manuscript toward publishable quality." And their work reaches a wider audience, since the anthologies appear in libraries across Canada.

Dr. Deimert's aim is to help students bridge the gap between creative writing courses and commercial publication, and he can point proudly to former students who have gone on to achieve national recognition as authors published by other presses!



Dr. Elroy Deimert [right], of Grande Prairie Regional College, recipient of the 2004 MORGEX Award for Innovation in Teaching, with Rocky Wallbaum, ACIFA VP Professional Affairs [left], and Jack Basterash, MORGEX Insurance Group Ltd. [centre], at the ACIFA spring conference in Jasper.

### Editorial Content

The views in the Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions. Please address all inquiries and submissions to:

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### Member Associations

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association  
Bow Valley College Faculty Association  
Faculty Association of Medicine Hat College  
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association  
Grant MacEwan College Faculty Association  
Keyano College Faculty Association  
Lakeland College Faculty Association  
Lethbridge Community College Faculty Association  
Mount Royal Faculty Association  
NAIT Academic Staff Association  
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Northern Lakes College Faculty Association  
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SAIT Academic Faculty Association