

In this issue:

2015 ACIFA Conference:

Keynote Preview	p. 3
Registration	p. 4
Accommodations	p. 5

2014 Award for Innovation in Teaching Winning Project	p. 6
--	------

Climate Survey Provincial Table	p. 7-8
Upcoming ACIFA dates	p. 9

President's Message

by Doug Short

As the provincial budget looms we hear of austerity and the potential for cuts – programs, staff, and compensation. We have heard that we should lower our expectations. However I am not sure that lowering our expectations is a worthy objective. Indeed, I believe that we should raise our aspirations. The Premier has stated that our future is bright, that we

are entrepreneurial and we are resourceful.

A conservative economic malaise lies upon us. Austerity is often achieved by cutting back on public goods, increasing the wealth of the privileged and decreasing the revenue [tax] support for government. And yet we have examples, such as Greece currently, where austerity has not worked and the appropriate reform of the revenue/tax collection system has not been implemented.

Our premier's recent address to Albertans spoke of diversification and the strength of our economy built on well-educated and well trained citizens [good videos included]. That is what we do in the post-secondary sector! That is why our sector deserves a long-term and healthy resource commitment. The premier asked for solutions, creativity and innovation. These, we can provide.

Many statistics have been rolled out suggesting that the public service in this province is too expensive by Canadian standards [statistics dominated by Ontario]. However should Ontario or Canada be our benchmark? The facts that aren't pointed out include that productivity in Alberta is 66% above the Canadian average [GDP per person] or that hours worked per week is almost 7% above the Canadian average. These other statistics might suggest that



citizens in Alberta are significantly underpaid or on average are not getting their fair share.

Our faculty and institutions within ACIFA have a core mandate of training, education and teaching. These are what the Alberta of the future needs. In a period of restraint we should re-focus on our core [my personal fitness trainer is relentless]. The last number of years have seen significant increases in “nice to have” administrative initiatives that divert

resources from our core mission. This is where the solutions that the premier seeks may be found.

Let me close by highlighting ACIFA’s annual conference approaching at the end of May. Our conference focuses on teaching, its scholarship, innovation and learning. These are central to what our members within ACIFA do throughout the year. Well done! The conference is also a time to celebrate our community. I hope to see you in Lake Louise this year.

Slainte!

Doug Short

**How does your ACIFA
membership benefit you?**

?

<http://acifa.ca/about/what-does-acifa-do/>

**Have you registered for
the ACIFA Annual Spring
Conference yet?**

It’s not too late!

See registration and accommodation
details below on pages 4 & 5

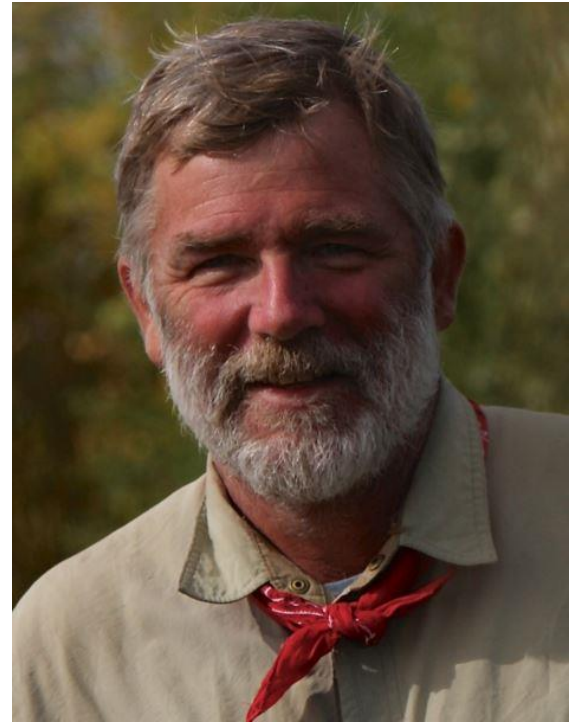
2015 ACIFA Conference

Keynote Speaker Preview

James Raffan

"Whither Risk in Education?"

Award-winning educator James Raffan is rumored to have been born in a canoe (his mother has a different version of the story) and has spent most of his life, so far, venturing in the wilds of Canada and beyond. Using Tennyson's *Ulysses*, a poem often quoted by experiential educators, in his ACIFA Keynote James examines what is and what is not effective education, through the lens of risk. His talk draws on his 19 years as a Professor and Head of the Outdoor and Experiential Education Program at Queen's University as well as on his continuing exploration of expeditionary learning from a variety of perspectives—as an educator, curriculum innovator and strategic planner with organizations like Students on Ice and the Canadian Canoe Museum and as a student in his own right, most recently learning from a three-year journey around the world at 66.6°N for a new critically-acclaimed book called *Circling the Midnight Sun: Culture and Change in the Invisible Arctic*.



2015 ACIFA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The Registration Form for the **ACIFA 2015 Annual Spring Conference** can be found Online at:
<https://event-wizard.com/ACIFAConference2015/0/register/>



The registration fee for the ACIFA Conference 2015 is **\$550.00** per person. Meal ticket prices are available through the registration link.

Payments for Registration and Meal Tickets may be made by **Cheque, PayPal, or Credit Card.**

Payment will be accepted only after Online Registration has been completed.

Please order meal tickets in advance. Meal tickets will **NOT** be sold at the registration desk, as meal numbers must be reported to the hotel in advance of the conference.



2015 ACIFA CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATIONS

Base room rates:

CKN/CQ1N/CQ2N/CT2N FAIRMONT (Mountainside)	Single 1 person	Double 2 people
Room	213.00	213.00
Meals	0.00	0.00
Service Charge	10.00	20.00
Sub Total	223.00	233.00
Pkg GST	0.50	1.00
AB TL	8.69	8.69
Room GST	10.65	10.65
TIF	4.26	4.26
TIF GST	0.21	0.21
TOTAL	\$ 247.31	\$ 257.81

More information can be found on our Accommodation page:

<http://acifa.ca/servicesactivities/acifa-annual-spring-conference-2015/accommodations/>

To book a room @ **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise**

BOOK via phone: 1 866 540 4413

or online: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/10827719/owner/56387/home>

ask for the ACIFA Conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying

Chateau Lake Louise has a booking deadline of April 23, 2015

Please note cancellations made after April 9, 2015 will be charged the room rate of the first night stay plus tax.

** Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements*

For the most up-to-date information about all things Conference, visit:

<http://acifa.ca/servicesactivities/acifa-annual-spring-conference-2015/>



2014 Award for Innovation in Teaching Winner

“Ditching the Didactic to Discuss and Do the Discipline”

Name: Todd Nickle
Position: Professor, Biology
Institution: Mount Royal University, Calgary

Post-secondary schools want students to explore ideas and apply them to novel situations. However, critical thinking is one of the hardest abilities to develop. It is tricky to facilitate evolution of the skills which progress from factual recall, to comprehension, and to synthesis. This takes time and practice. Yet students meet with faculty only a few hours each week, so instead of having students take notes during these precious opportunities, perhaps a more effective strategy would be to model how an expert in the field does his or her work.

Out-of-class activities using a “flipped classroom” reduce the lecture time devoted to information transfer so that educators can involve students, rather than just transfer ideas. Even technologically-naïve faculty can use tools that are simple, yet create effective out-of-class learning opportunities.

Textbooks are still essential in this teaching model; however, students often need to be guided to the salient points, and this is usually how they view traditional class time. Student skills in reading are typically poor, yet it is through journals and texts that most information is disseminated. Reading skills cannot improve without practice. Without this skill, students may not prosper in their field. Just-in-Time exercises linked to readings can both enlighten the student and inform the instructor what should be done during the class.

Using a Flipped Classroom approach encourages students to engage with the material prior to class, allowing the instructor to model effective skills. Just-In-Time Teaching techniques let the educator make more efficient use of the classroom experience.



The 2015 Award for Innovation in Teaching winner has now been selected and will be announced at the 2015 ACIFA Annual Spring Conference in Lake Louise, Alberta.

We hope to see you there!

Climate Survey 2014

The climate survey results for 2014 were compiled and then distributed to each individual faculty association on February 5, 2015. See the Provincial Comparative Table below.

Institution	Year	%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13
ACIFA	2014	41	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.2	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1
Provincial averages	2013	34	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1
	2012	36	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.4	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2
ACAD	2014	47	2.4	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.9	2.5	2.6	3.2	2.4	2.5
	2013	31	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.3	3.0	2.0	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.5
	2012	35	2.3	2.6	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.2	3.3	1.9	2.5	3.1	3.0	2.3
Bow Valley College	2014	25	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.5	3.6	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.7	3.4
	2013	25	3.3	3.2	2.5	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.4	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.8	3.3
	2012	35	3.5	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.6	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.4
Grande Prairie	2014	36	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.9
	2013	31	3.6	3.2	3.2	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.5	3.1	2.8	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.2
	2012	34	3.6	3.4	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.3	2.9	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.3
MacEwan University	2014	17	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.3
	2013	12	3.8	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.4	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.5	3.2
	2012	12	3.7	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.7	3.1
Keyano College	2014	69	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.0	3.1	2.3	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.8
	2013	24	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.1	3.4	2.3	3.1	3.2	2.7	3.0
	2012	63	3.6	3.3	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.2	3.0	2.5	3.1	3.0	2.6	3.0
Lakeland College	2014	65	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.9	2.2	2.9	2.8	2.2	3.0
	2013	61	3.5	3.4	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.5	3.1
	2012	51	3.4	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
Lethbridge College	2014	60	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.1	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.4	3.1
	2013	37	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	3.3	2.6	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.1
	2012	38	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1
Medicine Hat Coll.	2014	41	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.7	3.4
	2013	49	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.3
	2012	37	3.4	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
Mt Royal University	2014	15	3.8	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2
	2013	16	4.0	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0
	2012	22	3.9	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.1
NAIT	2014	14	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.3	3.1	2.9	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.2
	2013	25	3.4	3.0	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.3	3.3	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.3
	2012	16	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.7	3.2
NorQuest College	2014	38	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.3
	2013	34	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.2	3.4	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0
	2012	35	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.2	2.1	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.9

Northern Lakes	2014	41	3.6	3.4	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.5
	2013	32	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.3
	2012	29	3.5	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.8
Olds College	2014	78	3.6	3.6	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1	3.2	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9
	2013	76	3.5	3.5	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.2	3.0	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7
	2012	66	3.7	3.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.3	3.4	2.3	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.2
Portage College	2014	72	3.5	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.3	3.0
	2013	51	3.5	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.5	3.1
	2012	66	3.4	3.3	2.6	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.8
Red Deer College	2014	29	3.9	3.6	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.0	1.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.2	3.1
	2013	22	3.7	3.3	2.8	2.4	2.5	1.9	2.1	3.2	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.3	2.9
	2012	27	4.0	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.2	2.6	3.3
SAIT	2014	11	3.6	3.4	2.7	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.3	2.7	3.1	3.0	3.6	3.5
	2013	12	3.5	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.2	3.1	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.1
	2012	14	3.3	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	3.1

**Thank you to everyone who
participated and delivered
feedback for the 2014 ACIFA
Climate Survey.**

**For any questions or requests of details on
specific results, please contact your
institution's faculty association.**

AS A MEMBER YOU GET MORE. THEN YOU GET MORE.

ACIFA members enjoy discounts, personalized service and additional coverage. Plus, get a home or auto insurance quote for a chance to **win BIG** and **win MORE** – a new BMW 3 Series, **PLUS** a dream trip to the Bahamas, **PLUS** \$5,000 cash.*



**BAHAMAS
TRIP FOR
TWO**

**\$5,000
CASH**

Visit www.johnson.ca/MORE for details.

Call 1-877-742-7490

(Mention your group code BI when you call.)

acifa

JOHNSON 

HOME+AUTO INSURANCE

*Johnson Inc. ("Johnson") is a licensed insurance intermediary. Home and auto policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company ("Unifund"). Unifund and Johnson share common ownership. Auto insurance not available in BC, SK or MB. An alternate plan is available in QC. Eligibility requirements, limitations, exclusions or additional costs may apply and/or may vary by province or territory. *Contest runs from Aug 1/14 to July 31/15. Contest open to persons who, at the time of entry, are: (i) members of a participating Johnson affinity group, (ii) residents of Canada (excluding QC, NU) and (iii) of age of majority in their province of residence. No purchase necessary. Eligible policyholders automatically entered. Limit of three (3) entries per eligible person. Chances of winning depend on number of entries received. A time limited skill-testing question is required. Total prize value is approx. \$60,000 CAD. Vehicle may vary from illustration. BMW Canada Inc., including its parent company, subsidiaries, divisions and other operating entities, has neither authorized, sponsored, nor endorsed this contest. BMW, BMW model designations and all other BMW related marks and images are the exclusive property and/or trademarks of BMW AG. Full contest details at www.johnson.ca/MORE. MVM109.14

Member Associations

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

The views expressed in Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions.

Please address all inquiries and submissions to:
Pam Anderson, Administrative Officer
Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
412, 10357 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
P (780) 423-4440 F (780) 423-4515
E pam.anderson@acifa.ca W www.acifa.ca

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

March 20, 2015	Executive Council	Edmonton
March 21, 2015	Presidents' Council	Edmonton
May 9, 2015	Executive Council	Edmonton
May 24, 2015	Presidents' Council	Chateau Lake Louise
May 26, 2015	Annual General Meeting	Chateau Lake Louise
May 24 – 26, 2015	Spring Conference	Chateau Lake Louise

Join the Conversation!

FACEBOOK:

<http://www.facebook.com/ACIFAcA>

TWITTER:

<http://www.twitter.com/ACIFAcA>

