

FACULTY CIRCUIT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of ACIFA • March 2007

President's message



By David Purkis

Spring might not be in the air, but with a new sitting of the legislature and perennial rumors of a provincial election, politics certainly is. The new Department of Advanced Education and Technology has been integrated, new positions have been staffed, and ACIFA has been actively preparing for a fresh round of advocacy. Brett Bergie and I recently met with Maurice Tougas of the Liberal Party, Raj Pannu of the NDP, and later this month we will be meeting the Honorable Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education



Photo by Allie Wojtaszek

Just prior to the delivery of Alberta's Speech From the Throne, the Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong and his wife, Mary, make their way up the front steps of the Legislature. Read about the Throne Speech in "Eye on government."

and Technology.

We have been further acquainting MLAs and department officials with ACIFA as an organization, and bringing forward a number of issues of importance to Alberta post-secondary education. These issues include, among others: designation of faculty

membership, Bill 55 and the alternate form of Academic Council, indemnification for association officers, and implementation of the recommendations of the *Learning Alberta Review*.

At the last Presidents' Council meeting, ACIFA reaffirmed

See "message"/p8

Eye on government

By Brett Bergie

The Government of Alberta, under the leadership of Premier Ed Stelmach, delivered its legislative vision for the coming session in the Speech from the Throne, titled *The Future is Now—A Plan for Alberta*, which Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong read on March 7. The speech builds on the government's

five priorities: govern with integrity and transparency; manage growth pressures; improve Albertans' quality of life; provide safe and secure communities; and build a stronger Alberta.

As is the custom, the Speech from the Throne is more about pomp and promoting the government's achievements

and vision than of substance and policy. This year's speech is important because it provides fresh hints on where the new Stelmach administration will take the province. One of the emerging themes in the Throne Speech is the need in Alberta for prudent planning, a theme where Premier

See "message"/p6

IN THIS ISSUE:

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Awards • 2
ACIFA Spring Conference • 4

Spring Conference Registration Form • 6
Award For Innovation in Teaching • 8

Scholarship of

TEACHING & LEARNING AWARDS

2007

Purpose

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) refers to taking a systematic look at some teaching and learning practice and recording what was done, why it was done, collecting data, analyzing the data, and reflecting on how the results might influence future teaching endeavors. This type of research has the potential to generate genuine and sustained improvements in our colleges and institutes. If done carefully and thoughtfully, it can not only improve one's own teaching but also provide guidance for improvement to others. Research gives educators new opportunities to reflect on and assess their teaching; to explore and test new ideas, methods, and materials; to assess the effectiveness of new approaches; to share feedback with colleagues; and to make decisions about which new approaches to include in their curriculum, instruction, and assessment plans.

Eligibility

These awards are open to all members of the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA). All applications must include appropriate institutional consent to conduct the research.

Awards and Judging

The Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA) through The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Trust Fund will award up to two grants of \$1,000 each annually for research projects related to improving teaching and learning experiences by members of ACIFA. The award is intended to assist with materials and/or study costs associated with the research project.

The research project may span part or all of the 2007/2008 academic year but must not exceed that time limit.

Applications must be received by the ACIFA Office by April 01, 2007. Award winners will be notified by June 01, 2007.

Applications will be judged by a sub-committee of the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA.

Award recipients are required to present their project at the ACIFA Spring Conference following the completion of their research project and to write a summary article for the ACIFA newsletter.

Scholarship of

TEACHING & LEARNING AWARDS

2007

[continued from previous page]

Application is made by submitting a typewritten Proposal for Research. The guidelines for this proposal are listed below:

Proposal for Research Guidelines

1. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of researcher(s). If more than one researcher please identify lead researcher.
2. Name of college or institute you are a member of.
3. Designated teaching assignment and employment category.
4. Title of research project.
5. Purpose of research project. A brief statement explaining the question that will be answered by your study. What is it you want to find out? What brought this question to your attention?
6. Materials to be used in the study (instructional materials, assessments, other materials).
7. Data collection – describe the type(s) of data you will gather and your collection plan. It would be useful to include a step-by-step plan of what will be done.
8. Explain the process you will use to analyze and evaluate the data.
9. Describe how you plan to use and/or implement the findings of your study.
10. Describe your plan for sharing the results with the educational community beyond the requirements of the award.
11. Anticipated starting and completion dates of the research project.
12. A letter from the researcher's institution granting permission to do the research. Other supporting letters as the researcher deems necessary may also be attached.

Send three copies of your Proposal for Research to:

ACIFA
#412, The Dorchester Building
10357-109 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5J 1N3

If you have questions please contact:

ACIFA Executive Officer Lynn Devlin at devlinl@acifa.ca or 780-423-4440

For further information about action research and tips on how to conduct a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project, please visit the ACIFA website at www.acifa.ca.

The 2007 ACIFA Spring Conference: "Who Are You?"

Banquet Speaker

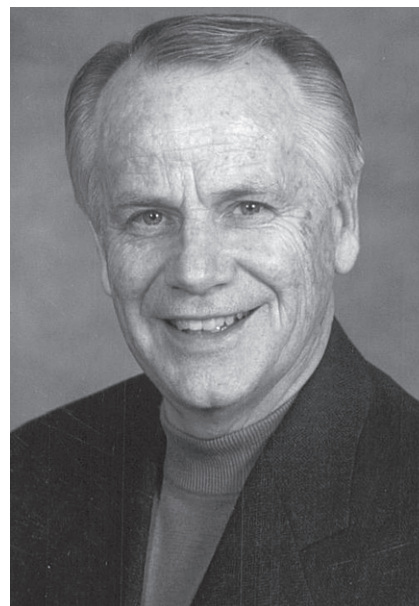
Gordon Colledge is a Change Navigator in a world marked by rapid, relentless change. He guides educators and business professionals in the process of becoming adaptive leaders in an unstable environment.

This year marks the 17th anniversary of Gord's second career. He retired after 30-years in private business to begin a teaching career in 1991. He went back to university at age 50, and began the on going process of learning and credentialing. His new goal is a Ph.D. in Sociology in the same

year he qualifies for a payment from the Canada Pension Plan.

Gord is a contract instructor in Family Studies at Lethbridge Community College, and a guest presenter with the Family Firm Institute at universities in Connecticut, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas and Arizona. When time permits, his private practice as a family mediator and educator serves couples, blended families, and families in business.

Gord's work has been recognized by "The Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families."



Accommodation Information

Conference delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre Canmore:

1-403-678-3625

Ask for the ACIFA Conference Rate and indicate the nights you are staying.

The Canmore Radisson has extended the booking deadline to May 6th.

Come Early / Stay Late! Based on availability, these rates are extended to ACIFA delegates for Saturday, May 26 through to Thursday, May 31.

The Special ACIFA Conference Rates will be applied for the

Manor and Lodge Buildings
Standard \$109
2 Bedroom Suite \$189
Kitchenettes \$139

Main Building
Sleep # Bed \$119
Rocky Mountain \$129
Business Class \$139
Jacuzzi Suite \$189

*Add GST and Provincial Room Tax
[rates are based on single or double occupancy]

To see more about Canmore Radisson's facilities, visit www.acifa.ca/acifa2007, and then click on the "accommodation" link and then click the hotel's link.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION form ACIFA 2007 Annual Spring Conference

Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre Canmore
May 27 to 30, 2007

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

[Please note that ACIFA welcomes non-members to its Annual Conference.]

Registration Deadline : May 11, 2007

Cancellations must be received in writing by May 15. Refunds, minus a \$50.00 processing fee, will be processed after the conference. Conference fee cannot be returned for cancellation after May 15 but can be applied toward a future conference. You are responsible for payment if you do not cancel and do not attend. Participant substitutes can be made at any time.

Early Bird Registration Draw:

All paid registrations received by April 13, 2007, will be eligible for a prize draw of \$250.00.

FEES

Full Registration includes \$395.00 \$_____
reception on Sunday, keynote and session registration, [non-members] \$435.00
Monday breakfast, lunch & banquet, and Tuesday
breakfast, lunch & BBQ, and Wednesday breakfast.

Monday only registration \$195.00 \$_____
includes keynote, sessions, breakfast, lunch, and banquet.

Extra tickets for your guest(s)

☐ complete meal package(s) for your guest(s) _____ X \$195.00 = \$_____
(includes banquet ticket and BBQ ticket)

☐ Monday banquet ticket(s) only for your guest(s) _____ X \$ 45.00 = \$_____
☐ Tuesday BBQ ticket(s) only for your guest(s) _____ X \$ 45.00 = \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Return completed form with payment [cheque payable to ACIFA] to:
ACIFA #412, 10357-109 St., Edmonton, AB T5J 1N3. Phone: 780-423-4440 FAX:
780-423-4515

☐ **Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements:**
The Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre Canmore
Book via phone: 1-403-678-3625

☐ **Ask for the ACIFA conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying**



Please indicate your t-shirt size: small _____ medium _____ large _____ extra large _____
please note: only registrations in by May 1st will be guaranteed to receive a t-shirt

“Throne Speech”

continued from page 1

Stelmach is clearly departing from the Klein era when the mantra was governance by autopilot.

The Stelmach government took pains to emphasize its intention to address the pressures relative to the province’s growth, and the speech also includes a commitment to develop a policy on managing future provincial surpluses. The government promises to provide more details of its forthcoming surplus policy when the Provincial Budget is tabled on April 19.

Overall the Speech from the Throne has very little to say about post-secondary education in Alberta. It is clear from the text, however, that “access” remains a high priority for the government. Some form of the phrase “increase access” appears three times in the four compound sentences dedicated to post-secondary educational matters.

A major focus for Advanced Education and Technology will be to “ensure Alberta’s post-secondary institutions have defined roles and responsibilities,” according to the Throne Speech and other sources. This is an initiative that ACIFA has been learning about over the past few weeks, and by all accounts, it is a framework that will encompass and more clearly define many critical post-secondary educational themes: institutional mandates, public funding models, program mixes, capital projects, and system collaboration. ACIFA has recently been invited by the Ministry to participate in consultations on the draft framework over the spring and summer months.

The Throne Speech concludes its section on post-secondary education by stating, “[i]nvestments in advanced education will be targeted towards a comprehensive framework that will make post-secondary education, trade and occupational training more accessible to adult learners.” The use of the word “targeted” in the quoted text evokes some concern from ACIFA that the government may be preparing to place greater emphasis than is currently the case on targeted funding to post-secondary education providers. On this theme, ACIFA will remain vigilant, particularly as it relates to the government’s agenda on defining roles and responsibilities in Alberta’s post-secondary education system.

CHANGING Alberta

Pursuing the Public Interest!



Friday, April 13th, 7:00 pm
and Saturday April 14th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

A conference featuring top international, national and local speakers that will inspire you to get involved in advocating for a better Alberta for all.

Key Note Presentation
Tony Clarke
President, Polaris Institute, Ottawa
Friday, April 13th 7:00 PM
Redefining the Alberta Advantage:
How Alberta’s public interest organizations can contribute to building a better Canada

Feature Panel Presentation:
Tyson Slocum
Director, Public Citizen’s Energy Program, Washington D.C.

Monica Lysack
Executive Director, Childcare Advocacy Association of Canada, Ottawa

Annie Kidder
Executive Director, People for Education, Toronto

Location:
Delta Edmonton South Hotel, Edmonton

Registration:
\$150 or a table of six \$750.
(Includes: Friday night keynote presentation & reception and Saturday Conference Sessions and Lunch)

Contact:
To register or for further information visit www.pialberta.org or call (780) 420-0471

 **Public Interest Alberta**

Sponsored in part by:

 **The Alberta Teachers' Association**

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At A Glance

Affordability framework

Earlier in February, the government continued to polish its new affordability framework. Recent reforms include additional financial support for part-time students, vital loan repayment relief for medical students during their residency, flexible loan repayment options for students with families, and more responsive processes for loan assessment for students with disabilities. All students finance reforms—valued at \$1 million—will be funded through the current Alberta Budget.

Third quarter fiscal update

The Government of Alberta announced its third quarter fiscal results on February 26. The province is now forecasting the provincial surplus to be \$7 billion, up \$1.5 billion from second quarter forecast. The \$1.5 billion increase to the 2006-07 surplus has been allocated to the Sustainability Fund.

The province's expenses are on track since the second quarter forecast, but revenues are predicted to be \$4.2 billion higher than expected; the government attributes the encouraging growth in revenue largely to strong personal income tax revenue, higher revenue from corporate income taxes, and better than expected returns on investments.

Upcoming Activities

ACIFA • 2007

March 31

- Executive Council

May 27 - 30

- ACIFA Spring Conference

May 29

- Annual General Meeting

See www.acifa.ca
for more details



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ACIFA Award for Innovation in Teaching



ACIFA Award recipients for 2006,
Calvin Leckie and Cathy MacGillivray.

On an annual basis, ACIFA recognizes creative and effective teaching practices by awarding an instructor, or a team of instructors, with the ACIFA Award for Innovation in Teaching. The Award was established to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods that lead to improved and engaged student learning.

The Award, which is accompanied by a cheque for \$1,500, is presented at the annual ACIFA Spring Conference, and the recipient's faculty association also receives a \$500 cheque.

Please visit your local faculty association office or the ACIFA website, www.acifa.ca, for more information on eligibility criteria, submission processes, and deadlines.

"message"

continued from page 1

its partnership with Public Interest Alberta and has been assisting that organization in its preparations for new advocacy campaigns on behalf of Alberta citizens. One part of these endeavors is the Changing Alberta - Pursuing the Public Interest conference which PIA will be hosting in Edmonton on April 13 and 14. Please see the conference ad on page 6 of this newsletter or visit www.pialberta.org to learn more. Why not attend yourself?

ACIFA is also working on its own PSE awareness campaign, in partnership with university faculty and student groups, to lead up to the next provincial election.

So, beneath that snow and freezing wind, events are heating up on the political front. Stay tuned for a spring thaw!

Alberta Colleges & Institutes
Faculties Association

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Serving college & technical institute faculty

Editorial

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

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