



ACIFA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE IN JASPER

The ACIFA annual conference is being held in Jasper! Our host is Lakeland College Faculty Association.

This year our theme is "Bridging the Divide." Conference dates are May 25th to May 28th. Take a look at the ACIFA website for more information and for upcoming details on how to register.

This is a great opportunity to learn from your colleagues and network with other PSE professionals. Don't forget about the stress relieving benefits of 3 glorious days in Jasper. Feed your mind and body. Register for the ACIFA Spring Conference!

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS:

We invite you to complete a session proposal form for the 2008 ACIFA Spring Conference. Forms are available from ACIFA's website: www.acifa.ca/

Your session proposal must address one of the following theme strands:

- * Teaching and Learning
- * The Past and the Future
- * The Demographic Gap

Please return session proposal forms to:
Lynn Devlin-Executive Officer
#412, 10357 – 109 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1N3
devlinl@acifa.ca

The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2008.

ACIFA Award for Innovation in Teaching

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. The recipient's faculty association also receives a \$500 cheque.

Please visit the ACIFA website, www.acifa.ca/, for more information on eligibility criteria and submission processes. Local associations submit their own nominee to ACIFA by March 17, 2008

What are we doing to represent you?

- ACIFA President Dave Purkis and Liaison Officer Leila Daoud were present at the November 27th meeting of the Cabinet Policy Committee on Managing Growth Pressures.
- ACIFA is taking part in discussions to ensure a strong PSE message is communicated once the provincial election writ is dropped. A sophisticated and professional ad campaign is in the process of completion. More information to come.
- The concerns of faculty were represented by ACIFA at a Jan. 8th PIA PSE taskforce press conference. 5 TV stations, several print and radio sources also picked up the story.

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President's Message



It has been awhile since an issue of **Faculty Circuit** has been written, and it sure is nice to have Leila on board to edit it. (Be sure to see the introduction to Leila Daoud, our new Liaison Officer, elsewhere in this newsletter).

I was looking at last January's issue of the "Circuit" and couldn't help noting that many of the issues mentioned remain the same. Federal and provincial politicians are both preparing for elections, there are anticipated changes coming to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, we are still waiting to see what the final report of the Roles and Responsibilities Mandate document will look like and the issue of ACIFA joining the Canadian Association of University Teachers is still on the table. The more things change...etc.etc.

Because of the impending provincial election, ACIFA is participating in two post-secondary education advocacy campaigns. One, through Public Interest Alberta, is focusing on PSE issues such as accessibility, affordability and quality, which is where ACIFA's focus is. The other, in cooperation with CAFA, CAUS and ACTISEC is called "Imagine Alberta" and is focusing on informing parents of the missed opportunity their children could face in an under-funded PSE education system.

It's great having Leila available to coordinate these initiatives as well, so welcome aboard Leila; we look forward to the results of your work.



Dave Purkis
President



Paul Hawthorn
Executive V.P



Mike Durbeniuk
V.P
Negotiations



Jacquie Flood
V.P,
Professional Affairs



Doug Frattini
V.P
Records & Finance



The Labour Scene as seen by, Terry Sway

The beginning of the calendar year is a new beginning in many ways, but in terms of collective bargaining at Post Secondary Institutions, it usually signals it's time to get serious about negotiations.

The following faculty associations are active in collective bargaining for the academic year 2007-08, Grant MacEwan, Mount Royal, Bow Valley, Alberta College of Art & Design, and Medicine Hat.

All of the above mentioned association's current collective agreements expire on June 30, 2008. All other ACIFA member associations have negotiated their collective agreements for the 2008-09 and in some cases, until 2010.

The front runner for this year is Grant MacEwan. There have already been several meetings between the Board of Governor's representatives and the faculty association's bargaining team. The faculty association has presented a "proposal" on changes to the current "workload" section of the agreement and are waiting for the Board's response.

At Mount Royal, both bargaining teams have completed a joint training session on Interest Based Bargaining. The faculty association bargaining team surveyed its membership, identified their "interests" and is prepared to meet with the Board's representatives. The first bargaining meeting is scheduled for mid January.

The faculty association's bargaining team at the Alberta College of Art & Design have begun the initial preparation for collective bargaining. Pursuant to the collective agreement, either party



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shall give written notice not later than the second work day in March. They shall exchange opening proposals prior to April 1, 2008.

At Bow Valley College the faculty association has surveyed their members and the bargaining team has been elected. Preparation for bargaining will commence in the latter part of January.

The Medicine Hat College faculty association's bargaining team has been appointed. Traditionally the parties at Medicine Hat College commence bargaining a little later in the year than do most of the other institutes. Nevertheless, the expiry date of the current agreement is like all others, June 30, 2008.

Without going into great detail there are pluses and minuses regarding the early or late start. It's very easy to fall into "protracted" bargaining if both parties feel there is "plenty of time left." Neither is very quick to agree to substantive issues early in the bargaining session. This often leads to the parties getting further apart on the issues rather than closer to an agreement. On the other hand, sometimes a late start causes the parties to meet frequently in an attempt to reach a memorandum of agreement prior to the expiry of the existing contract. Often familiarity breeds contempt, and obviously that doesn't assist the parties in reaching a settlement. There is no magic formula, both parties should leave ample time and not worry should they finish "early." Although it's preferred to finish prior to the expiry of the existing contract, it is not mandatory. It's better to have a proper settlement that is retroactive, than to have one that is rushed through and could lead to problems later.

I will be submitting bargaining updates in the ACIFA newsletter throughout the remainder of the academic year.



Introducing...

ACIFA has a new staff member. Leila Daoud has been brought onboard as the new Liaison Officer replacing Brett Bergie, who left in April 2007. Leila comes to ACIFA having recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a double major in History and Political Science. Leila also has several years of practical experience. She has run and consulted on seven election campaigns and was also an intern in the House of Commons where she worked for Colleen Beaumier, Member of Parliament for Brampton West. Leila has also worked for several years as a consultant for various groups in ethno-cultural communities.

"I look forwards to serving ACIFA and its members. I will strive to improve relations with government and with our member partners and stakeholders."

"If you have any questions, comments or inquiries please let me know. I am always available to listen to faculty members and I will gladly consider any suggestions for improving Faculty Circuit."

Address your communications to:

Leila Daoud

#412, 10357 109 Street Edmonton Alberta T5J 1N3

E-mail: daoudl@acifa.ca Phone: 423-4440

Public Interest Alberta will be hosting three K-12 & PSE education forums featuring Dr. Fraser Mustard.

All three forums take place from **7:00 – 9:30 PM**

- Lethbridge – **January 29, 2008** University of Lethbridge
- Calgary – **January 30, 2008** - Best Western Village Park Inn, Foothills Room
- Edmonton – **January 31, 2008** - Lister Hall Conference Centre, University of Alberta

For info. or to register visit www.pialberta.org



PAC Logo Contest

The Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) will soon launch its' new and improved website. Packed with useful information!

you'll be able to:

- * View teaching tools organized by subject area.
- * Locate PSE conferences.
- * Find Professional Development programs.

In preparation for this exciting launch we're asking Faculty members to come up with a brand new logo for the PAC.

Contest will be open until May 25th,2008

The winner will gain Faculty Circuit fame, and make their colleagues green with envy while he/she walks around with a new iPod!

Web Resources Contest

Win a lovely \$ 25 Chapters gift certificate.

Send ACIFA any websites which are used by you as a teaching resource.

In order to have your name included in the draw you must submit a website which:

- 1.) Is useful to you and other teaching staff.
- 2.) Contains lesson plans or lesson planning aids.
- 3.) Has a teaching level which is consistent with Post Secondary Education.

Example: Lesson plans or website information must be geared at PSE level student learning.

10 times a year ACIFA will draw 1 winner for a \$25 Chapters gift certificate. Qualified websites may be added to the resource section of the PAC website. To enter please send websites to: daoudl@acifa.ca or Web Resource Contest C/O Leila Daoud #412- 10357 109 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3. Please include your name and contact information.

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

**Leila Daoud - Liaison Officer,
Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association,
#412 10357 – 109th Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
voice: (780) 423-4440 fax: (780) 423-4515
e-mail daoudl@acifa.gmcc.ab.ca
web: <http://www.acifa.ca>**

Introducing the launch of "Something Clever!"

Something Clever! the new Faculty Circuit feature will showcase you! Faculty Circuit is looking for a voice from our readers.

The Details:

We ask that you submit an article, letter, cartoon, poem, commentary or impassioned rant. Written material must be between 150-300 words in length and visual images must measure a maximum of 4x6. One caution, this is Something Clever! not something libellous nor is it a venue to air work-related grievances. All submissions must be received by the 28th of every month, and must contain your name and contact information.

Subject:

Any topic which is currently being discussed in your institution, or on the local, provincial or nation scene. It could be an issue related to post secondary education or even a great teaching resource you've discovered.

Why would you want to say Something Clever?

For the glory of course! Oh - and the fabulous gift certificate you'll get. All those who submit something clever for consideration to our esteemed panel of judges will be placed into our monthly draw. The draw is for one (1) thirty dollar Chapters gift certificate. Those who are very clever and are published in one of the 10 editions annually of Faculty Circuit will be entered to win a fabulous iPod!

So say Something Clever!

A very clever way to submit:
daoudl@acifa.ca

A less clever, but still witty way to submit:

Something Clever
C/O **Leila Daoud**
412, 10357 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5J 1N3

