



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

September - October 2013

In this issue:

New members of the ACIFA Executive Council	p. 2
Meet the New ACIFA Office Staff	p. 3
2013 ACIFA Climate Survey	p. 4
2013 ACIFA Conference in Review	p. 5
ACIFA 2014 Preview	p. 6
2012 Scholarship in Teaching and Learning Winner	p. 7
Johnson Inc. iPad Winner	p. 6
2014 Award for Innovation in Teaching Nomination Form	p. 7
Upcoming ACIFA dates	p. 8

President's Message

by Doug Short

It is indeed a pleasure and honour to serve as your President for the next two years. I hope that I can talk with many of you during this time on your campuses or on other occasions. "The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things:" [from Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll]. There are many things for us to explore and examine in the coming months.



This year's annual conference will be hosted by **Medicine Hat College** at the Chateau Lake Louise. I hope to see you there! Last spring we had a terrific conference in Jasper hosted by **Grande Prairie Regional College**. Great job! At that time awards went to **Paul Norris** for Innovation in Teaching and to **Dawn Ansell & Katrina Blacklock** and to **Carolyn Vasileiou** for Scholarship in Teaching and Learning.

Your ACIFA Executive is in the process of selecting a new VP of Professional Affairs for a term until MAY2013. Erwin Ens, who has served ACIFA and Executive Committee admirably well, has accepted a new position at NAIT and ACIFA bylaws do not permit more than two executive members from one institution and therefore Erwin had to step down. Several nominations have come forward already. Erwin, thank you for the wonderful job you have done and best wishes in your new role.

I would like to talk about:

- Academic Freedom – although this for us may be focused in a different light than the research universities, the increase in online learning with its requirements of master course sites, as well as our ability to responsibly critique changes in the post secondary system without duress, suggest we need to examine this issue.
- With the Government moving to results based budgeting [zero based budgeting, responsibility based budgeting] we should examine the form and impact of this focus.
- Funding is also affected the viability of certain institutions and is something for us to watch.
- With changes in our institutions mandates we should re-examine our vision and perhaps our name.
- Governance of our institutions.
- LAPP's Stakeholder Group [our pension plan – similar forces with PPSA] and its' ad hoc committee on sustainability. I am prepared to come to any institution to outline the forces at play in the sustainability and contribution rates for this plan.
- Our sister organizations such as CUFA BC [Confederation of University Faculty Associations- British Columbia], OCUFA [Ontario], CAFA [Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations], CAUT [Canadian Association of University Teachers], CAUS [Council of Alberta University Students], ASEC [Alberta Student's Executive Council], AGC [Alberta Graduate Council] and our relationship with the Ministry of Enterprise and Post Secondary Education. We will strength our relationships with these organizations and the people within them.

I also like to talk to you about those issues and concerns on your mind.

Doug Short, President, Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

ACIFA 2013 Annual Spring Conference

May 26 – May 28, 2013
at the Chateau Lake Louise



hosted by the Medicine Hat
College Faculty Association
See page 4 for details!

Meet the New Members of the ACIFA Executive Council

ACIFA would like to introduce the newly elected members of the ACIFA Executive Council: **President**, Doug Short, **Vice President Negotiations**, Ryan Kaupp, and **Vice President External**, Anna Beukes. The ACIFA Executive members were elected at the Annual General Meeting at the 2012 ACIFA Conference.



Neil Napora, Lakeland College
Vice-President Records and Finance

J. Douglas Short, BA, MBA, has been Chair of the Finance programs at NAIT. Currently Doug is President of the NAIT faculty association – NASA. He has instructed, reviewed exams and developed course materials for a broad range of finance courses [corporate finance, investments, financial systems and financial theory] at the undergraduate and graduate levels at several institutions and professional associations.

Doug's finance – political economy background manifests his current interest in transparency, income inequality and academic freedom.

Doug is the co-author of Foundations of Financial Management, currently in its 9th edition, a text used at numerous post-secondary institutions across Canada. Additionally he represents ACIFA (Alberta Colleges and Institutions Faculty Association) on the LAPP (Local Authorities Pension Plan) Stakeholders Group.

During the winter months Doug enjoys cross-country skiing, boot exercise camps, the theatre, and opera. During the summer he enjoys a round of golf and hiking or running. A couple of years ago, Doug coached a juvenile boys' basketball team to a second place finish in Alberta's provincial championship.

Mike Durbeniuk, Medicine Hat College
Executive Vice-President



Congratulations Mike Durbeniuk on being elected for another term as Executive Vice-President!

Rod Corbett, Mount Royal University
Vice-President Professional Affairs



I was hired as a casual at Lethbridge Community College in the fall of 1999 to teach Heavy Equipment Technician. I was introduced to the Negotiating Committee shortly after being hired to representing the Casual (hourly's back then) for approximately eight months.

I then was promoted to Term Certain (Adjunct back then) staying with the Negotiation Committee representing Trades and Technology.

I remained on the committee as a representative until April 2010 where I was elected to the Chair position of the Negotiation Committee of which I will remain till April 2013, of which my two terms as an officer of the executive will come to a close.

I started teaching in the Agriculture side of mechanics but moved on to take over the position of lead instructor for the first year Heavy Equipment Technician for Apprenticeship. I also teach parts of the third year, and fourth year HET. I also teach Air Conditioning for the Automotive Apprenticeship AST fourth year.

I have been involved with the FPDC committee; as well have taken part with the Professional Standards Committee when required.

My hobbies are, riding our quad in the mountains, camping, fly fishing, help coaching bantam football, and spending time with my family and friends.

I was asked why I considered the position of which I now hold with ACIFA. My answer was very simple: "I am a strong believer of ACIFA, and look forward to give back to what ACIFA has given to me".

Meet the New ACIFA Staff!

ACIFA Office

Emily Pedersen – Short bio and photo (if comfortable)

Emily Duvall – Short bio and photo (if comfortable)

Labour Relations: Grievance Support

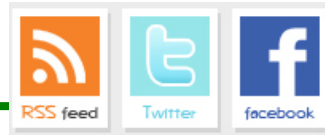
Short explanation, then introduce

Joe Childs – Short description, list contact information or list the link where it can be found

Al Brown - Short description, list contact information or list the link where it can be found

acifa.ca

Log on today to get access to all of the latest news and information!



Annual ACIFA Climate Survey



The annual ACIFA Climate survey, distributed electronically through your faculty association office by mid-November, is a valuable tool for the tabulation and analysis of the views of academic staff members across the province, concerning working conditions and attitudes within their respective institutions.

The Climate Survey asks individual academic staff members to indicate level of agreement on a scale of 1 to 5, with thirteen statements such as:

Senior administration communicates openly with faculty.

I have the resources I need to do my job effectively.

The president of this institution provides effective leadership.

In addition, local academic staff associations may take the opportunity to include further questions specific to their own institutions.

The relatively high response rate from ACIFA members, along with the continuity from year to year of the thirteen core survey questions, provides a strong foundation to assist academic staff associations in discussions with their administration regarding key areas of concern within their institutions.

A comparative, cross-institutional score chart for each of the thirteen system wide questions will be published in the ACIFA Faculty Circuit next spring.

Please fill out your Survey by **5:00 p.m. on December 14, 2012.**

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



www.acifa.ca/about/what-acifa-does

ACIFA Conference 2013

The 2013 ACIFA Conference took place at the beautiful **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise**. At this year's event, attendees had the opportunity to choose from a pool of 35 wonderful sessions to aid in their professional development and growth.

ACIFA is pleased to announce that the Silent Auction, held at the hospitality suites on Monday and Tuesday nights, raised over **\$3000.00** for the The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.

Thank you to all who attended this year's conference, to the presenters for their outstanding sessions, and to the Medicine Hat College Hosting Committee for all of their time and effort to help ensure that the conference ran smoothly.



Watch for the
official Call for
Submissions
form, coming in
mid-November
2012!

For more photos, visit our facebook page at [facebook.com/ACIFAc](https://www.facebook.com/ACIFAc)

2012 Scholarship in Teaching and Learning Award Winner



Brett McCollum
Mount Royal University

"Competence as a Component of Practice Readiness"

Many programs of study focus on laboratory skills competence with the belief that those students who are able to demonstrate competence in the lab are ready for practice. Data collected from the "Laboratory Competence as a Component of Practice Readiness" study found that the laboratory provides learners with a step towards readiness but does not equate with readiness for practice.

The Lab Educators of Alberta (LEA) is a community of practice that provides a venue for interdisciplinary communication and collaboration between educators of pre-licensure students of health care education programs.

<https://sites.google.com/site/labeducatorsofalberta/> In June 2011, LEA held a conference called Partners in Laboratory Learning Strategies (PaLLS) during which a World Cafe Conversation style focus group was held. A World Cafe Conversation is an approach to difficult conversations that increases the level of comfort and encourages participation within a diverse group. <http://www.theworldcafe.com/>

Participants included representatives from 17 colleges, universities and institutes that registered at the conference. Focus group facilitators recorded comments as participants were asked to respond to three questions:

1. What educational strategies and processes are you using in the lab setting to help students become competent?
2. How do you know when a student is competent in the lab?
3. What is the relationship between student competence in the lab and practice readiness in the workplace?

Findings included a vast array of strategies and processes used to assist students to become competent as well as a number of approaches used to determine if a student is competent in the lab.

Varied comments regarding the relationship between lab competence and practice readiness for the workplace were collected that incidentally listed major gaps between theory and practice. Ultimately, findings suggested that although laboratory competence influences practice readiness, it was not the only influence. Further study is needed to determine other factors influencing practice readiness for the workplace. The next study will be held the LEA PaLLS conference World Cafe Conversation in June, 2013 at NorQuest College.

Winner of the 2012 Johnson Inc "Win a Laptop" Contest



During the Spring of 2012, our partners at Johnson Inc. Insurance ran a contest especially for ACIFA. When members requested a quote for home and auto insurance (between February 1 and June 30), they were automatically entered to win a laptop!

The winner of the computer (a Macbook Pro) was Heather Verbaas, Chair of EMS Programs at Lakeland College. Congratulations Heather!

See how **you** can qualify for the next contest below!

You could win a snowblower!

As a member of ACIFA, simply call Johnson and request a no-obligation home and/or auto insurance quote by February 28, 2013 and you'll be automatically entered.

1-800-563-0677
www.johnson.ca/acifa

acifa

Group ID code: BI

JOHNSON

Home and Auto Insurance

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Eligibility requirements, limitations and exclusions may apply. Contest runs from November 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013. No purchase necessary. Contest is open to ACIFA members who are residents of Alberta. Those already insured through the ACIFA/Johnson Inc. home and/or auto insurance program are automatically entered. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. One (1) Snowblower is available to be won in the contest (approx. retail value is \$1,500). For full contest details visit www.johnson.ca/acifa CAT.10.2012



For Innovation in Teaching

The aim of the Award for Innovation in Teaching is to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods and design which lead to improved student learning.

This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1,500 for the faculty member or team and \$500.00 for the faculty member's faculty association. Certificates of Commendation will be awarded to the two runners-up.

Eligibility

The Award is open to all ACIFA members. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations for the Award are made by colleagues with the consent of the innovator(s). Nominations must adhere to the *Format for Applications* below.

An innovation which has already received this Award cannot be resubmitted the following year. Innovations which have been unsuccessful but have received a Certificate of Commendation are eligible for resubmission, within the context of the guidelines, the following year.

The Nomination Process

Each participating ACIFA member association will conduct a nomination and selection process at the local level, in accordance with the guidelines in this document, to select **up to two nominees** to be submitted to the ACIFA Awards Committee. The ACIFA Awards Committee, established by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the winner of the award from nominees put forward by each of the participating local faculty associations.

Selection Criteria

- The extent to which the innovation has had a practical outcome that improved teaching, learning, curriculum design, and/or assessment.
- Evidence of student satisfaction and learning outcomes.
- Evidence that the innovation was successfully integrated into the total learning process for the relevant course of study.
- The potential for the innovation to be applied to different fields of study
- The extent to which the innovation made effective and efficient use of resources.

Format for Applications: 2-3 page limit plus appendices

Please provide information in the following format:

1. Innovator/project team details: name(s), position, and college/institute
2. A description of the innovation
3. The rationale for implementing the change
4. The outcomes of the innovation
5. The wider application of the innovation in post-secondary education
6. Names and signatures of two nominees
7. Any supporting documentation to be attached as appendices

Judging Panels: provincial and local

Five members, elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the final award winner and up to two runners-up from the nominees submitted by the local faculty associations. The local faculty association judging committees are to be selected and structured by the local faculty association as they deem appropriate for their association. **Continued on page 8**

2013 Innovation in Teaching Award, Continued from page 7

Mutual Obligations

The ACIFA Awards Committee will award the winner of an Innovation/Creativity Award in Teaching with:

- An announcement in the ACIFA newsletter
- \$1,500.00 made available to the winner and another \$500.00 to the winner's faculty association
- A formal presentation at the ACIFA Annual Conference
- Coverage of expenses for the winner to attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to receive their award.

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award
- Agree to submit for publication in the ACIFA newsletter a description of the innovation and its successful implementation before the end of the year in which the Award was won.

Application Dates

Applications must be submitted to the faculty member's faculty association by the date set by the local faculty association. Each Association's selection process must be completed in time to submit their nominee to ACIFA by **February 22, 2013.**

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by the third week of April to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

*The 2013 award is sponsored and administered by
The Alberta Colleges and Technical Institutes Faculties
Association*

*Johnson Inc. Insurance
And*

The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.

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:
Lindsey Gilbert, Administrative Officer
Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
412, 10357 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
P (780) 423-4440 F (780) 423-4515
E lindsey.gilbert@acifa.ca W www.acifa.ca

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

November 16, 2013	Professional Affairs Committee & Negotiations Advisory Committee	Edmonton
February 7, 2014	Executive Council	Calgary
February 8, 2014	Presidents' Council	Calgary
March 21, 2014	Executive Council	Calgary
March 22, 2014	Professional Affairs Committee & Negotiations Advisory Committee	Calgary
May 10, 2014	Executive Council	Edmonton
May 25, 2014	Presidents' Council	Jasper Park Lodge
May 27, 2014	Annual General Meeting	Jasper Park Lodge
May 25 – May 27, 2014	Spring Conference	Jasper Park Lodge

