



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

September - October 2014

In this issue:

2015 ACIFA Conference Sneak Peak **p. 2**

New Members of the ACIFA Presidents' Council, Current Members of Executive Council **p. 3**

Climate Survey **p. 4**

2014 ACIFA Conference in Review **p. 4**

2013 Scholarship in Teaching and Learning - Winning Project **p. 5**

Johnson Inc. Contest – Trip for 2 **p. 6**

2015 Award for Innovation in Teaching Nomination Form **p. 7**

Upcoming ACIFA dates **p. 8**

President's Message

by Doug Short

Engagement

Engagement and empowerment are a couple of words that we often hear and we often request. What do we expect?

Empowerment equips or supplies us with ability or enables us to make decisions. Engagement is a promise or agreement. I believe it encompasses a passion amongst the participants to consult and collaborate because they have a strong interest in the rendezvous taking place.

Engagement through consultation involves clearly communicating tentative ideas and giving appropriate time to critique and revise the idea before a decision.

I never believed that the great struggle during the latter half of the 20th century was between communism and capitalism. I felt it was between

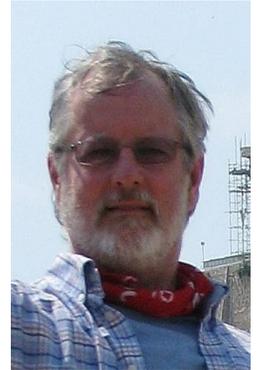
bureaucracy and democracy. It does continue! The strength of democracy was that decision-making, perspective and critique were dispersed throughout the economy. Engagement promotes fairness, reasonableness and responsibility, from all parties. Engagement engenders passion!

Engagement with government and the public service:

The Government and the Ministry has been in a state of flux over the last several months. There has been a high degree of uncertainty. We are hoping for some stability with the new Minister and DM, although they are both new to the portfolio. We are encouraged by the appointment of Peter Leclaire to ADM, who is known to us having worked for a number of years within the post-secondary system, quite recently at Lethbridge College. The DM has suggested she will meet with us soon, as has Mr. Leclaire, after she gets somewhat familiar with the portfolio. We continue to press the Minister to meet with us. He has meet with the student associations, but not yet with the institutional presidents.

Over the summer we did meet with the Wildrose Party post-secondary critic to open lines of communication and to a large extent we were informing him and his assistant of the different aspects and issues of the post-secondary system. It was a constructive meeting and we expect to meet again.

We continue to work with the public servants on RBB [Results Based Budgeting], its' outcomes and key performance indicators. We expect discussion to continue soon, subsequent to the government transition period. ACIFA forwarded a letter to the government suggesting that an increase to faculty and student representation on the Board of Governors [BOG] of post-secondary institutions would be a positive initiative. We also included our policy



statement on the role and responsibilities of BOG reps. It is important that the faculty perspective be presented at BOG meeting.

Engagement with community partners:

We continue to maintain a strong relationship with CAFA, working together on many issues. We also have remained in contact with the student groups and have had a few discussions with the new executive director of CAUT and its new President. They have continued to offer support in our endeavors, as we require them. We also maintain contact with our peers in FPSE [BC] and Ontario [OPSEU]

We are hoping to initiate mutually beneficial discussion with the Council of Presidents, although this is still in its early stages.

Engagement on professional affairs:

We hope to re-emphasize some of the mandate of the Professional Affairs committee [PAC] and tackle position papers on issues of importance to our membership: outcomes based education, academic freedom and intellectual property.

Engagement with the ACIFA office:

We have had some re-organization of the office with the return of Kerri Green [we are delighted] and with the assistance of Pam Anderson. Derek Gywnn [North] and Al Brown [South] are available to provide advice on grievance matters, while Terry Sway continues to be the glue that holds our association in balance on the collective agreement front through negotiations and his "pretty" good stories. We have begun to examine changes to our website to enhance its effectiveness. We have also initiated some minor changes in the conference to more fully engage the participants in debate and discussion.

Engagement through Contract Negotiations:

I think with should be relatively satisfied with the contract settlements we have achieved in a busy negotiating year, although we should not become complacent. In comparison to other provinces – good; in comparison to our expectations – not so good. Thank you again Terry and all those who worked and continue to work hard in negotiations.

And so have expectations for engagement though many venues. We will continue to advocate for more rigorous engagement with our administrations and the government. Engagement serves everyone well!

Doug Short, President, Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

ACIFA 2015 Annual Spring Conference

May 24 – May 26, 2015
at the Chateau Lake Louise



Hosted by the Portage College Faculty Association
Stay tuned for further details!



Chateau Lake Louise Photo courtesy of http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fairmont_Chateau_Lake_Louise.JPG

Meet the New Members of the ACIFA Presidents' Council

ACIFA would like to introduce the newly appointed members of the ACIFA Presidents' Council 2014-2015: **Gerri Joosse**, Lethbridge College Faculty Association; **Marc Schroeder**, Mount Royal University Faculty Association; and **James McWilliams**, SAIT Academic Faculty Association.

Gerri Joosse

President, Lethbridge College FA



I am excited to join the ACIFA President's club! Having been an instructor for the last 20 years at Lethbridge College, I have been involved with Faculty Association in a variety of roles: Vice President, Administration; Vice President, Financial; various college committees; and have thoroughly enjoyed the relationship with students that teaching creates.

Professionally I hold Certified Public Accountant designation, and hold degrees from Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, and the University of Calgary. The doctorate degree from U of C is in Educational Leadership and I look forward to using this knowledge to advance ACIFA and its role within Alberta. Recently I have taken up kayaking and I also enjoy quiet hobbies such as reading, etc. Traveling to new locations and learning about others is highly enjoyable!

Marc Schroeder

President, Mount Royal University FA



Marc Schroeder started his term as MRFA President on June 15, replacing outgoing President Gerry Cross. He has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Association since joining MRU in 2002, including having served on the MRFA's Executive Board since 2012. Although his current position at the helm of the Association is full-time, in his regular faculty life he is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Marc has an M.Sc. in Computer Science from the University of Calgary as well as experience in the computing industry. Academic interests include programming languages, object-oriented and functional programming, low-level software and computer architecture, web development, computer science education and pedagogy. When not at work, Marc enjoys downhill skiing, golf, music, and spending time with his wife and two daughters.

James McWilliams

President, SAIT FA



My name is James McWilliams; I am the President of the SAIT Academic Faculty Association, and a Chef Instructor in the School of Hospitality & Tourism. I am a Certified Canadian Chef De Cuisine and hold a Master's Degree in Adult Education from the University of Calgary.

I hold the integrity of the SAIT Academic Faculty Association in the highest regard. I believe it is the duty of the Faculty Association Divisions and the President to represent and negotiate for fairness, honesty, ethical parity, openness and a safe and vibrant working environment for its members.

I am an advocate of ACIFA's dedication to fair representation for its members. I support ACIFA's allegiance to all Faculty participants in Alberta's Post-Secondary Institutions.

I have always been obsessed with cooking and have an ongoing passion pertaining to nutritional / wholesome foods and a healthy life style. I enjoy the occasional round of golf and practice yoga when time permits. I am an enthusiastic soccer fan and an avid reader and writer.

ACIFA would also like to welcome back **President, Doug Short**; **Vice President Negotiations, Ryan Kaupp**; and **Vice President External, Anna Beukes**. These ACIFA Executive members were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting at the 2014 ACIFA Conference.



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 19, 2014.**

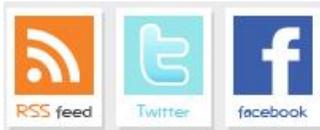
acifa.ca is **NEW!**

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

Connect using Social Media:

www.twitter.com/ACIFAcA

www.facebook.com/ACIFAcA



ACIFA Conference 2014

(Photos courtesy of the ACIFA Office Staff)



The 2014 ACIFA Conference, which took place at **Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge**, was a roaring success! 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. In addition, the conference's Hosting Committee ensured that there was no shortage of activities available for those who wished to experience a little bit of fun and adventure in their free time.

ACIFA is pleased to announce that the Silent Auction, held at the hospitality suites on Monday and Tuesday nights, raised over \$2000.00 for 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 NorQuest College Conference Hosting Committee for all of their time and effort to help ensure that the conference ran smoothly.



NorQuest College Hosting Committee

2013 Scholarship in Teaching and Learning Award Winners

Brooklin Schneider & Jordan Ramey

Olds College

“Tapping into writing skills: engaging Brewmaster students with blogs and social media”

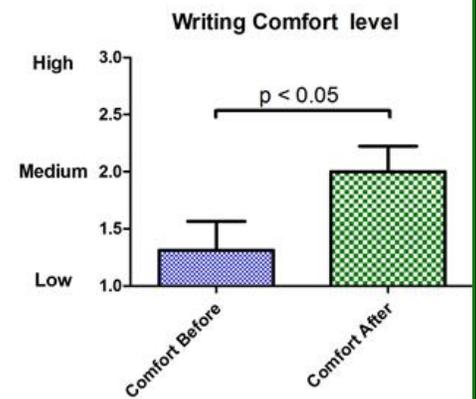
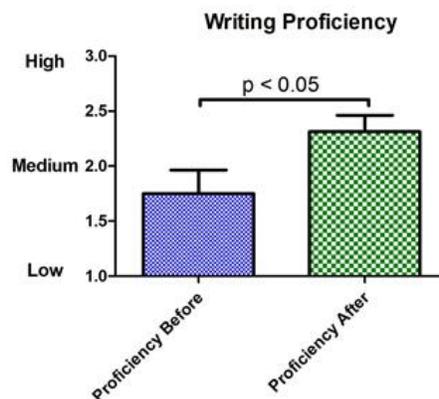
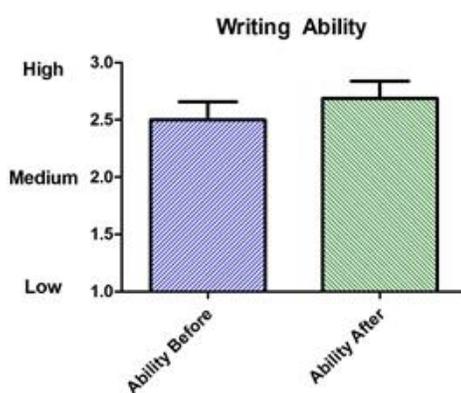
This research project looked at the effects blogs and Twitter have on students’ abilities to write effectively in a business communications class. It further examined whether writing for an external audience on blogs and social media motivated students to produce better writing.

In September 2013, Olds College welcomed 26 students to its newly launched Brewmaster and Brewery Operations Program. Through a competitive entry process, students were selected and began their two years of study. We asked the students to set up personal blogs to document their learning as well as manage the official College @OCBrewmaster Twitter account, allowing them not only the opportunity to promote the campus brewery, showcase new developments in craft beer, and document their learning, but also give them access to an authentic external audience.

After reviewing student feedback on this research project, we found the Brewmaster students were motivated to write not because they felt their writing ability had changed but because they had an increased comfort level writing for an online audience (see graphs below). Social media and blogs allowed students to write for an authentic, diverse group of readers who read and responded to students’ work. The students were thus acutely aware of a public readership and took greater care with writing tasks. Moreover, blogs and social media highlighted student learning—academic and experiential—and told a richer, more holistic story than transcripts or even resumes because they are dynamic documents that engage with external readers.

Additionally, these writing tasks forced students to document their experiences in the Brewmaster program publicly online, making their learning transparent. This record of their learning is important for presenting themselves to the world. But presenting themselves to the world requires careful consideration of their audience and carefully crafted blog posts and Tweets using an approachable yet professional style of writing. Thus these writing tasks also made student learning visible as well as allowed the public to engage with this learning in the form of comments, Retweets, and other forms of responses, thus facilitating the students’ building of a professional network and engaging the wider brewing community and beer industry.

This research project showed that blogs and social media motivated students to write more because they felt more comfortable writing for an external audience by the end of the project and therefore developed proficiency. A future direction for this project is to look at writing skills among students with a lower level of writing proficiency to investigate the impact of blogs and social media on both their proficiency and comfort level with online writing tasks.





Home and Auto Insurance

MEMBERS GET MORE! We know that everyone wants more from their insurance provider. That's why when ACIFA members request a quote for their home and/or auto insurance through Johnson they'll automatically be entered into a draw to win a **BMW 3 Series, a trip for two to the Bahamas, and \$5,000 cash.** For over 130 years, Johnson has helped their customers enjoy better coverage by offering MORE. Call 1-855-516-5596 or visit www.johnson.ca/MORE today!



**2015 Award
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**

2015 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, 2015.**

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 2015 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.*

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



http://acifa.ca/?page_id=8

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

October 17, 2014	Executive Council	Calgary
October 18, 2014	Presidents' Council	Calgary
January 23, 2015	Executive Council	Edmonton
January 24, 2015	Professional Affairs Committee & Negotiations Advisory Committee	Edmonton
March 20, 2015	Executive Council	Edmonton
March 21, 2015	Presidents' Council	Edmonton
May 9, 2015	Executive Council Budget	Edmonton
May 24, 2015	Presidents' Council	Chateau Lake Louise
May 26, 2015	Annual General Meeting	Chateau Lake Louise
May 24 – May 26, 2015	Spring Conference	Chateau Lake Louise