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President's Message

by Doug Short

There has been a high degree of hysteria/ uncertainty in the last couple of months as the Alberta Government apparently deals with the unexpected. We anxiously wait for March 7th, somewhat paralyzed!



Recently, I was at Safeway when the power went out and everything ground to a standstill, as apparently you can't buy anything

when the computers are down, even if you have cash. Interestingly people waited patiently for the computers to come back up and there was no hysteria. People were committed to their purchases and were prepared for the system to return, despite a temporary setback. One has to ask where this Government's commitment to increases of 2/2/2 might be going. Will it show a long term strategy, short term panic or is there an ideological basis for cutting back on commitments when the economic environment turns?

I was encouraged recently by the variety of individuals and organizations across the political spectrum calling for a provincial sales tax to stabilize government revenues, with the Conference Board of Canada recently joining the chorus. It showed a desire for a government role in society. I have often thought that a balanced revenue base for government is desirable. Do we tax people when they earn or when they spend? Perhaps with measures such as this or other government revenue adjustments we can use the volatile resource revenues to build long term substantive commitments in our growing province.

There is uncertainty related to the Government's view of post-secondary education in the context of economic development [Ministry of Enterprise and Advance Education]. ACIFA believes that there is a broader perspective on education. At the Ignite Conference [February 21 and 22, 2013], sponsored by the three student organizations in the province, the Provincial Government, ACIFA and CAFA, there was lively discussion on the trends developing in post-secondary education. With results based budgeting and an outcomes focus upon us, ACIFA is well served by our task force on post-secondary education that was developed a consensus on high level outcomes for post-secondary education. These efforts were well received [at this point] by government officials.

On the pension front there has also been some hysteria created around the sustainability of our LAPP. I would encourage you to read a statement on the LAPP website: <http://www.lapp.ca>. **(Continued on page 2)**

ACIFA 2013 Annual Spring Conference

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

**Be sure to Register and Book
your room by April 25, 2013!**

See Page 4 for details

Presidents' Message

(Continued from page 1)

My observation is that our pension plan was established when we didn't live as long as we do today and it had incentives [and thus subsidies] to encourage early retirement. We have to examine this in a context where it now may be more appropriate to consider incentives to work longer to maintain the essence of a defined benefit plan. We have adopted a ration approach to reviewing the LAPP.

Let us take a long term perspective embracing the importance of post-secondary education in that perspective.

Other news:

- Devry University is closing shop in this province.
- Concordia University has achieved a collective agreement.
- CAQC has a new Chair in Olive Young.

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membership benefit you?**

?

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

2013 ACIFA Conference Keynote Speaker Preview

John Acorn

"From the Television Screen to the Classroom, With a Sideline or Two Along the Way"

John Acorn became well known as the host of Acorn, The Nature Nut, a syndicated television series that encouraged people, old and young, to get out and become "naturalists." John has also written seventeen books, ranging from children's dinosaur books to detailed field guides, and he has accumulated a great deal of experience in the popularization of science for a general audience, having also worked in exhibit design, public speaking, and radio. Bringing this background to the lecture rooms of the University of Alberta has been an interesting experience for John, and the contrast between undergraduate education and popular communication has produced a number of interesting insights for him, and raised a number of interesting questions. Faced with a potentially entertaining lecturer, how much entertainment do students really want? Does being a minor celebrity give you more or less credibility with your students? Which techniques from popularization work in the classroom and which do not? How do popular views of the environment work for and against a lecturer in the environmental sciences? And of course, what can we learn about the effectiveness of popularization techniques by evaluating students' understanding of the subject matter come exam time. With increasing talk of online education poised to replace introductory in-person courses at some institutions, these are questions of interest today.



2013 ACIFA Conference

Entertainment Preview



Sunday Night Reception

Lori Reid – Folk Artist

Rocky Mountain based Lori Reid, possibly best known for her time with the band The Fates, has settled once again in Canmore where she operates a dayhome for youngsters. She has also been concentrating on her song writing and performing. Last October Lori released a new solo project – Temperance Hotel – which was recorded at the Canmore Hotel.

Monday Night Banquet – Mardi Gras Theme

Adele M. Wilding & Rick Lett Duo

Jazz singer-songwriter Adele Wilding and jazz guitarist Rick Lett formed their duo in September 2012. They perform classic and contemporary jazz standards and original songs. They are currently devoting an entire set to selections written on the blues scale and in minor and modal keys. A listeners' gig, this set will be interpreted and performed by the duo at the ACIFA Conference, on Monday, May 27 2012, in Lake Louise, Alberta.

Adele M. Wilding was previously based in London, UK, where, among other accolades, she received the inaugural BWA Nina Simone Award in 2005. Originally from Saskatchewan, Rick Lett is in demand as a performer, recording artist and teacher of jazz guitar and bass, having spent 30 years in this genre.



Both Adele and Rick are on Faculty at the Conservatory of Music and Dance, Medicine Hat College.



Tuesday Night Entertainment

The Rob Hudec Trio

You can't go far in the Medicine Hat club scene without hearing this multi-talented musician.

Rob Hudec (pictured in the centre) has been a force on the Medicine Hat music scene for many years, known just as much for his prowess as a blues guitar slinger as for his talents as a singer/songwriter.

While he wears an abiding love of blues music on his sleeve, he shows an affinity for a very deep grab-bag of roots music, jazz, R&B, pop, folk, gospel, country, and reggae.

Hudec's Trio features some of Medicine Hat's finest musicians that includes Jason Hellman on drums and Troy Biccum on bass guitar.

2013 ACIFA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The Registration Form for the **ACIFA 2013 Annual Spring Conference** can be found Online at:
<http://event-wizard.com/2013ACIFAConference/0/register>



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.



Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements:

@ **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise**
BOOK via phone: 1 866 540 4413

ask for the ACIFA Conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying
Chateau Lake Louise has a booking deadline of April 25, 2013

Please note that a *non-refundable* room deposit (of first night plus tax) will be charged by the hotel 45 days prior to the event.

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

<http://www.acifa.ca/acifa2013>

Early Bird Registration Draw:

Congratulations to this year's early bird
Winner: **Travis Seaman** of Bow Valley
College Faculty Association!





2012 Award For Innovation in Teaching Winner

"Using Screen Capture and Youtube to Post Lecture Information Online"

Name: Paul Norris
Position: Architectural Technologies Instructor
Institution: SAIT Polytechnic, Calgary



One of my challenges as an instructor in the Architectural Technologies (AT) program at SAIT Polytechnic is to teach architectural drafting to first year students. This study culminates in the completion of "working" or "construction" drawings, which are, in many ways, the heart of the AT profession. Working drawings are often the most important documents in the construction process, and are also the legal contract between the designer, builder, and client.

The industry standard computer software used to produce these working drawings is *AutoCAD*, a rather dated, cumbersome, and non-intuitive computer program that can be difficult to learn, especially for inexperienced students. If a series of progressive steps are not followed in a particular order—if just one step is omitted or is performed out of sequence—the program will not operate properly. This process can be extremely frustrating for students who are not only struggling to navigate a new computer program, but at the same time are trying to make sense of how to complete a set of working drawings and figure out the construction process.

In my early years of teaching drafting, my primary role was to show students how to use *AutoCAD* to complete a task. This process meant that we would often review the same command about two or three times. By the end of each lesson, many of the stronger students would have become disengaged, having caught on to the topic early on. At the same time, other students would need further instruction and numerous reviews. As in most lectures, I ended up teaching to the middle ground, and often found that neither students nor I were performing to our maximum potential.

In September 2009, I came up with a plan that might help us both succeed at a higher level. Using a program called *Snagit* I began to record a video summary of many of the more difficult concepts I had been teaching in *AutoCAD*. With this technology, I created a "screen capture" recording, complete with audio, of all the steps necessary to complete a task. "Screen capture" or "screen casting" captures a screenshot of any running software application, recording all the actions on the screen and instantly creating a screencast or video. I found I could record a video almost anywhere—as long as it was fairly quiet—by simply pushing the start button, going through the same steps I teach in the classroom, and then pushing stop. The software did the rest.

To this day I purposely keep my videos raw, uncut, and unedited, providing the same personality and informal teaching style the students have come to expect from me in the classroom. After my live video is complete, I post the information on *YouTube* for the students to view and review as often as they wish, at their own pace, and on their own time. They can pause and repeat the process over and over, without feeling like they are wasting my time; they can review a task they feel they should have learned weeks before without risking embarrassment, and finally, the first time a learner is trying to wrap their brain around a new concept, the last thing they need is an instructor standing over their shoulders saying, "Do you understand this?"

Because students have full control over the speed at which they watch my demonstrations, I can condense a one hour teaching session into a 10 minute video. The entire self-taught process, from starting to record the video to putting it up on *YouTube*, takes me about 20 minutes. Not only is this process quick, but as there are many inexpensive and even free versions of screen capture software on the market, it is also cost effective.

Please see the link to one of my early AutoCAD videos: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fal87tYBVk>

This wonderfully detailed article goes on to describe the innovation's rationale, outcomes, and wider implications on post-secondary education.

You can read it at: <http://www.acifa.ca/innovation-2012-winner>



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SAIT Academic Faculty Association

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

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Upcoming ACIFA Dates

March 22, 2013	Executive Council	Edmonton
March 23, 2013	Professional Affairs Committee & Negotiations Advisory Committee	Edmonton
May 4, 2013	Executive Council	Edmonton
May 26, 2013	Presidents' Council	Chateau Lake Louise
May 28, 2013	Annual General Meeting	Chateau Lake Louise
May 26 – 28, 2013	Spring Conference	Chateau Lake Louise



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