



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

September - October 2010

President's Message

by David Hyttenrauch



Hello, and welcome to a new academic year. Last year marked some major changes and challenges for Alberta's post-secondary sector, the conversion of two of our colleges to undergraduate universities and the sudden, severe budget challenge after a few years of positive investment. Other ACIFA member institutions continue to add new degrees to meet student demand, at the same time as trades and apprenticeship programs are under pressure. Faculty roles and complements are changing; ACIFA is engaged in new ways at a national level through CAUT; and several institutions are welcoming new Presidents or beginning searches for them. Coming from my experience at ACIFA Presidents' Council, I also know we're at a time of continued political and budgetary uncertainty, continuing profound challenges in the ways some institutions are governed, and the exhaustion of various avenues to ask government to make some necessary changes to the Post-Secondary Learning Act.

I'm coming to this new role at ACIFA after five years as President of the Mount Royal Faculty Association, five tumultuous years when we went through a comprehensive restructuring of academic programs, faculty roles and work patterns, and institutional governance, all while working to renew our own Association, its services and accountability. What I bring to ACIFA is a progressive and diplomatic problem-solving approach, an eye to improving systems and relationships for the betterment of post-secondary education, and a strong belief in the collective voice. Faculty in ACIFA member institutions come from diverse backgrounds, teach and research in very different institutions and cultures, and address very different communities.

One of the challenges is to find the common voice in the midst of that diversity, and I think one of the functions of ACIFA's Executive and Presidents' Council is to identify and express it. As I look forward to upcoming Executive and Presidents' Council meetings, I hope to begin asking the right questions about our collective identity and how to give that identity a clear voice. Who are we as faculty in an evolving post-secondary system? How do we engage government, our Boards of Governors, our administrations? How do we develop faculty potential to support our common professional and labour aspirations? Which partnerships are the right ones for us? And what can we learn from brother and sister organizations across the country, now that we're more closely connected to them through CAUT? Maybe the answer is that we're doing the right things and doing them well, and affirming that is valuable in itself. And maybe we'll find changes we can make that will improve ACIFA and its support for the province's faculty. Either way, I'm excited about the journey.

ACIFA Conference 2011 will take place May 29 – June 1 at Chateau Lake Louise! See page 3 for more information.

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Meet the New Members of the ACIFA Executive Council

ACIFA would like to introduce the newly elected ACIFA President, David Hyttenrauch. As well as new Vice President Negotiations, Doug Spurgeon and new Vice President External, Gerry Cross. ACIFA would also like to welcome back Mike Durbeniuk, who was elected into his new position of Executive Vice President. Dave Purkis will also be re-joining the council as Past President. The new ACIFA Executive members were elected at the Annual General Meeting at the 2010 ACIFA Conference.

David Hyttenrauch, Mount Royal University – President



Dr David Hyttenrauch (B.A and M.A., Windsor; M.Phil. and D.Phil, Jesus College, Oxford) joined Mount Royal's Department of English in 1997, bringing interests in medieval and fantasy literature, drama, and composition. He had previously taught briefly at the University of Windsor and then for three years in the university-transfer English program at Eastern College, Burin, Newfoundland. As Mount Royal's English degree programs moved from university transfer to a collaborative degree with Athabasca University to Mount Royal's own degree, he served as the department's Composition Coordinator and program advisor for English majors. From 2002 to 2005 he chaired Mount Royal's Academic Council, participating closely in the development of baccalaureate degree curricula, the General Education model (including the writing requirement delivered by English), and the change to bicameral governance. From 2005 to 2010 he served as President of the Mount Royal Faculty Association during a period of close cooperation and mutual respect among the MRFA, Mount Royal's President and executive team, and the Board of Governors. During this period of intensive work to transform Mount Royal into an undergraduate university, he represented the MRFA on several transition task forces, co-chairing these with the Provost/Vice-President Academic. He built a strong working relationship with CAUT, and represented the faculty at each step of the Quality Council and AUCC application processes. During his tenure he made significant contributions to the new emphasis at Mount Royal on positive faculty-management engagement through joint processes and interest-focused bargaining. He also worked to rejuvenate the MRFA, introducing important new committees; overhauling the Bylaws; improving facilities, services and accountability to members; and enhancing training opportunities for labour relations and parliamentary procedure. In his new role as ACIFA President, he brings a strong interest and experience in the changing post-secondary system, in effective liaison among various groups, and in organizational development.

Doug Spurgeon, SAIT – Vice President Negotiations

Doug started at SAIT in 1984 as a contract instructor becoming full time in 1988. Currently he teaches in the Telecom Major of the IT Diploma with the School of Information & Communications Technology. Doug became involved with SAFA through a round of bargaining and has held the positions of Division Director, Chair of Bargaining, Grievance Officer and currently is the President of SAFA. Doug ran for the position of VP Negotiations because he believes that each institute's contracts rely on each other. Only through some common themes can the contracts which we rely on be held to support the other member institutes. Over the next couple of years Doug hopes to get each institute to look at their agreement and help identify what are potential areas of conflict or weakness. Working together and getting support from other institutes will help all members to attempt both prepare for negotiations and defend the rights they have negotiated.



: Gerry Cross, Mount Royal University – Vice President External



Gerry is beginning two-year terms as President of the Mount Royal Faculty Association and Vice-President External of ACIFA. He has taught computer science at Mount Royal since 1982 and been Chair of the Computer Science and Information Systems Department for two terms. Gerry has been active in the institution and the MRFA throughout his career at Mount Royal. In the 90s, he served two years as faculty representative on the Board of Governors and two years as Treasurer of the MRFA. Gerry has been First Vice-President and Vice-Chair of Mount Royal Faculty Association's Negotiating Committee for the past three years, a period during which scholarship as part of faculty work and academic rank were introduced into the Collective Agreement as a consequence of the transition from a college to a university.

The Vice-President External's principal responsibility is to act as the official liaison between ACIFA and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. CAUT has been an invaluable resource for Mount Royal in the two years that ACIFA has been a federated member and Gerry would like to help other ACIFA members make use of CAUT's expertise. As well, Gerry is interested in working with the ACIFA executive and staff and with CAFA on provincial lobbying.

: Mike Durbeniuk, Medicine Hat College – Executive Vice President

Mike Durbeniuk has served on the ACIFA Executive Council for many years as the Vice President Negotiations. We are delighted to have Mike continue with Executive Council in his new capacity. Mike's history and thorough knowledge of ACIFA will be tremendously valuable in his position of Executive Vice President.



ACIFA 2011 Annual Spring Conference

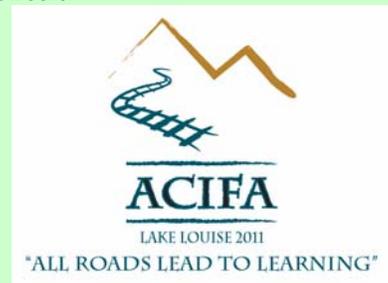
May 29 to June 1

at the beautiful Chateau Lake Louise



hosted by the SAIT Academic Faculty Association

Look for the Call for Submissions in the next issue of the *Faculty Circuit*.



Sub-themes:

Health Avenue: (stress in the workplace, humour, wellness)

Environmental Trail: (activities, our working environment, etc)

Connection Crescent: (education, technology, etc)

Award for Innovation in Teaching Winner: Glen Allan



Glen Allan, a Business Administration instructor of Medicine Hat College, was presented with the **ACIFA 2010 Award for Innovation in Teaching** at the 2010 ACIFA Conference in Jasper this past May.

The award is sponsored by Johnson Inc., ACIFA's preferred insurance provider, and is awarded annually to a faculty member or team from one of ACIFA's member organizations. The award winner and two runner ups are selected through a nomination process sponsored by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA. The award winner receives a cheque for \$1500 and their faculty association \$500. Further, the winner's expenses to attend the conference to receive their award are covered

by the Post Secondary Trust fund, administered by ACIFA.

The innovation/creative teaching concept introduced by Glen was a semester long project incorporated into two separate classes – a first year business statistics class and a second year marketing management class. The main goals of the project were to: incorporate a real life business scenario into each of these classes, put theory into practice, attempt to develop a closer relationship between the local business community and the college, and to introduce the classes to effective business tools – such as online survey programs and Excel pivot tables. In this assignment, the classes were asked to act as “statistic/marketing consultants” for a local business called Cypress Hills Winery.

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ACIFA Conference 2010

The 2010 ACIFA Conference, which took place at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, was hugely successful. It was a record breaking year for attendance, as well as the number of sessions being presented. A big thank you to the NASA Conference Hosting Committee who's planning and unique ideas brought innovation and flair to the conference, such as the very popular dragon boat session lead by members of the Edmonton Dragon Boat Racing Club.



Photo by Patti Dawkins, ACAD FA.

ACIFA Conference attendees participate in the dragon boat session, lead by members of the Edmonton Dragon Boat Racing Club.



Photo by Patti Dawkins, ACAD FA.

Conference attendees enjoy a scenic horseback ride on the grounds of Jasper Park Lodge.



Photo by Lynn Devlin, ACIFA

NASA Hosting Committee members keep the programme running smoothly by emceeing during one of the conference meals.

ACIFA Conference 2010 continued...

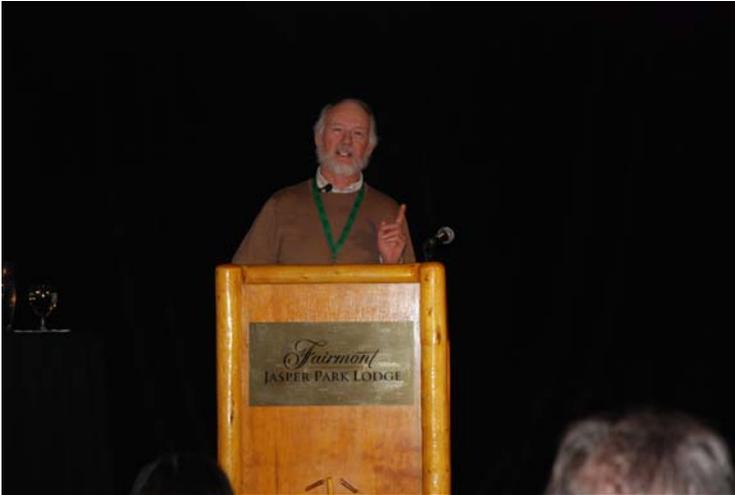


Photo by Lynn Devlin, ACIFA
Keynote speaker and naturalist, Ben Gadd, gives his presentation.



Photo by Patti Dawkins, ACAD FA
The ladies kick back after a busy day of conference activities.

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 also take the opportunity to include further questions specific to their own institutions.

The relatively high response rate from ACIFA members and the continuity from year to year of the thirteen core survey questions provide 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. December 17, 2010.**



2011 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

Continued on page 8

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.

Mutual Obligations

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

- An announcement in the winner's local newspaper and 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 25, 2011**.

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

*The 2011 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.*

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

November 19, 2010 – Executive Council – Calgary

November 20, 2010 – Professional Affairs Committee and
Negotiations Advisory Committee
– Calgary

February 4, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton

February 5, 2011 – Presidents' Council – Edmonton

March 4, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton

March 5, 2011 – Professional Affairs Committee and
Negotiations Advisory Committee
– Edmonton

April 2, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton

May 29, 2011 – Presidents' Council – Chateau Lake Louise

May 31, 2011 – Annual General Meeting – Chateau Lake
Louise

May 29 – June 1 – Spring Conference – Chateau Lake
Louise

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
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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