



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

January- February 2010

President's Message by Dave Purkis



Here it is, nearing the end of January of the last year of the first decade of the 21st century. This might be a good time to have quick look at some of the current issues in Canadian post-secondary education. I have just returned from the CAUT Forum for Presidents where I listened to faculty leaders from across the country

discuss their concerns and although the participants were mostly from universities, it is amazing how many things we all have in common.

For one, it seems that wherever you go sessional instruction is an issue. The number of instructors working under contract is increasing everywhere and the way they are paid and treated is a broad area of concern. With growing financial pressures on institutions, it would appear that many employers are unable to resist the temptation to save money on the backs of their most vulnerable employees. In Ontario many of those instructors have responded to their lack of representation by joining CUPE and we witnessed last year's strike of

contract instructors at York University, with more job action being contemplated at other Ontario institutions.

Of course we add an interesting wrinkle to that issue in Alberta where our Post-secondary Learning Act permits the employer to designate membership in the association and strikes are not permitted.

Another nearly universal trend seems to be the growth in administration. While real dollars for instruction are decreasing, the percentage of institutional resources spent on administration continues to expand. Combine that with the surprising number of post-secondary administrators who come from outside of academia and it is no wonder that the "clients" and "customers" are beginning to grumble about the quality of their education. Linked to this trend is the growing public control of research. It is not only in Alberta where research dollars tend to be channeled towards areas identified by industry and government as desirable fields of study. Chalk up one more in a growing list of threats to academic freedom. However, industry is not only influencing research. The language of industry is creeping into faculty evaluation as well, with institutions introducing quantifiable measures to aid them in their relentless striving to become "World Class Centers of Excellence".

Continued on page 4

Submit your presentation for the 2010 Conference!

Benefits of pursuing the opportunity to present at the 2010 conference in beautiful Jasper include:

- Conference registration fee reduced by \$100.
- One night free accommodation at the exquisite Jasper Park Lodge.
- Opportunity to network with colleagues from across the province on the concepts and ideas presented in your session.
- Excellent presentation experience for your portfolio.
- 2 meals paid for presenters not registering for the conference.

Mark your calendar: deadline for submissions is
February 15, 2010.

* Find the Call for Submissions on **page 2**

Also registration for the Conference is now OPEN!

* Find the Registration form on **page 6**

In this issue:

Call for Submissions **page 2**

Public Interest Alberta "Join Together Alberta" Campaign **page 3**

Keynote Speakers for 2010 ACIFA Conference **page 4 & 5**

Registration form for 2010 ACIFA Conference **page 6**

CAUT Update **page 7**

Award for Innovation in Teaching Nominations now open **page 8**



Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

2010 Spring Conference

May 16-19, 2010

Jasper Park Lodge

Call for Submissions

Themes:

Come Learn

- * Creativity
- * Motivation
- * Growth

Go Teach

- * Best Practices
- * Diversity Awareness
- * Technology

Think Green

- * At Home
- * At Work
- * Within Yourself

Hosted by NAIT Academic Staff Association



*The **Call for Submissions form** is available through your Faculty Association office and will also be on the ACIFA website (www.acifa.ca).

Please let us know (via devlinl@acifa.ca or 780-423-4440) if you have any questions about the conference session submission process. ACIFA 2010 takes place May 16 to 19. Concurrent sessions run on Monday, May 17 and Tuesday, May 18.



Public Interest Alberta – Join Together Alberta Campaign

Public Interest Alberta invites ACIFA faculty associations and members to participate in a broad campaign that incorporates all of its taskforce sectors to work together to promote and support strong public services in light of potential budget cuts by the provincial government. The campaign was launched at media conferences in Calgary and Edmonton on Friday, January 15th.

To help mobilize citizens and bring together people from various sectors, Public Interest Alberta is organizing 22 town hall events across the province. Public Interest Alberta is asking members of community human service organizations, seniors groups, teachers, parents, post-secondary students, faculty and staff, childcare organizations and healthcare professionals to show their support and attend these town hall events.

Organizations who want to show their support are asked to send a representative to attend the media town hall meetings. Please e-mail Public Interest Alberta Executive Director Bill Moore-Kilgannon at billmk@pialberta.org or call (780) 420-0471 to RSVP.

Unite for public services.
Strengthen the **fabric**
of our communities.

PIA is also looking for volunteers to help facilitate the town hall meetings. Please email Bill Moore-Kilgannon at billmk@pialberta.org about being a facilitator or with any questions you have about “Join Together Alberta: Unite For Public Services – Strengthen the Fabric of Alberta”.

PIA will be compiling what is discussed at the town hall meetings and using this to compose a report to the provincial government.

The campaign website: www.jointogetheralberta.ca provides further information about how members can get involved.

Join Together Alberta - Town Hall Meetings (times are all scheduled as 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.)

Location	Dates	Venue	Address
Brooks	January 25	Heritage Inn – Room B	1217 2 nd Street West
Medicine Hat	January 26	Library – Honor Currie Room	414 1 st Street SE
Lethbridge	January 27	Galt Museum – Viewing Gallery	502 1 st Street South
Pincher Creek	January 28	Town Hall – Gym	962 St. John Avenue
Olds	January 25	Olds College, Faculty Centre	4500 50 Street
Red Deer	January 26	Red Deer College	CS2182C & CS2182D Bethany Collegeseide Bldg, 100 College Blvd
Rocky Mt House	January 27	Walking Eagle Inn	Clearwater Room, 4915 Hwy 11
Camrose	January 28	Augustana College	Coffee House Downstairs, Faith & Life Building 4901 46 Avenue
Lloydminster	February 1	Legacy Centre	5101 46 Street
St Paul	February 2	St. Paul Senior Citizens Club	4809 47 Street
Lac La Biche	February 3	Portage College – Room 143	9531 94 Avenue
Fort McMurray	February 4	Red Poll Centre	200, 10010 Franklin Avenue
Edson	February 1	Curling Club – Sundance Room	4928 1 st Avenue
Hinton	February 2	Legion	250 Pembina Avenue
Lac La Biche	February 3	Forest Interpretive Centre	Boardroom, 3002 33 Street
Fort McMurray	February 4	Westlock Community Hall	Alberta Room, 10711 104 Avenue
Slave Lake	February 8	Native Friendship Centre	416 6 th Avenue N
High Prairie	February 9	Legion	4721 51 Avenue
Peace River	February 10	Belle Petroleum Centre	Petroleum Room, 9403 94 Street
Grande Prairie	February 11	Grande Prairie College	10726 106 Avenue
Calgary	February 16	Red & White Club	1817 Crowchild Trail NW
Edmonton	February 17	Polish Hall	10960 104 Street

President's Message cont'd from page 1

Another area of potential concern is freedom of information and Alberta is not the only province with freedom of information legislation. Under these laws access to any of our records, paper or electronic, could be demanded and as a result, most educational institutions have developed policies saying that they own all of our electronic files. CAUT disputes this, saying historically instructors have owned their own files and that a computer is no different than a filing cabinet. The CAUT legal advisors have done quite a bit of work in this area but it remains untested in court.

As we wind the decade down, it will be interesting to see where these issues go.

Alberta Colleges & Institutes
Faculties Association **acifa**
Serving college and technical institute faculty

#412 10357 109 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
www.acifa.ca

Registration for the 2010 ACIFA Conference at Jasper Park Lodge is now OPEN!



Call to make your room reservation @
1-800-441-1414

Ask for the "ACIFA rate"

Reservation deadline is **April 17, 2010**

Find the registration form on **page 6**

Keynote Speakers Announced for ACIFA 2010 Conference!

Monday morning Keynote opener:

Ben Gadd

Ben Gadd, 64 is one of Canada's better-known naturalists and Rockies writers. Author of the ground-breaking *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, Ben has written eight other books and contributed to several more. His novel *Raven's End* has become an award-winning Canadian best-seller. His latest books are *The Canadian Hiker's and Backpacker's Handbook* and *Canadian Rockies Geology Road Tours*, both of which came out in 2008. Ben has received three Banff Mountain Book Festival awards for his work.



Educated as a geologist, Ben has pursued a career mainly in natural history, including a stint as a Parks Canada naturalist. He has also taught writing at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and Grant MacEwan College. These days he works in the summer as a freelance interpretive guide—a job he describes as "rent-a-naturalist"—and in the winter as a writer and sought-after lecturer on Rockies topics. He also produces interpretive signs for national and provincial parks.

Heard frequently on CBC radio, Ben has also appeared in many television items and several documentaries on the Rockies. He supports various conservation groups in promoting wilderness protection. After thirty years in Jasper, Ben and his wife Cia recently moved to Canmore to be Grandpa and Grandma just across the yard from three-year-old Marie.

The keynote theme is:

Icfield Bunnies, Gullible Bees and Why the Biggest Mountain in the Rockies is Not the Highest Ben Gadd on the Quirky Natural History of the Canadian Rocky Mountains:

Rockhounds, flower-fanciers, wildlife-watchers and bird nuts: you will love this light-hearted and stimulating 45-minute talk. From little-known facts about grizzly bears and half-grabens to the amazing relationship between the calypso orchid and the golden northern bumblebee, prepare for an eye-opening presentation. Bring your questions, too. Ben will also be conducting a nature walk as a session at the Conference. More information to follow in the next issue of the Faculty Circuit.

Monday Evening and Tuesday Morning Keynote:

Wayne Lee

Wayne Lee is a former five-time Canadian amateur wrestling champion and school teacher who had an unrelenting passion for entertaining and empowering people. He took a childhood interest in magic and a fascination with visualization and transformed himself from classroom instructor into comedic hypnotist and mind-power expert.

Over the years, Wayne has used hypnosis to excite, entertain, and mesmerize thousands of audiences across North America. He has performed over 2500 shows, hypnotizing over 25,000 people to dance outrageously, act like celebrities, and help them explore the limits of their imagination. Wayne has appeared on numerous national television and radio programs and was recognized as Entertainer of the Year for 2008 at the Canadian Events Industry Awards.

As well as his hypnosis show, Wayne Lee educates and empowers audiences with his empowerment presentations. Wayne teaches individuals and organizations the mental side of success, helping them use the power of their mind to get what they want. To help spread his message Wayne has authored two books and created a variety of self hypnosis learning programs.



At this year's conference Wayne Lee will be giving two presentations:

Monday evening:

Live the Laughter – a comedic hypnosis show

During Wayne's Comedic Hypnosis show audiences:

- Survive unforgettable, side-splitting laughter
- Dance outrageously, act out their dreams and even become celebrities!
- Discover the mind's power to focus on achieving their goals
- Break through their fears and inhibitions to fill their lives with joy
- Learn visualization techniques that reduce stress and increase relaxation
- Connect with their colleagues while feeling energized, inspired, and empowered

Tuesday morning:

Ignite the Magic Within – 5 on-the-spot ways to reprogram yourself and your organization for ultimate success

As a participant in Wayne's presentation you will learn to:

- Visualize achieving goals – and then take action
- Overcome fear and eliminate self doubt
- Perform at peak levels of productivity and effectiveness
- Reap the many benefits of deep relaxation and reduced stress
- Master emotional states and not take things personally
- Replace bad habits with successful behaviors
- Bring your best to the table at work and at home

Registration for the Conference is now open! See the next page for the registration form.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION form

ACIFA 2010 Annual Spring Conference

* Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge *

*hosted by the
NAIT Academic Staff Association*

May 16 to 19, 2010

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

[Please note that ACIFA welcomes non-members to its Annual Conference.]

Registration Deadline : May 3, 2010

Cancellations must be received in writing by May 7. Refunds, minus a \$50.00 processing fee, will be processed after the conference. Conference fee cannot be returned for cancellation after May 7, but can be applied toward a future conference. You are responsible for payment if you do not cancel and do not attend. Participant substitutes can be made at any time.

➤ Early Bird Registration Draw:

All paid registrations received by April 12, 2010, will be eligible for an early bird prize draw of \$250.00.

FEES

Full Registration includes	\$435.00	\$_____
reception on Sunday, keynote and session registration, [non-members]	\$475.00	
Monday breakfast, lunch & banquet, and Tuesday breakfast, lunch & BBQ, and Wednesday breakfast.		

Monday or Tuesday only registration	\$250.00	\$_____
includes keynote, sessions, breakfast, lunch and banquet(Monday) or barbeque (Tuesday)		

Extra tickets for your guest(s)

➤ <u>complete</u> meal package(s) for your guest (includes banquet ticket and BBQ ticket)	_____ X \$235.00 =	\$_____
➤ Monday banquet ticket(s) <u>only</u> , for your guest(s)	_____ X \$ 55.00 =	\$_____
➤ Tuesday BBQ ticket(s) <u>only</u> , for your guest(s)	_____ X \$ 55.00 =	\$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Return completed form with payment [cheque payable to ACIFA] to:
ACIFA #412, 10357-109 St., Edmonton, AB T5J 1N3 or by email to: devlinl@acifa.ca
phone: 780-423-4440 FAX: 780-423-4515

☉ Delegates are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements:

@ The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge ➤ book via phone: 1-800-441-1414

➤ ask for the ACIFA conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying



enjoy the conference



Since last Spring's AGM, I have been engaged in several activities specifically related to my position as External VP; namely, attending the Western Regional Conference of Faculty Associations in Brandon Manitoba, and the CAUT Council in Ottawa from Nov. 26-27. I

also attended one meeting of the ACIFA executive, and missed another (but only in order to attend the meeting in Brandon).

Although hosted by Brandon University, the conference was held at the site of the Brandon Asylum for the Insane (now part of Assiniboia College) from Oct 15-17. The larger part of the program was taken up with reports from the various member associations. Perhaps in contrast to past meetings, the situation for Alberta institutions no longer appears especially rosy in comparison to those from the other western provinces. ACIFA members can take some consolation from the fact that it appeared, as a rule, the larger and wealthier an institution, the greater the problems it was facing. Jim Turk gave a presentation in which he reminded those present that many of the financial problems confronting post-secondary institutions across Canada as a result of the recession had been greatly exacerbated by the unwise actions of administrations over the last number of years. Of particular note in the regional reports was the ongoing case concerning a dispute between UBC and the UBCFA over the power of academic councils/senates to create policy that overrides the collective agreement between an Association and a BOG. CAUT continues to provide considerable financial assistance to the UBCFA, allowing it to pursue this case in the legal system. Another interesting presentation was given by the past President of Brandon about the corrosive potential of employer-written so-called "Healthy Workplace Policies." The experience of such a policy by Faculty at Brandon was that it was used to suppress many forms of dissent, to prevent faculty from criticizing the administration, and to override provisions of the Collective Agreement which spelled out what

constituted harassment and the requirement of the employer to establish just cause. At Brandon, the policy was greatly modified as a result of a strike by Faculty.

The CAUT Council meeting in Ottawa considered numerous matters of general and specific interest. Certainly the most memorable and even moving event at the council was the presentation of the association's Milner award to the sixteen members of the Winnipeg United College who resigned in protest at the dismissal of their college Donald Savage in 1954, a landmark event in the history of academic freedom in Canada. Several of the individuals who took this brave and principled action, although well into their eighties now, were able to attend; others (several deceased) were represented by family members. A description of the award and the event it remembered can be found in the most recent CAUT bulletin. Council discussed more current issues of academic and collective freedom, including the on-going case at UBC I have referred to in previous reports, in which the issue of an academic council's ability to overrule collective agreements is at stake. The generally depressing financial situation across the country was a common theme. One of the most egregious examples of the consequences of this came from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, where the President unilaterally declared the institution "closed" for several days in December, and as a consequence withheld pay for this period from all faculty and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again state my strong support for ACIFA's participation as a federated member of CAUT. National issues affect all of our members, just as issues in Alberta can have consequences across the rest of the country, and I believe it very important that ACIFA have a presence in CAUT.

Best wishes,

Ben

Dr. Ben Fullalove, Vice President External, ACIFA,
President Alberta College of Art and
Design Faculty Association



2010 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 three 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 a nominee 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 three 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 26, 2010**.

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 2010 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
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

Please address all inquiries and submissions to:
Kerri Sway @ kerri.sway@acifa.ca