



**Athabasca
University**

Employee Recognition Event – 2017

List of Honourees

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SERVICE AWARDS

5-Year Service Award

Nina Acharya	Centre for Social Sciences
Jessica Butts Scott	Partnerships and Student Recruitment
Donna Clare	Graduate Centre for Master of Health Studies
Lori Fleming	Graduate Centre for Master of Business Administration
Karen Gray	Faculty of Business
Rafael Hakobyan	Centre for Science
Chris Hay	Centre for Social Sciences
Louise LeMessurier	Office of the Registrar
Estelle Lo	Office of the Vice-President Finance and Administration
Juliet Onabadejo	Centre for Nursing and Health Studies
Nikki Pawlitschek	Learner Support Services
Katherine Regan	Centre for Social Sciences
Trevor Rockwell	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Teresa Rose	Graduate Centre for Master of Business Administration

10-Year Service Award

Barbara Adamski	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology
Robert Allnutt	Facilities and Services
Glenn Arnold	Faculty of Business
Linda Baert	Office of the Registrar
Allison Barnes	Centre for Social Sciences
Connie Blomgren	Graduate Centre for Doctorate in Distance Education
Teresa Bosse	Centre for Science
Renee Brodie	Centre for Humanities
Joan Chrusch	Office of the Registrar
Mark Crawford	Centre for Social Sciences
Michael Dabrowski	Centre for Humanities
Cristela D'Elia	Centre for Social Sciences and Faculty of Business

Barry Dwornik	Faculty of Business
Raphael Foshay	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Cass Foursha-Stevenson	Centre for Social Sciences
Dianna Freh	Faculty of Business
Myron Gordon	Faculty of Business
Laurel Halladay	Centre for Humanities and Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Robert Hollmann	Procurement and Contract Services
Sami Houry	Office of Institutional Studies
Cindy Ives	Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic
Corina Lasiuk	Development and Alumni Relations
Sandra Law	Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic
Jonathan Leggo	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Peggy Lynn MacIsaac	Library and Scholarly Resources
Helen Mayes	Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic
Lisa Micheelsen	Centre for Humanities
Trevor Mills	Faculty of Business
Yvonne Moore	Centre for Nursing and Health Studies
Terra Murray	Graduate Centre for Master of Health Studies
Morgan Newington	Office of the Registrar
Hugh Notman	Centre for Social Sciences
Simon Nuttgens	Graduate Centre for Applied Psychology
Lara Oberg-Stenson	Faculty of Business
Grace Oresile	Learner Support Services
Shannon Oscroft	Graduate Centre for Master of Business Administration
Sharren Patterson	Centre for Humanities
Wayne Pelletier	Faculty of Business
Frederique Pivot	Centre for Science
Mary Pringle	Faculty of Business
Bonnie Rabin	Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic
Kevin Richards	IT Service Operations
Shannon Robertson	Centre for Humanities
Joe Rosich	Graduate Centre for Heritage Resource Management

Shandip Saha	Centre for Humanities
Melanie Salé	Human Resources and Employee Relations
Gregory Sales	IT Service Operations
Crystal Scherer	Office of Institutional Studies
Ian Schofield	Centre for Science
Cindy Schreyer	Office of the Registrar
Kirsten Smart	Centre for Humanities
Michelle Smith	Faculty of Business
Viorel Tabara	IT Service Operations
Janet Thompson	Graduate Centre for Master of Business Administration
Rosario Turvey	Centre for Social Sciences
Fredrick Ulmer	Centre for Social Sciences
Vlad Voytenko	Centre for Computing and Information Systems
Marjorie Whiteley	Faculty of Business
Theresia Williams	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Sheena Wood	Learning Services Tutorial
Carla Yeaman	Partnerships and Student Recruitment

15-Year Service Award

Lorrie Adams	Centre for Social Sciences
Farook Al-Shamali	Centre for Science
Lee Benson	Office of the Registrar
Bernard Bloom	Centre for Humanities
Robert Brandes	Centre for Social Sciences
Edna Djokoto-Asem	Centre for Social Sciences and Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Holly Dougall	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies and Faculty of Business
Lorraine Duma	Learning Services Tutorial
Larbi Esmahi	Graduate Centre for Science and Information Systems
Elaine Fabbro	Library and Scholarly Resources
Mark Fabbro	Office of the Registrar
Jason Foster	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies

Concetta Gillard	Faculty of Business
Jonathan Guay	IT Service Operations
Lorelei Hanson	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Sean Irwin	Centre for Science
Wendy Kemp	Centre for Nursing and Health Studies
Joe Kendel	Faculty of Business
Kathy Killoh	AU Press
Cynthia Kloeble	IT Service Operations
Alex Kondra	Faculty of Business
Mawuli Kuivi	IT Delivery
Bev Lemessurier	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines
Dave Liddell	Office of the Vice-President Finance and Administration
Linda Lindballe	Centre for Science
Dale Lindskog	Centre for Humanities
Rory McGreal	Graduate Centre for Master of Distance Education
Maureen McQueen	Centre for Nursing and Health Studies
Tony Mishra	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines
Jacob Musila	Faculty of Business
Dwayne O'Coin	Faculty of Business
Omili Oloo	Faculty of Business
Collette Oseen	Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies and Faculty of Business
Janete Poloway	Centre for Science
David Polson	Centre for Social Sciences
Marc Poulin	Centre for Social Sciences
Diana Richards	Office of the Registrar
Mark Roque	IT Delivery
Jocelyn Schmidtke	Office of the Registrar
Lorene Schmidtke	Graduate Centre for Master of Distance Education
Dorothy Steffler	Centre for Social Sciences
Cynthia Tibbetts	Centre for Nursing and Health Studies
Tunde Tuzes	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mike Voaklander	IT Service Operations

William Wiehler Centre for Science
Pierre Wilhelm Faculty of Business

20-Year Service Award

Heather Babiak Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology
Vikki Bellerose Office of the Dean, Graduate Studies
Travis Burwash IT Service Operations
Erna Dominey Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology
Pat Fahy Graduate Centre for Master of Distance Education
Rebecca Heartt Research Centre
Cindy Kilborn Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic
Nicole Nason Faculty of Business
Valerie Olver Office of the Registrar
Kathy Ponto Faculty of Business
Susan Stahl Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Sherry Tebbenham Materials Management

25-Year Service Award

Ross Alexander IT Service Operations
Joy Fraser Centre for Social Sciences
Jayne Gackenbach Snyder Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
Donna Hart Office of the Dean, Faculty of Health Disciplines
Elaine Schow Centre for Nursing and Health Studies
Norman Temple Centre for Science
Gloria Zahara Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

30-Year Service Award

Bertha Baron Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Linda Gray Graduate Centre for Science and Information Systems
Wendy Jewell Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology

35-Year Service Award

Debra Buchanan-Peterson	Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Margo McKenna	Office of the Registrar
Susan Moisey	Graduate Centre for Master of Distance Education
Jay Smith	Centre for Social Sciences
Karen Thompson	Learner Support Services

40-Year Service Award

Jo-Ann Foote	Centre for Humanities
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RECOLLECTIONS OF SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

20-Year

Vikki Bellerose

Twenty years! Where does the time go? I started working as a part-time receptionist in the Marketing Department of the Centre for Innovative Management in February 1997. Within a few months, I was a full-time marketing assistant and later became an academic administrator and assistant to the director of CIM. I worked for the CIM, for 10 busy years as the MBA program grew substantially. I later had the opportunity to work for the Centre for State and Legal Studies (on a project to expand the Criminal Justice Program), the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Learning Services Collaborations and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, where I am now employed.

A lot of things have changed at AU since I started working here. I have met and worked with many great people, some of whom have left the university and many who are still here. I won't be here for another 20 years but I will continue to work hard and support AU.

Travis Burwash

Twenty years! Wow, do they fly by! When I started, I was hired to take care of the eight computers that AU had on site and many terminals (for those who remember them). Now we have well over 900 devices and a five employees to manage them.

I have enjoyed growing with AU and it shaping me into who I am today. My position in desktop support has allowed me to work with many staff members at all levels and in all functional areas of the university.

I have enjoyed my time volunteering for AUFA and really enjoyed my time on the Board of Governors. I am looking forward to the rejuvenation of our institution and working with everyone

to achieve this goal. I want to thank everyone who has had conversations with me over these many years. I have been glad to be an ear for some and to give advice for others. We are all one big family and I want to see that continue. Let us look ahead to many more wonderful years.

Erna Dominey

After two decades at a job I love doing (editing course materials), I feel a need to thank valued AU colleagues who retired before me: Jonathan Baggaley, Dianne Ellefson, Kris Hansen, Judith Hughes, Linda Bonneville, Margaret Carmichael, Ken Collier, Jane Gismondi, Joan Sherman, Christine Nelson, Mary Richardson, Cathyco, Carol Woo and Brenda Hennig at AU Press, Erin Ottosen, Kathy Williams, Linda and Buddy Smith, Colleen from AUFA, John Ollerenshaw and Eve Comrie. You modelled working together at an open university.

At the recognition ceremony, I hope to connect with those who will carry on without me. And I will think on Barbara Roberts, Louis Schmittroth, Sue Rowlandson, Peter Holt, Cherie Richardson and Anna Pellatt—and listen.

Cindy Kilborn

I joined AU in 1996 when my husband and I decided that we would retire to our home at Baptiste Lake. We had just spent five years touring the world and wanted to settle down to begin our retirement. Well I managed to retire for all of a year and then decided that retirement did not suit me, so when the opportunity to join the AU community became available I jumped in with both feet and here it is 20 years later!

As I cast my mind back over the past 20 years what comes to the forefront is the dedication of my colleagues to what AU stands for: lifelong learning available to everyone. What a joy to have been part of that vision.

Over the years, AU has faced many challenges, some successfully overcome and some bringing very painful failures. AU now faces another challenge as it moves to redefine its role and mission for the future. I have every faith that the dedicated staff of AU will succeed and forge forward. Having spent 20 very enjoyable, successful years with AU, I feel both joy and sadness that I will not be part of that new AU as I have decided to try retirement again. Maybe this time it will take.

Nicole Nason

I cannot believe it has been 20 years already. I started at AU working as a production assistant in the Media Services Department, which consisted of the printing presses, course materials warehouse, docutech and the typesetters. Over the years, I also worked as a digital media technologist (now multimedia web specialist) and Information Centre attendant, and I am now a student advisor in the Faculty of Business.

I gained a wealth of knowledge over the years from all my talented co-workers. It has been a privilege working with such incredible people. It has also been interesting to see all the changes which have occurred over 20 years. I am passionate about working with students and think this is where I will spend my remaining years at AU.

Valerie Olver

It is true, I blinked and 20 years flew by. Must be because I was having fun. I was hired as a casual employee to cover summer absences in what was once known as the Public Affairs Office. That led to a temporary position in the newly created Information Centre while, at the same time, assisting with Convocation arrangements.

Two years later, when a position in Student Financial Aid opened up in the Office of the Registrar, it was a natural progression given my previous career in the banking sector. I had been responsible for setting up operations for a student loan service centre back when banks were in the student loan business. In my time managing student loan disbursements, it had never occurred to me that I would ever facilitate it from the educational institution side. My established relationships with provincial government contacts continue to this day.

Many changes and challenges were to be expected and have definitely occurred during my 20 years at AU. My work colleagues, provincial EI colleagues and most importantly the work we do for AU students in both Student Financial Aid and Student Awards are what keep the professional fires burning.

Kathy Ponto

Twenty years ago, when courses were delivered primarily in print, I was hired as a typesetter in the department that was then known as Media Services. That was just before things started changing at a rapid pace. The School of Business was the first faculty to deliver its courses primarily online, and in 2002, I was hired as their first web assistant. A couple of years later, they gave me the opportunity to try my hand at editing. I guess I found my niche, because I started as an assistant editor (a support position), was promoted to multimedia editor (a professional position), and was recently promoted to course production co-ordinator, all within the Faculty of Business. I would not be where I am today without the support and encouragement of the amazing people I have worked with over the years, particularly the mentorship of Jan Thiessen, Vince Ambrock and the course design and development team in the Faculty of Business.

Susan Stahl

I began my AU career in 1997 as a copyright assistant/administrative assistant in what was then called Educational Technology. My favorite time in that department was when the university hosted the CADE conference in Banff, where AU really showed our talents: educationally, theatrically and technologically. We have and have had, some very talented people here: Jonathan Baggeley, Alan Davis, Bruce Morito, Dietmar Kennepohl, Christine Nelson, Terry Tanski and Dan West, to name a few.

After a few years, I moved to become part of the Academic Support Unit that gave administrative support to the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences Centres, working for many years as the administrative course assistant assigned to the Centre for Science. Many good times were had there as well as Dietmar Kennepohl and compatriots hosted the annual Chemistry Magic Show. Behind the curtain or in front of it—it didn't matter—it was so much fun. I even have a Dr. Seuss inspired birthday poem that was written especially for me. I cherish it greatly.

In 2008, when I began working a three-day week, I moved to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, where I continue to work today. I love the work I do. It gives me great personal satisfaction to be able to help students, coworkers, tutors and faculty members in whatever manner I can and to be a small part of someone's achievement.

I believe very strongly in AU. I hope that it will always be here for, most especially, ordinary Albertans and Canadian. For someone to be able to take a course just for interest, to finish a degree or to start on a new path anywhere along their life's journey is a very important option. I really believe our university embodies the term, *lifelong learning*.

Sherry Tebbenham

Wow, where has the time gone? I started with AU helping a friend, thinking I was going to work for two weeks, and 20 years later, here we are. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work at AU and to live in the Athabasca. I have met so many wonderful friends and colleagues and look forward to my future with AU.

25-Year

Joy Fraser

Twenty-five years ago, the university was relatively small. There were only five full-time positions in the Nursing Program: the program co-ordinator, two academics, one professional, and one support staff. We had desk-top computers; AU had its own intranet system for internal communication; the course materials, including a printed student manual, study guide and video-tapes, were mailed to students; and students communicated with tutors, faculty members and university administrators by telephone, fax or mail and sent their assignments by snail- mail.

The best things about those early years were that opportunities were quickly seized, decisions were quickly made, and faculty were encouraged and supported so that new courses and programs were developed in a relatively short period of time. The worst thing about those early years was the requirement to be on-site in Athabasca two or three days a week. Travelling was costly, time-consuming, hazardous and stressful. More than one AU colleague lost their life driving between Edmonton and Athabasca. I always found it ironic and ludicrous that although we worked for a university that provided education to students at a distance, many of us were driving two hours or more one way, to meet with colleagues who lived blocks from each other in Edmonton. On the other hand, a bonus of being on-site so often was that I was able to develop some really great friendships at AU, some of which remain to this day.

Through the years, AU has grown and changed. We no longer have to drive to Athabasca every week, I work in a different faculty and am responsible for different programs, and we are experiencing different challenges. But one constant over the past 25 years is the tremendous feeling of satisfaction that comes from knowing that we continue to provide access and flexibility for learners who might otherwise not achieve a university education. The stories we hear from graduates at Convocation are affirmation that we are still meeting our important mission by providing opportunities for learners to convert their tremendous potential, their aspirations and their dreams into solid academic achievements and brighter futures.

Donna Hart

Twenty-five years! Still can't believe they have allowed me to stay so long. I remember being a newbie and now I am a one of the more mature (and I use that term loosely) staff members (better than being referred to as a moldy oldie)

If it had not been for Sue Rowlandson, who took a chance with me, I probably would not be here. I started, in Academic Records in June 1988 (Yes, I know it does not add up to 25), stuffing envelopes, transcribing requests off of the exam line and shredding office paper. After a couple of weeks, I was promoted to the computer (I did not even know how to turn that sucker on) and microfilming and then to developing the microfilm. Under Sue's tutelage, I learned so much in my first five years at AU. She was a wonderful supervisor.

After 10 years as a temp or a casual in Registry, Tutorial Services, the mailroom, Nursing and Facilities, I was hired as an administrative assistant on a year's term with Nursing in December 1999, when the Master of Health Studies was still in its infancy. In 2006, I found my niche in my new career as the graduate academic advisor. I do love my job. Convocation is like Christmas Day for me. It is the day I finally get to meet face-to-face the students that I have been talking to throughout their programs.

There have been so many changes. I have had the honor of meeting and working with some amazing people. Since I am most likely looking at Freedom 85, I will be around for a while yet.

Norman Temple

In April 1991, I had a life-changing experience. I first came to Athabasca and was interviewed for a half-time position as an assistant professor in nutrition. The question I best remember from the interview was "Norman, the job involves working with a lot of women. Are you okay with that?" I replied, "Yes, I've been divorced twice." Despite that, they hired me.

Now, here I am, 26 years later, and still trying my best to keep the show on the road. When I started, the university was a backwater, sometimes called, rather negatively, a correspondence school. In those days, there was no such thing as e-mail or the Internet. But over the years the university has transformed into an internationally recognized centre of distance education. Part of that transformation has been enormous growth in student numbers and research output.

Huge changes have also occurred in the calibre of the academic staff. When I started, many of my academic colleagues did no research and no teaching and, in several cases, not much of anything. Those days are long gone. Today, I see an impressive output of research and other scholarly activity, combined with a great deal of hard work in maintaining course quality.

It has been an honour to have been a part of the university over the past 26 years. I came here with a head full of ideas on how to teach nutrition. The university gave me the opportunity to translate these ideas into courses. I also wrote a course in alternative medicine. In terms of student numbers, I am one of the top teachers in Canada in my subject areas, as are many of my colleagues. In addition, I have had the freedom to carry out the research and editing of books based on my interests. I am enormously grateful to the university for giving me these opportunities.

Gloria Zahara

Wow, hard to believe that it has been 25 years! I started with AU in Media Services in the summer of 1991, working with Vincent Foster in the photolithography area and subsequently moved to the typesetting area. The department went through several name changes. I now work as a multimedia web specialist in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Over the years technology has changed dramatically and has affected the way we offer courses to students. We moved from cutting, pasting, making plates for the presses, collating materials and shipping packages to online delivery via online materials, text books, quizzes, etc. I look forward to continuing to see how technology shapes the way AU conducts business for with students and learning and applying my knowledge along the way.

AU is a great place to work, and I have built a multitude of friendships and networks along the way. Congratulations to my colleagues who are also marking milestones with AU.

30-Year

Bertha Baron

Thirty years—hard to believe time has passed by that quickly. Since I started in 1987, there have been many changes throughout the university, especially the transition from paper to the online systems we use today.

I remember AU's Fort McMurray office, the pool and the prism by the front reception desk, the Science Lab Christmas presentations, department Halloween contests, tutor conferences and many more wonderful memories of the people and departments I have worked in.

I am very grateful for the privilege and opportunity to work at AU, and I am looking forward to the university's bright future.

Congratulations to everyone who has reached a milestone in their career at AU today.

Linda Gray

Thirty years, wow! When I started with AU it was for one month to cover for a summer vacation, and I just kept going from there. I have worked in many different departments with many people; some have left and some are still here. The university has changed and grown over the years.

I love working with students as they work their way through their programs. Convocation is the best time of all. I am happy to meet students and their families and help them enjoy their special day.

AU is a great place to work, and I am grateful for all the opportunities. Cheers to all the people I have worked with over the years and to those to come.

Wendy Jewell

Has it really been 30 years? Seems like yesterday that I started as a receptionist in Purchasing, later known as Materials Management, under the direction of Dan West and the supervision of Carol Schafer, but it was August 1984. This was an exciting time for the Athabasca community. I travelled to Edmonton for my interview, and from there, my passion for AU began. I moved to Media Services in 1986, which was renamed the Centre for Learning Design and Development, as secretary/technical assistant. During my time there, I seconded into a typesetting position covering a nine-month maternity leave.

In 1990, I was approached by the vice-president finance and administration to manage the operation of Materials Management, as there was no one else to run the unit. Yes, that can happen. That was a bit of a challenge, but someone had to do it, and I was the only one in the university at time that had any experience with the duties. In August of 1993, I opted for a severance package offered to AU employees with at least 10 years of service. The loss of my daughter in August 1991 was the driving force in making this choice in my life, but by August of 1997, I was ready to rejoin the work force. I returned to AU as an Information Centre attendant, a casual position which later became permanent part-time. In 1999, I accepted a position as an administrative course assistant in the Faculty of Business, and in 2012, I was successful in obtaining a position in the Faculty of Business Student Support Centre as an undergraduate student advisor. My current role is student support advising specialist in the Faculty of Science and Technology Student Success Centre. I enjoy interacting with students and strive to provide quality service to our students as well as faculty and staff members.

Over the years, I have also been an active member of the AUPE Local 069, serving as secretary, treasurer, vice-chair, chair and union steward. I have successfully completed a few AU courses, including ENGL 155 and INST 358.

I have wonderful memories at AU and some sad ones. I have met many great people and experienced losses that have been extremely painful. For this I am stronger. I have seen many changes, especially with the online learning environment and student growth. AU is a wonderful institution and I look forward to the ongoing changes and challenges ahead. How long will I be here? Time will tell.

35-Year

Debra Buchanan-Peterson

I started with AU in September of 1981. At that time we were in Edmonton, and I was part of the typesetting group with Media Services. Paul Nedza was the director of Media Services and Stephen Griew was the third AU president.

I relocated to Athabasca in July 1984. I have continued to work in course production for 36 years.

I have been fortunate to work at AU and have enjoyed living and raising my family in Athabasca.

Margo McKenna

Wow! 35 year at Athabasca University. I feel old in body but not in heart. The changes I have seen both at work and in my life have been a mixed bag of happiness and sorrow and everything in between. Since AU is looking toward the future of the institution, I am not going to spend time in the past. I am looking forward to being part of the team that will bring the university to a sustainable and prosperous future. The barriers facing the university may not be easy to overcome, but I say bring it on.

Susan Moisey

When I started with AU in 1976, we were housed in a warehouse in north Edmonton. We had one course, World Ecology, nearly finished. The workforce consisted of six instructional designers, about the same number of academics, two graphic designers, a printer (who ran the offset printing press) and his helpers, clerical staff, a librarian and Ozzie, the janitor. Dr. Tim Byrne was president. A former minister of post-secondary education, Tim had saved AU when the Conservatives defeated the Social Credit Party in the 1975 election. Originally conceived of as Alberta's fourth university to be built in St. Albert next to the Sturgeon River, AU instead became a distance university modelled (somewhat) on the British Open University.

AU officially became a university in 1978. By then, we were creating packaged courses in a variety of disciplines, and tutors were supporting students. We had about six courses by then, including our first computer course, Computers in Perspective, which used the cardboard computer Cardiac, to simulate a computer (PCs were not yet available). Assignments were sent by mail; turnaround time was three weeks and often longer.

Technology was changing. Our first courses were typewritten, and then set in typeface. Graphics were added and photographic plates were made for offset printing. Word processors began to take the place of typewriters. The first computer, a PDP-11, arrived. It was so large that a window had to be removed to get it into the building. FAX was introduced for assignment submission and feedback, and turnaround times became a lot shorter.

I left AU when the university relocated, but I stayed on as a tutor. When I set up my own consulting company, Integrated Learning Systems, AU became one of my clients. Eventually I started instructing a few courses in the Master of Distance Education Program as well. In 1998, I came back to AU as an associate professor in the Centre for Distance Education, where I have remained for nearly 20 years. So during my time at AU, I have served in several roles: instructional designer, tutor, consultant, faculty member and, most recently, director of the M.Ed. program.

AU now has nearly 50,000 students and more than 500 courses, in undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs. Our online presence serves students worldwide. I feel blessed to have been part of AU's growth and evolution and look forward to helping the university prepare for the future.

Jay Smith

It has been nearly 36 years since I arrived, on a beautiful sunny October 1, 1981, at AU, at that time located in an industrial district of northwest Edmonton. So much has changed, but despite the changes, some of which have been difficult and anxiety creating, AU remains a great place to work

and be identified with. We have the right values, purpose and mission.

When I arrived, I found the employees—support, tutorial, professional, academic—to be very welcoming and helpful. They remain so today.

At that time, each academic had a secretarial assistant, wrote course guides by hand for the assistant to type, and used snail mail and phone to interact with students. In our early years, we had a key focus: creating and building a fledgling university. We had to create courses that would bring in students. As much as the university has changed, moving from paper to the digital world and relocating to a new home in Athabasca, we still have the same concerns—increasing enrolment and being attentive to the needs of our students.

We have continued to evolve in positive ways. For example, as enrolment increased, research, including disciplinary research, found its proper place in the institution as today's ceremony recognizes. Today, the Canadian university community recognizes that we produce high quality courses and research.

I have truly enjoyed my work at AU, including creating courses, contributing to building a Political Science Program, being seconded to oversee passage of our Criminal Justice Program, tutoring and interacting with students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, conducting research, serving on many university committees and contributing to the communities I am proud to be a part of.

Karen Thompson

Thirty-five years, and it has been one heck of a journey. Nothing remains the same. The old days, way back in 1982, saw us using rotary phones and dial-up connections with couplers that held the receiver while you did your computer work, and handling physical documents, stamped with “Data Entry” and the date, then filed alphabetically in physical cabinets. Computers were about two feet wide by a foot high and by two feet thick. We cursed at them and called them names when they didn't do what we thought they should (So that has not changed much, has it?).

Remember when AU moved from Edmonton to Athabasca? Remember when the caterpillars were so thick in Athabasca that you could see the sidewalks and roadways move, and those dang critters hung from every doorway to prevent entrance/exit? Remember when Dora Nutt answered every single call coming into AU? Remember when the president knew everybody's first name? (Well, we have a new one who also does.) Remember when the AU Staff Association went AUPE? Remember when we got so excited to see a student walk through the door? Remember all the fantastic staff we have lost to tragic events—in 35 years there have been a lot of them. Remember what the first AU home page looked like? Remember the uncertainty around the changeover from 1999 to 2000? After 35 years, I could go on and on with the *remember whens*.

I have been fortunate in my time at AU to have worked with so many fabulous people, completed undergraduate and graduate degrees, worked my way through various positions and learned so, so much. My world has been influenced by education for a long time and will continue to be. My daughters have grown up with AU and now recognize the importance of post-secondary education and are following their own educational journeys. There have been oh so many changes and challenges along the way as AU has gone from being the little university that could to the medium university that has and will continue to. We may have changed the way we design and deliver our

courses, but at the heart of this institution are the people who make it home every day and their commitment to service excellence remains constant. AU has been my home for 35 years, and I appreciate, and thank, everyone who has contributed to this unbelievable journey.

40-Year

Jo-Ann Foote

Nominated by Dr. David Brundage, a number of years ago, Dr. Aileen Ross and I jointly received an award for excellence in tutoring. Aileen has since passed away; thus, I reach this benchmark in my time with AU with sadness due to her loss. Together we discussed, strategized and faced the challenges and rewards of distance education. Such a stalwart friend and colleague is constantly missed.

I would like to thank Bertha Baron for her diligence and thoughtfulness throughout many years as course administrator. Knowing Bertha was in charge always made the intricacies of distance education run more smoothly.

Over 40 years, many co-ordinators have guided English 155/255 tutors, with numerous changes in style, philosophy and focus. Dr. Joe Pivato was an inspiration in his eagerness to collaborate with tutors to achieve a high-quality end product. Dr. David Gregory's attention to detail and focus on student progress emphasized the need to keep in contact with the essential elements of course delivery. Dr. John Thompson created a hands-on atmosphere for sharing and discussing marking consistency and strategies. Next in line came David Brundage, whose caring attitude and focus on moving into online group discussions put English 255 in a strong position for the computer age. Veronica Baig worked diligently to create online programs to help students develop their writing skills. My current co-ordinators, Dr. Adien Dubbelboer and Dr. Michael Volek, continue the work of advancing online technology in the courses while providing leadership, support and consideration for their tutors.

My years with AU have allowed me to grow professionally and have kept me current in a time when technology often leaves folks behind. What an honour to have worked with so many dedicated people to see AU grow from five courses to the full-fledged university it is today.

RETIREMENTS

Mike Battistel

Vice-President Information Technology and CIO
Office of the Vice-President Information Technology

Brenda Belokrinicev

Course Materials Editor
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology

Yessy Byl

Individualized Study Tutor
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies

Clarence Byrd

Professor, Accounting
Faculty of Business

Darlene Day

Team Co-ordinator, Course Development and Production
Faculty of Business

Erna Dominey

Course Materials Editor
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology

Patrick Fahy

Professor, Distance Education
Graduate Centre for Master of Distance Education

Patricia Hughes-Fuller

Assistant Professor, Work and Community Studies
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies

Martin Husch

Senior Systems Administrator
Financial Services

Thomas Jones

Associate Professor, Distance Education Specialist
Graduate Centre for Masters of Distance Education

Richard Loken

Senior Systems Administrator, VMS
IT Service Operations

Robin Mountford

Interlibrary Loans Supervisor
Library and Scholarly Resources

Elena Robinson

Web Projects and Services
Library and Scholarly Resources

Janice Robocon

Undergraduate Student Advisor
Faculty of Business

Linda Ungarian

Information Centre Attendant
Partnerships and Student Recruitment

Betty Wong

Academic Co-ordinator, Accounting
Faculty of Business

Darlene Young

Help Desk/Voicemail Analyst
IT Service Operations

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Vikki Bellerose

Administrative Professional Officer
Faculty of Graduate Studies

- Certificate in Essential Skills for Supervisors
- Certificate in Essential Skills for Administrative Professionals

Paula Chudyk

Service Desk Co-ordinator
Information Technology Services

- ITIL Foundation Certificate in IT Service Management, Axelos
- ITIL Intermediate Certificate in IT Service Operation, Axelos

Hongzing Geng

Senior Systems/Programmer Analyst
Library Services

- Doctor of Philosophy (Computer Science), University of Saskatchewan

Serena Henderson

Co-ordinator, IRRODL and M.Ed. Program
Centre for Distance Education

- Master of Education (Distance Education), Athabasca University

Jody McGarry-Liddell

Co-ordinator, Student Services
Faculty of Science and Technology

- Master of Business Administration, Athabasca University

Kristin Mulligan

Co-ordinator, Grouped Study Collaborations
Partnerships and Student Recruitment

- Master of Business Administration, Athabasca University

Natalie Sharpe

Individualized Study Tutor
SOCl, Tutor Group

- Osgoode/FCO Certificate in Essentials for Ombuds, Osgoode Professional Development and Forum of Canadian Ombudsman

Henry Tsang

Academic Expert/Marker

APST Tutor Group

- Master of Education (Distance Education), Athabasca University

Nicole Yaremko

Financial Administrator

Financial Services

- Certificate in Contract Management, Mount Royal University

Yevgen Yasynskyy

Instructional Design and Systems Analyst

Graduate Centre for Applied Psychology

- Ships for World Youth Leaders Program, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

PUBLICATIONS

In 2016-17, the following employees submitted publications that met the criteria for authoring/co-authoring or editing/co-editing a book.

Bob Barnetson

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Foster, Jason, and Bob Barnetson. *Health and Safety in Canadian Workplaces*. Edmonton: AU Press, 2016. (E-book: <http://aupress.ca/index.php/books/120259>)

Neil Fassina

Office of the President

Schwind, Herman, Krista Uggerslev, Terry Wager, Neil Fassina, and Julie Bulmash. *Canadian Human Resource Management: A Strategic Approach*. 11th ed. Whitby, ON: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2016.

Jason Foster

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Foster, Jason, and Bob Barnetson. *Health and Safety in Canadian Workplaces*. Edmonton: AU Press, 2016. (E-book: <http://aupress.ca/index.php/books/120259>)

Paul Huebener

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Huebener, Paul, Susie O'Brien, Tony Porter, Liam Stockdale, and Yanqui Rachel Zhou, eds. *Time, Globalization and Human Experience: Interdisciplinary Explorations*. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Huebener, Paul, Susie O'Brien, Tony Porter, Liam Stockdale, and Yanqui Rachel Zhou, eds. *Time and Globalization: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue*. New York: Routledge 2017.

Dietmar Kennepohl

Faculty of Science and Technology

Kennepohl, Dietmar, ed. *Teaching Science Online: Practical Guidance for Effective Instruction and Lab Work*. Sterling, VA: Stylus, 2016. (Foreword by Michael G. Moore, 2017 AU honorary doctorate recipient.)

Anshuman Khare

Faculty of Business

Khare, Anshuman, Brian Stewart, and Rod Schatz, eds. *Phantom Ex Machina: Digital Disruption's Role in Business Model Transformation*. Switzerland: Springer International, 2017.

Rory McGreal

Centre for Distance Education

Miao, Fengchun, Sanjaya Mishra, and Rory McGreal, eds. *Open Educational Resources: Policy, Costs and Transformation*. Paris: UNESCO and Burnaby, BC: Commonwealth of Learning, 2016. (E-book: <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/2306>)

Simon Nuttgens

Faculty of Health Disciplines

Gazzola, Nicola, Marla Buchanan, Olga Sutherland, and Simon Nuttgens, eds. *Handbook of Counselling and Psychotherapy in Canada*. Ottawa: Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association, 2016.

Lynda Ross

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Ross, Lynda. *Interrogating Motherhood*. Edmonton: AU Press, 2016. (E-book: <http://www.aupress.ca/index.php/books/120263>)

Ingo Schmidt

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Schmidt, Ingo, ed. *The Three Worlds of Social Democracy*. London: Pluto Press, 2016.

Schmidt, Ingo. and Carlo Fanellii, eds. *Reading 'Capital' Today: Marx after 150 Years*. London: Pluto Press, 2016.

Peter Jay Smith

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dreher, Sabine, and Peter J. Smith, eds. *Religious Activism in the Global Economy: Promoting, Reforming or Resisting Neoliberal Globalization?* London: Rowman and Littlefield International, 2016.

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The Rob Koons Memorial Award for Health and Safety Excellence

The Rob Koons Memorial Award for Health and Safety Excellence recognizes leadership and excellence in proactive and preventive health, safety, wellness and environmental initiatives by AU employees. It is awarded annually to up to two staff members or teams in recognition of achievements in health and safety initiatives. Rob Koons worked as a grounds technician at AU for 25 years until his death, of cancer, in November 2012. He was actively involved in the development of university health and safety initiatives implemented during his 15-year term as AUPE representative to the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. This year's Rob Koons Memorial Award for Health and Safety Excellence is presented to Christopher McLeod.

Christopher McLeod

Faculty of Business

Chris is an exemplary leader who sets an example for staff in the area of workplace health and safety. He leads his team in the Faculty of Business in supporting wellness initiatives, taking a proactive approach to safety consciousness and maintaining a work environment that supports employees' mental health. Chris demonstrates the health and safety values in three ways: being inclusive and responsive to individual and collective needs, leading by example and creating a caring environment. By focusing on occupational health and safety, Chris has identified hazards on and off site, mitigated risks, promoted safe work practices and instituted safety processes specifically for mental health.

The Sue and Derrick Rowlandson Memorial Award for Service Excellence

The Sue and Derrick Rowlandson Memorial Award for Service Excellence is presented to professional or support staff members who consistently provide a high level of quality service, demonstrate commitment to the university's mission or goals and show continual improvements through participation in professional development activities. Sue and Derrick Rowlandson embodied the spirit of AU and enriched the fabric of the Athabasca community. Sue died of cancer in 1998, and Derrick died later that same year in a tragic car accident. The 2017 recipient of the Sue and Derrick Rowlandson Memorial Award for Service Excellence is Cheryl Christensen.

Cheryl Christensen

Faculty of Business

Dedication and commitment to students are common at AU as demonstrated daily by many front line employees. Cheryl Christensen takes her service beyond the call of duty by understanding the needs of students and trying to surpass their expectations. To ensure no student gets left behind, Cheryl has instilled *find a reason, reach out, and create solutions* in the Faculty of Business advising protocols. She also contributes to AU by supporting initiatives such as Degreeworks and working with other teams across the university to provide optimal service to students. Cheryl has contributed to both the Alberta Services for Students Conference and to National Academic Advising Association Conference. Her commitment to continued learning, is reflected in her

completion of an MBA in 2016, and she is putting her learning to good use. Cheryl is a great asset to AU and we look forward to her continued service.

The President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence

The President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence recognizes excellence in student instruction by AU tutors, including academic experts. The 2017 recipient of the award is Yvonne Moore.

Yvonne Moore

Centre for Nursing and Health Studies

Yvonne Moore is being honoured for her ongoing commitment to teaching and mentoring students. Her dedication to excellence is a hallmark of her work at AU. As a proud AU alumni member, she believes in student potential, and her commitment to open education guides her practices as an educator. Yvonne uses her exceptional writing skills and creativity to create innovative supplemental tools for students, and her passion for student centred education is always evident in the thoughtful and relevant feedback she offers to course leaders on course revisions, in her response to student concerns and in her willingness to share her ideas and teaching tools with colleagues. Yvonne consistently provides students with a warm and nourishing learning environment, one in which encouragement and belief in individual potential to grow and overcome educational barriers are paramount. Students have described her as being kind, warm, encouraging, approachable, prompt, motivating and supportive.

The Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision

The Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision recognizes excellence in advising, monitoring and mentoring graduate students engaged in project, thesis or dissertation work. It is awarded annually to up to two AU academics. The 2017 recipients are Dr. Janice Thomas and Dr. Jeff Vallance.

Janice Thomas

Faculty of Business

Janice Thomas is being honoured for her superior supervisory and mentoring abilities—her ability to interest, stimulate and excite students and to motivate them to meet high standards. Her exceptional support of doctoral students is evidenced by the high ratings she receives. Those with whom she is working know that they have full support and a solid foundation for what they propose to do. Her keen mind, servant leadership style and project management approach attract students, and she is able to deliver results for them and for AU. Students who have benefitted from Janice's mentorship and have gone on to achieve their goals now include three professors, two book authors, an executive consultant and a director of accounting and finance. She is highly appreciated by her colleagues for her willingness to share her experience working with doctoral students.

Jeff Vallance

Centre for Nursing and Health Studies

Jeff Vallance's outstanding record of successfully supervising graduate students is reflected in the AU graduates he has supervised, including many former students with impressive publication records, international conference presentations, and funding. He selflessly and generously serves as a co-supervisor, supervisory committee member and external examiner for AU graduate students and graduate students at other institutions. His generosity and success with respect to supervising students inside and outside of AU has garnered him a reputation as a premier graduate student supervisor.

The Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence

The Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to an AU academic in recognition of excellence in teaching. Craig Cunningham was a valued faculty member in the AU School of Business from 1979 to 1995. He continually investigated new technologies to improve students' distance learning experiences. He passed away in 1995 after a courageous battle with cancer. The 2017 recipient of the Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence is Adrienne Weare.

Adrienne Weare

Centre for Nursing and Health Studies

Adrienne Weare is being honoured for consistent excellence in service, teaching and presentation and for her innovative delivery of subject matter to students. She began teaching with the CNHS in January 2003, working in the face-to-face environment of the AU Bachelor of Nursing at Mount Royal College program. With the closure of that program, she brought her exceptional teaching abilities to the AU online learning environment, where she has developed and implemented major revisions to both nursing theory and nursing practice (clinical) courses. Her creative approaches are valued by both her peers and her students. The inclusion of short films, podcasts, Adobe Connect sessions and photographs, along with content specific videos developed by her and the centre's media analyst, are reflective of the varied teaching and learning strategies used in her courses. Her graphics and course designs have served as benchmarks for course revision and development in the centre. She links course outcomes directly to course activities and assignments, which, students say, has a positive impact on their achievement of course outcomes. Adrienne also developed the content and drawings for *The Adventures of Ruby*, a five-minute animated film to educate students on the use of APA Style in scholarly papers.

The President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence

The President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence recognizes excellence in research scholarship by AU academic and non-academic employees. The award is given for the specific purpose of bringing a major project to completion in a way that will result in a manuscript (book or monograph) at the completion of the grant period. The 2017 recipient is Dr. Mark McCutcheon.

Mark McCutcheon

Centre for Humanities

The President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence will enable Mark McCutcheon to

complete *The Medium is the Monster: Canadian Frankensteins and the Globalized Discourse of Technology*, a book which argues that Marshall McLuhan's media theory, amplified by its scholarly receptions and popular adaptations (which consistently and curiously refer to both McLuhan and Frankenstein), has shaped and globalized the discourse of technology as a Frankenstein trope. Prior versions of all seven of the book's chapters and the conclusion have been presented and critiqued at scholarly conferences in Canada, the United States and Germany. The book's examination of technology discourse through Canadian Frankenstein adaptations models a historically nuanced, interpretive tool for decoding how technology is invoked in political rhetoric, popular culture and critical theory. This study also critically addresses AU's mission itself, since the public understanding of technology goes to the core of what we teach and how we teach.