



Vice President, Professional Affairs Jacquie Flood (left) present Dr. Bruton (centre) with the 2008 Innovation in Teaching Award. See Page 2 for details.

What are we doing to represent you?

- ACIFA Labour Relations Officer Terry Sway and Liaison Officer Leila Daoud were present at the September 19th CAFA Council meeting.
- ACIFA Liaison Officer Leila Daoud attended the PIA Task Force meeting with CAFA, ACTISEC and CAUS. Our guest speaker was from the United Nurses of Alberta.
- President Dave Purkis attended the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Advisory Committee on September 29th.

Congratulations!

Joan Rickart of Bow Valley College is the most recent winner of *Faculty Circuit's* Web Resource Contest. Joan will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Chapters.

Entering is easy. Just submit a website that you use in your classroom.
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Note From the President



by Dave Purkis

By now most of us have been back to work for awhile, things have settled down for the new academic year and we can spare a thought or two for the upcoming year.

For some members of ACIFA this is a bargaining year. Negotiation committees will be forming, surveying their members and looking at recent agreements. One interesting new development seems to be a trend towards shorter-term agreements.

This is also a year during which more of our members will become directly involved in the Roles and Responsibilities initiative of the Alberta Government. Faculty members at NAIT, GPRC and NLC have already been affected as program delivery in the northwest part of the province has been designated by region, and this is almost certainly a trial run for the mandating of delivery areas in other parts of the province. ACIFA continues to monitor the situation.

For ACIFA as a whole, there are a couple of new initiatives we should note. First, we are nurturing communication with legislators with a reception for MLAs, M.P's and Senators hosted by ACIFA member presidents when they gather for the fall Presidents' Council. The member organizations are always looking for new ways to put forward our message about the importance of post-secondary education and it is our hope that this reception will allow the various presidents to develop direct contacts with provincial decision makers and raise awareness of the importance of our issues. The second new venture is ACIFA's membership in the Canadian Association of University Teachers, approved at the spring AGM. Ben Fullalove of the Alberta College of Art and Design was elected to a new executive position as VP External and he will be attending the fall council of CAUT on our behalf.

So, as usual, it is shaping up to be an interesting year in the world of post-secondary education. Stay tuned for further developments.

The ACIFA Award for Innovation in Teaching



Dr Bruton – Winner of the ACIFA Innovation in Teaching Award.

Dr. Bruton, a faculty member at the Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal College was nominated for the ACIFA Innovation in Teaching Award for his use of Web 2.0 and the Wiki Classroom. Using a customized Wiki platform known as the SharedExperienceProject (www.shex.org) Dr. Bruton has brought technology into the classroom.

The aim of the Award for Innovation in Teaching is to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods which lead to improved student learning. This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1500 for the faculty member or team and \$500 for the faculty member's faculty association.

The award is open to all ACIFA members. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations are made by colleagues with the consent of the innovator(s).

Five members elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA select the final award winner and three runners-up from the nominees submitted by the local faculty associations.

This year the contest closes April 1, 2009.

For more information please visit www.acifa.ca.

We're Going Digital!

Each year ACIFA conducts a Climate Survey of our member associations. This year is different. We're switching to an online survey.

About the new format

- Security of the survey will be maintained.
- Higher participation rates.
- Easier completion and distribution method.

Details to be announced soon.



Calgary and Edmonton in Top 10 of Smartest Cities Survey: rural areas lag behind

The Canadian Council on Learning has unveiled its 2008 Composite Learning Index (CLI) which ranks cities according to a number of factors, including post-secondary participation, exposure to culture and access to workplace training. The study aims to analyze “how Canada and its communities perform across the full spectrum of learning.”

What is most impressive about the study is its comprehensive nature. The Canadian Council on Learning has generated numeric scores for 4700 cities and communities across Canada. The detailed nature of the study allows us to see not only how Alberta’s large centers are performing, but also note the reaches of education in its smaller towns and communities. It is also an important resource for Alberta colleges and technical institutes, especially those in smaller, less studied communities, to see how they compare to other small communities across Canada in areas such as post-secondary participation rates.

The study shows data in four categories:

- **Learning to Know** includes skills such as “literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and general knowledge.”
- **Learning to Do** refers to the acquisition of applied skills “such as computer training, managerial training and apprenticeships.”
- **Learning to Live Together** is an indicator of how well communities foster “social and inter-personal skills.”
- **Learning to Be** includes “access to the internet and activities such as sports and the arts.”

To view the report yourself please go to <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/ccl>

2008 Composite Learning Index: the numbers

	CLI Score	Learning to Know (includes post-secondary participation)		CLI Score	Learning to Know (includes post-secondary participation)
CANADIAN AVERAGE	77	5.0	ALBERTA AVERAGE	85	4.9
Large Cities*	80	5.3	Large Cities in Alberta*	88	4.2
			Edmonton	84	5.3
			Calgary	92	5.0
Small Cities and Towns**	75	4.7	Small Cities in Alberta**	83	4.6
Rural Communities***	72	4.3	Rural Communities in Alberta***	81	4.5

* Large cities are defined as urban centers with more than 100,000 people.

** Smaller cities and towns are communities with fewer than 100,000 people and with more than 150 people per square kilometer.

*** Rural areas have fewer than 100,000 people and fewer than 150 people per square kilometer.



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ACIFA MEMBER COLLEGES & THEIR COMMUNITIES	CLI	Learning to Know	Post Secondary Participation	University Attainment
Wood Buffalo Region (Keyano College)	77	4.5	29.1	19.9
Lethbridge County (LCC)	76	4.4	22	17.6
Medicine Hat (Medicine Hat College)	77	4.5	22	17.6
Vermillion (Lakeland College)	75	4.0	13.6	12.4
Grand Prairie (GPCRC)	78	4.0	13.1	12.9
Red Deer County (Olds College)	91	4.4	19.0	18.9
Greater Slave Lake Region (Northern Lakes College)	76	4.0	13.1	12.9
Lac La Biche, (Portage College)	82	4.6	29.1	19.9
Edmonton (Grant MacEwan, NorQuest, NAIT)	84	5.0	34.0	27.4
Calgary (ACAD, SAIT, Bow Valley, Mount Royal)	92	5.3	35.9	32.5

iPOD ALERT!!!
All those who submit an article to the Something Clever! contest in October will be entered to win an iPod.



Submissions now being accepted for "Something Clever!"

Something Clever! is the new Faculty Circuit feature which showcases you!

The Details: We ask that you submit an article, letter, cartoon, poem, commentary or an impassioned rant. Written material must be between 150–300 words in length and visual images must measure a maximum of 4"x6"

Subject: Any topic which is currently being discussed in your institution or on the local, provincial or nation scene. It could be an issue related to post-secondary education or even a great teaching resource you've discovered.

One Caution: This is Something Clever, not something libellous; nor is it a venue to air work-related grievances. All submissions must contain your name and contact information.

So say Something Clever!
Submit to: daoudl@acifa.ca.

Web Resources Contest

Win a lovely \$25 Chapters gift certificate by sending ACIFA the address of any websites which are used by you as a teaching resource. In order to have your name included in the draw you must submit a website which:

- 1.) is useful to you and other teaching staff;
- 2.) contains Lesson Plans or Lesson Planning aids; and
- 3.) has a teaching level which is consistent with post-secondary education.

10 times a year ACIFA will draw one winner for a \$25 Chapters gift certificate. Qualified websites may be added to the resource section of the PAC website.

To enter please send websites to: daoudl@acifa.ca or Web Resource Contest, c/o Leila Daoud, #412 – 10357 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3. Please include your name and contact information.

The views in *Faculty Circuit* are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions. Please address all inquiries or comments to:

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