

# SAFAGRAM

## President's Message



by Doug Spurgeon, Instructor  
School of Information and Communications Technologies

July 1, 1983

What is the significance of this date?

Did the stars mysteriously align themselves? Is this the date of infamy in the eyes of management?

Aside from the previous presumptions, they may be correct; this is the date that the SAIT Faculty Association started its first collective agreement. SAFA is turning 25 in July 2008. What should be done to celebrate this momentous event? This is where SAFA needs faculty input as to how to celebrate this occasion. Drop by with suggestions, e-mail us a thought, or call with an offer we just can't refuse. Together we have taken the Association to this point, and together we can take it forward another 75 years.

Thank you to all who have come forward with concerns, suggestions, and even rumours that we can either confirm or deny. You have become the ears and eyes of the Association, and this year, it seems to be making a difference. The Association is becoming stronger, in large part because you as a faculty have been coming forward with your concerns.

There still is work to do ahead because of underlying fears among some people. We need to work together to remove these fears and to ensure all members that their rights are important and that the office of the Association will fight for those rights.

There is an old saying, "Don't let fear and common sense stop you." Let's hear it for not stopping! ➡

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1. The Editorial Board has the final say as to what is included or deleted from the newsletter.
2. Editorial Board decisions about newsletter material must be agreed to by consensus.
3. The newsletter will include a disclaimer stating that the views expressed in its content do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.
4. All material included in the newsletter must
  - be signed by the author when submitted to the editors, but anonymity may be requested and granted for printing.
  - be based on "reasoned argument" if personal criticism is used.
  - not involve name-calling.
  - not include sexist, racist, or homophobic comments.
  - be related to SAIT, although this will be interpreted broadly.

The views expressed in SAFAGRAM do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.

# Library Report



by Dave Weber and Nora Robinson

## ⇒ New Electronic Resources

We have recently added the following to our electronic collection:

- **Trade and Apprenticeship Exam Bank** – provides students in several of our apprenticeship programs with access to randomly generated questions and their answers to help them prepare for their apprenticeship exams.
- **Small Engine Repair Reference Centre (SERRC)** – provides full-text access to Clymer small engine repair manuals, containing thousands of maintenance and repair instructions for small engine machines and their supporting components.
- **Safari Tech Books Online** – contains numerous reference books covering information technology topics such as certification, enterprise computing, Java, operating systems, XML, etc.

Links to the Trade and Apprenticeship Exam Bank and the SERRC are in the DATABASES BY SUBJECT – Apprentices and Trades section. The e-books in the Safari Tech Books Online collection can be found by using the catalogue or by going to the Find E-Books section of the Library home page at <http://library.sait.ca>.

Access to most of the Library's electronic collection is available both on and off campus. For off-campus use and, in some cases, on-campus use, you need your SAIT ID number and your Library Personal Identification Number. If you don't have a PIN, please contact the Library at [library.sait.ca](http://library.sait.ca), 284-8616, or in person to get one.

If you would like more information about the Library's resources, please contact one of us.

## ⇒ Study Rooms

Seven of the Library's eight student-use study rooms are now equipped with large-format, flat monitors, and computer workstations. The screens and workstations were installed in December and were an immediate hit with students who are using them to prepare and practice their presentations as well as to bring up websites (including WebCT course work) for group work. Students can book the study rooms up to two weeks in advance. We received funding from the OCO Legacy Fund for some of the equipment. We have received Legacy funding for equipment for the eighth room, and the monitor and workstation should be installed this semester.

## ⇒ Library Information Technology Program Students

We are pleased to have two students from the SAIT LIT program doing the first of their two 3-week-long practicum in the SAIT Library. Rosie Bruinsma is working in the Library, and Aaron Ferguson is working on a project in the Archives.

You will also see the first-year LIT students at the Information Desk as they work on a four-hour/student library circulation practice exercise until the end of March.

## ⇒ Photojournalism Display

We invite you to come and see the sixth annual display of the work of the second-year Photojournalism students. The display runs from Monday, January 28, to Friday, February 29. ♦

## SAIT Children's Christmas Party

December 1 marked the return of the SAIT Children's Christmas Party, complete with Santa and free access to the many activities (skating, swimming, bowling, movies, crafts, cookie decorating, and pin the nose on the snowman) that SAIT offered in the Campus Centre. This half-day event (1 to 4 p.m.), held in the Symposium Room, was a great opportunity for staff to spend time with their families and meet other SAIT staff with children.

Almost 300 people attended this event, which was a great success. According to one staff member, his excited child's eyes lit up beyond belief when Santa said, "Well, Holly, you asked for a fuzzy teddy bear. What colour would you like?"

The event was sponsored by SAIT with support from AUPE

and SAFA. Thank you to the Organizing Committee: Michael Dyer, Peter Kuran, Keith Pedersen, Thomas Soulliere, Tim Thomas, and Christina Arthur, Event Organizer. Eighteen volunteers helped make the day possible: Merrilee Beddows, Emily Borelli, Budd Brazier, Donna Deman, Ana Hawryluk, Wayne Hunter, Lindsay Irwin, Katie Jones, Lynn Kelly-Sabasch, Jacky Kwan, Lara Mack, Skye McTavish, Lee Nguyen, Jessica Ripplinger, Daniella Schamber, Renee Schamber, Kim Trevino, and Ana Vega.

The 2008 event is tentatively booked for Saturday, November 29. It is hoped that the length of the event and the capacity will be increased for the next Christmas Party. ♦

## ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

Following is a reprint of an article that appeared in the *Calgary Herald* on November 19, 2007. There are approximately 6500 laptops which have been issued to SAIT students for e-learning classes this year.

### Calgary Herald

Classrooms no place for laptops, say profs

Monday, November 19, 2007

Page: A7

Section: News

Byline: Janice Tibbetts

Column: Next: Trends - Discoveries - What's New

Source: CanWest News Service

Illustrations: Colour Photo: John Morstad, CanWest News Service / Montreal economics professor Jean Boivin has banned laptops in his class, saying the move eliminated a distraction for students.

Prof. Jean Boivin recalls how he was stunned to read in a newspaper that one of his students had lost thousands of dollars day-trading on his laptop during class.

The public exposure of the stock-distracted student was among many irritants that prompted Boivin to declare his classroom a laptop-free zone, where students wouldn't be tempted to surf the web, check e-mail, shop online or network on Facebook.

"It really makes a huge difference," said Boivin, a Montreal economics professor who taught at Columbia University in New York when he and his colleagues in the business school banned laptops after fielding complaints from students that they were being distracted by their otherwise-engaged classmates.

Boivin found the pen-and-paper revival so refreshing -- students actually started paying attention and participating -- that he imported it when he moved this year to Montreal business university Hautes Etudes Commerciales.

He is among a growing number of professors across North America who are outlawing laptops in the classroom, sparking a debate about how far universities and colleges should go in restricting technology at a time when some campuses require students to own laptops as a condition of attendance.

"I think the reason for banning them, for some profs, is that it is offensive to them that they are being ignored," said Terence Day, a professor at Okanagan College in British Columbia, who wrote an article about laptop bans in the current issue of *University Affairs*, the publication of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

For professors who do not want to ban laptops but still want some control over online access, the Calgary-based company Smart Technologies has developed a product called SynchronEyes, which allows teachers to access thumbnails of every computer screen in the class and block websites such as Facebook.

Chief executive Nancy Knowlton said the company sells the application mainly for primary grades to Grade 12. It's also sold on campus, where it is mostly used for laboratory classes so that teachers can interact with students via computer.

Any comments on or reactions to this article may be published in a future issue of SAFAGRAM. ♦♦

## DO YOU KNOW?

Thanks to Tim Thomas for his ideas and contribution to this new column.

### DO YOU KNOW?

Stay informed about what is happening here at SAIT to avoid saying, "WELL, I DID NOT KNOW" by

1. taking the time to get involved in reading the SAFAGRAM.
2. discussing over coffee different sections of the Collective Agreement when a new staff member is hired or someone has a question.
3. offering to be involved in any one of the many special events on campus.

### DO YOU KNOW?

For the past two years, members of SAFA, Faculty Council, and AUPE (with SAIT) have been working very hard to overcome the communication barrier. To try to keep us better informed, there have been updates, e-mails, quick web surveys, and department section meetings for all program areas.

### DO YOU KNOW?

At one department section meeting, some of the following questions were asked:

- Which duties fall into assignable work, and which do not?
- How many extra hours are required for additional duties, if any, after a staff member has been fully loaded?
- Is a staff member covered by Workers' Compensation if he/she is working outside of normal duties that are strictly defined in the Collective Agreement?

### DO YOU KNOW?

SAFA is working toward having some social events for faculty and families; e.g., Family Skating Party, Bowness Park BBQ, and dances with unique themes. Any faculty member is invited to assist in making these events successful.

### DO YOU KNOW?

If you have a story, concern, question, or a DO YOU KNOW fact that you would like to share, send it to the SAFAGRAM office (e-mail [Robin.Jenkins@sait.ca](mailto:Robin.Jenkins@sait.ca)). ♦♦

## Health, Safety and Wellness

by Jan Jamieson

Manager, Health, Safety and Wellness

Three years ago SAIT decided to bring together the three primary health management units across campus—Health Services; Occupational Health, Safety and Environment; and the Employee and Family Assistance Program to create the Health, Safety and Wellness unit. As well, the unit was expanded to include Student Counselling and the volunteer Interfaith Advising Centre under Marcel Carpenter's direction.

Since we have the School of Health and Public Safety, and also the renamed "Wellness Centre" in the Campus Centre, it often leads to confusion for all of us!

Janice Armstrong's area in Health Services is available for both students and employees, as is the Interfaith Advising Centre.

Lois Hayward heads up Student Counselling. In addition to helping students deal with issues such as exam stress, career difficulties, and addiction, Student Counselling also offers sessions to the faculty to assist them in identifying students who may be struggling with personal or mental health issues.

A new and improved Employee and Family Assistance Program got underway in October through the services of Shepell.fgi. All SAIT employees now have unlimited access to confidential counselling at no cost to them. Simply call **1-800-387-4765** and identify yourself as a SAIT employee to initiate the process.

The Occupational Health, Safety and Environment team consists of a disability and rehabilitation manager (Deb Walsh), a safety specialist (Sandra Poirier), an industrial hygienist (Deborah McCarthy), and the Employee and Family Assistance Program. Deb Walsh is the contact for employees who need to be off work on General Sick Leave or WCB injuries. She can be reached Monday to Thursday at 284-8761. Both Sandra and Deborah are full-time SAIT employees, and it is their job to ensure that we are in compliance with provincial safety and environmental legislation. They also assist departments with their questions and safety concerns.

We welcome your comments and suggestions as we strive to maximize the psychological, social, physical, and spiritual health of the SAIT community. ♦

## Supporting Male Students

by Danica Heidebrecht, M.Ed., Registered Psychologist  
SAIT Student Counselling Services

While much attention has been paid to the equal and fair treatment of women in our culture, little consideration has been placed on how we treat men.

As a result, many men are still complying with a traditional masculine identity, which at times can be constraining and unhealthy. Pressures to be successful and self-reliant, and to suppress vulnerable emotions such as fear and sadness, are some of the more common and erroneous societal messages that encourage this strict masculine script while simultaneously hindering the chances of men seeking outside guidance and support.

These unfair pressures may lead to a difficult dilemma for many men. Do they subscribe to men's traditional and stereotypical script, which can be associated with stress-related illnesses, violence, addiction, and suicide? Or, do they go against society's preconceived notion of what a man should be and venture into uncharted waters by showing their emotions and vulnerabilities to others?

As we know, student life can be a stressful and demanding time. Students are often required to juggle work, family, financial pressures, relationships, all the while trying to succeed academically. The stress of these issues may manifest in gender specific ways with men often trying to manage on their own rather than seeking help and finding healthy ways of coping.

As instructors, you occupy an important position of influence. Knowing how to respond and connect with your male students may very well affect their academic success. Here are some tips that may help:

- Normalize help-seeking behaviour. Let male students know that consulting with you about academic issues is an appropriate, responsible, and proactive way of dealing with their concerns.

- Consider ways to make yourself more approachable to male students by demonstrating warmth, concern, consideration, and interest.
- Accentuate your male students' strengths and resourcefulness. Often, amidst the challenges they face, there are signs of courage, perseverance, and determination. Recognize and acknowledge this with your students.
- Consider and examine your own socialization experiences and what messages you have received about what it means to be a man. Consider how this might affect your interaction with students.

[danica.heidebrecht@sait.ca](mailto:danica.heidebrecht@sait.ca); 210-5825. ♦

## What's New in Faculty Development?

by Tim Loblaw

The Centre for Instructional Technology and Development (CITD) is pleased to welcome **Moira Fields**, **Rebekah Leghorn**, and **Doug MacLachlan** to SAIT. The three join a renewed Faculty Development Services (FDS) team within CITD. Throughout the winter semester, FDS will be engaging in a period of planning, and over the next few months a series of new and renewed faculty development programs and services will be communicated to SAIT faculty.

There have been many changes in FDS in the past 6 months. The following list shows how the team is now organized:

**Moira Fields:** Faculty Development Coordinator, Team Lead

**Ken Girling:** Faculty Development Coordinator, Apprenticeship Specialist

**Rebekah Leghorn:** Program Administrator

**Tim Loblaw:** Faculty Development Coordinator, Curriculum Specialist

**Doug MacLachlan:** Faculty Development Coordinator, E-Learning Specialist

## Learning and the Student by Roxanne Wheaton, Instructor, School of Information and Communications Technologies

Knowledge is the raw material of learning. Some believe that we are born with knowledge; others believe we acquire it solely from a variety of environmental stimulants and supports. To learn, the knowledge is processed in a way that creates meaning for the learner, leading to understanding and use of the knowledge. For a person to learn, there must be opportunities where the content and delivery are engaging, contextualized, and meaningful to the program or work. Information that is learned and not retained is wasted knowledge. It is important to enhance the students' learning by providing multiple ways to retrieve and retain the information. The more senses students use, the more information they retain.

Learning through memory is facilitated by drawing upon the students' prior knowledge with the use of advanced organizers, presenting more detailed explanations, emphasizing the building blocks of the material, questioning students to lead them to the answers, and facilitating discussions to flush out trouble areas or flawed beliefs. Important in this process is sufficient time for practice and reflection as well as timely feedback and encouragement.

Students learn in a variety of ways. A student's style of learning changes with content and may change with experience and time. Learning physically changes our brain as well as the strategies and learning styles we use to learn.

Learning occurs best when the student feels safe physically, emotionally, and mentally within the learning environment. Individual learning can be inhibited by anything internal or external that the student deems as a stressor. The more positive emotions that are involved in the learning process, the more a person learns and retains.

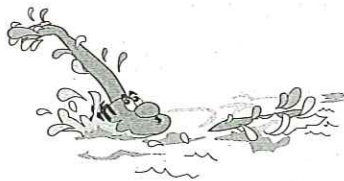
We cannot think of learning as unilaterally academic. Learning occurs contextually and socially through experiences, group work, communication, decision making, and critical thinking skills. ♦

## New Pool Hours

*by Erin Minor*

Last semester, the SAIT Aquatic Centre ran a trial period to see if enough people would use the pool and hot tub to justify extending the hours. The good news came at the end of the semester—the extended pool hours are now permanent! That means that you can establish a new routine without having to worry about whether the SAIT Aquatic Centre will be open. With some slight variation, you can enjoy the hot tub or take in a few lengths any time between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Friday. The 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. swim time is still an “open swim,” which means the diving board is open and only three lane lines are available. Occasionally, schools and other groups will be using the pool, but there will still be some space left in the pool for recreational use.

The SAIT Aquatic Centre is a clean, bright, well-appointed facility. Soon the renovations to the steam rooms will be complete. Why not brighten your day by taking advantage of the new hours of operation?



### Aquatic Centre Hours—Lane Swim or Open Swim Schedule

Monday and Wednesday 6 a.m.–7 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 6 a.m.–6 p.m.

Friday 6 a.m.–5 p.m.

For a complete schedule, see the SAIT Campus Wellness Centre website.

Happy New Year!

## Teachers' Quotes

[http://www.indianchild.com/teachers\\_quotes.htm](http://www.indianchild.com/teachers_quotes.htm)

Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition. ~Jacques Barzun

Teaching should be full of ideas instead of stuffed with facts. ~Author Unknown

Good teachers are costly, but bad teachers cost more. ~Bob Talbert

## SAFA Dependant Scholarship Recipient—Andraea Sartison

*by the Scholarship Committee*

This year, the criteria for the SAFA Dependant Scholarship changed. SAFA decided to expand the award availability not only to direct dependants of deceased or retired SAFA members but also to current members. SAFA received 19 applications, a significant increase from the past.

The Scholarship Committee consisted of two members from the SAFA Executive who reviewed the applications. SAFA required a cover letter from each of the applicants telling SAFA a little about himself/herself. It was a difficult decision as all of the applications were excellent, but there was one that stood out the most to the committee.

The SAFA Dependant Scholarship was awarded to Andraea Sartison. Andraea is in her third year of a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Alberta, majoring in Theater with a minor in Scandinavian Studies. Andraea is enrolled in the Augustana Faculty (a small liberal arts and sciences faculty) in Camrose. Andraea is involved in the community and demonstrates leadership in her extra-curricular activities.

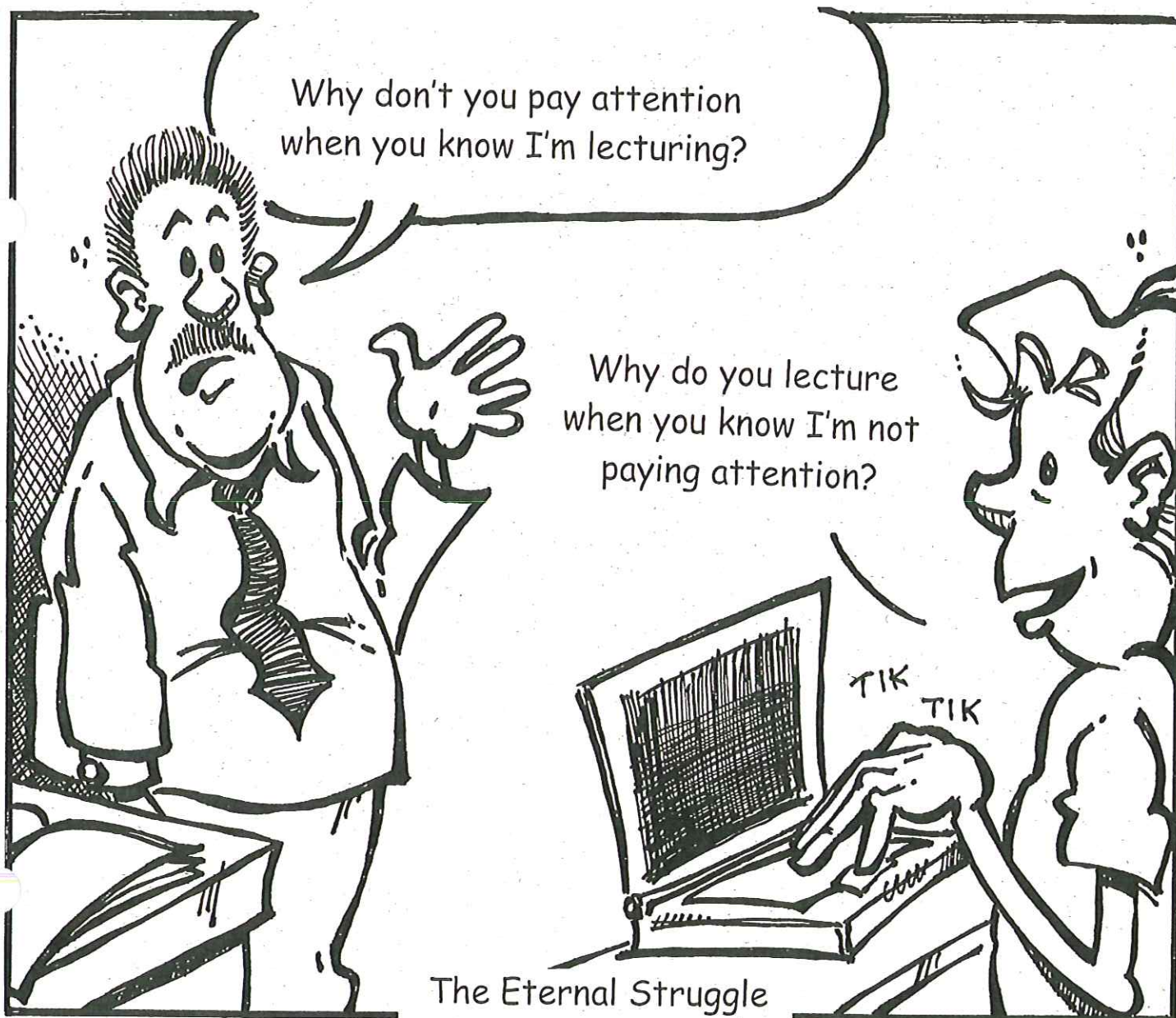
Andraea is the daughter of Garth Sartison, Carpentry Instructor in the School of Construction. ♦

Moira Fields comes to SAIT from Bow Valley College, where she was the Professional Development Lead for the Teaching and Learning Centre. She has also worked for the Calgary Separate Board and the Vulcan School Board. An extensive workplace history in the service industry and management areas helped her prepare for adult learning environments. Moira is currently enrolled in (and three courses away from completing) a Master of Education in the Workplace and Adult Learning specialization through the University of Calgary. Moira recently developed projects in Faculty Performance Management, and a Staff/Faculty Mentoring Program for which she won the NCSPOD award for "Innovative Excellence in Staff and Professional Development."

Rebekah Leghorn recently worked with the Alberta Government in the Apprenticeship Department, where she gained much insight into the Trades Industry. She has also worked in the television and video production industry after completing the Radio and Television Broadcasting Diploma Program at Mount Royal College. She is presently working on the online-

degree program in Business Management with a major in marketing through University of Athabasca. When she is not at home studying, she can often be found doing yoga or shooting photographs of her DJ friends at various clubs and lounges in Calgary.

Doug MacLachlan comes to SAIT after a career at the Calgary Board of Education, where he worked in a variety of capacities, including many enjoyable years as a classroom teacher. Doug spent the last nine years at CBE managing content development for the online high school program and designing an online professional development program for CBE staff. Most recently he worked across all of CBE, supporting schools in the development of technology strategies. Doug completed his PhD in 2004 through the University of Calgary. His thesis research was focused on self-directed learning in online communities. Doug has taught part-time at Mount Royal College and is currently a sessional instructor in the Graduate Division of Educational Research at the University of Calgary. ☛



The Eternal Struggle