



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

Fall 2018

President's Message: An Historic Moment



During ACIFA's most recent AGM at Jasper Park Lodge on May 15, 2018, we witnessed an historic moment as the motion: "to establish an ACIFA defense fund", was passed unanimously. ACIFA has never before had a defense fund, but a provincial defense fund like this one benefits us all. For a small monthly contribution from each individual faculty member, a sizeable defense fund can be built up both quickly and painlessly.

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ACIFA members are not militant, and so the possibility of one of our ACIFA institutions going on strike in the foreseeable future is small. Nevertheless, the backing of a sizeable defense fund will enable our bargaining teams to take strong positions on issues that are important to us, and critical to student success. Our defense fund will also give bargaining teams the confidence necessary to avoid capitulating to undue pressure, or to make unwise concessions. What is more, we shall not be starved into submission should the administration at any of our ACIFA schools decide to lock faculty out over a summer as a cost saving measure.

Let us hope that we never need to use the ACIFA defense fund, and let us also continue to support the principles of collegial governance, something for which ACIFA has always been a strong proponent. Let us also continue to work together to make the necessary adjustments in order to function under the labour code.

(Photograph courtesy of Warren White: President, Saskatchewan Polytechnic Faculty Association).

Dr. Anna Beukes

The ACIFA Conference for 2019 is at Chateau Lake Louise!



Looking forward to seeing you there: April 28 to 30, 2019



Room Rate Information:

The hotel rooms reserved for the conference are the following: **Fairmont, Fairmont Mountainview, Fairmont Lakeview, and Deluxe Mountainview categories**. Delegates need to reserve rooms directly with the hotel. Be sure to mention 'ACIFA' to qualify for the group rates in the table below. Let the hotel know which room category you prefer to reserve. If your preferred room type is not available at time of request, the next available room type will be offered at the noted rate.

Room Rates:

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Room Rates	Base Rate	Single W/Service Charge	Double W/ Service Charge
Fairmont	\$219.00	\$233.00	\$247.00
Fairmont Mountainview	\$239.00	\$253.00	\$267.00
Fairmont Lakeview	\$279.00	\$293.00	\$307.00
Deluxe Mountainview	\$259.00	\$273.00	\$287.00

RESERVATIONS DUE DATE: **Room reservations must be made by March 28, 2019 to qualify for the group rate.** After this reservation due date, rooms at the group rates might not be available.

Call for Submissions to Present at the Conference:

- Submissions will be open **October 1, 2018** (information will be available on the ACIFA website)
- **Deadline for submissions will be December 1, 2018**
- Notification of the status of submission will be **mid-December**

Article from ACIFA 2017-2018 Innovation in Teaching Award Winner Christopher Frey

On Innovation: An Artist's-eye View

by Christopher Frey

If you've got balls and an audience, innovation is easy. Just start juggling.

What I mean is, innovation is anything you make it to be as long as you actually make it and share the result with others in thoughtful, thought-provoking, responsible ways. If research is "the creation of knowledge," innovation is the extension of research bodied forth (made tangible) with intention to teach and delight and help others help themselves to help others.



Fun. Play. Nonsense. These are a few of the balls I juggle when I teach reading, thinking, and writing to studio-based learners at ACAD. Here is an example of what it looks like, in the form of a micro-essay about an innovative English class and star-crossed whales:

On Innovation: A Whale's-eye View

English 317 – Contemporary Narrative led by Dr. Frey is about nothing at all.

Baleen 2 told me so while she and I "turned and walked into the apartment hall" (Bradbury 14). What she actually said was, "Indeed, paintings can be read . . . [t]heir surfaces contain all the secrets of their making" (Buster and Crawford 21).

I heard her and thought, "I prefer *blue*, as in blue whales 'swimming deeply,' as containers of secrets secretly contained (Pseudo-Cicero 4.22.43), 'without fear of drowning' (Baldwin 167)." And I said, "Blue cetaceans are the largest animals that have ever lived and even though they look much like a fish they are not" (Würsig 265).

"'Nonsense' (Wilde 128), Baleen!" she said and added, "Baffling bullshit, as usual," and Baleen 2's door slammed in my face.

Works Cited

- Baldwin, James. "Sonny's Blues." 1957. *The Broadview Anthology of Short Fiction*. Eds. Julia Gaunce and Suzette Mayr. Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 2004. 146-68. Print.
- Bradbury, Ray. "Marionettes, Inc." 1950. Lindop 10-18. Print.
- Buster, Kendall, and Paula Crawford. *The Critique Handbook: The Art Student's Sourcebook and Survival Guide*. 2nd ed. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010. Print.
- Pseudo-Cicero. "Metonymy." *Rhetorica ad Herennium*. 80 B.C. Trans. Harry Caplan. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1954. 4.22.43. Print.
- Stewart, Susan. *Nonsense: Aspects of Intertextuality in Folklore and Literature*. Baltimore: John Hopkins UP, 1989. Print.
- Wilde, Oscar. "The Model Millionaire." 1887. Lindop 120-31. Print.
- Würsig, Bernd. "Whale." *World Book Encyclopedia*. Vol. 21. 2008 ed. 254-65. Print.

And we're off to the races.

Any questions.

Any answers?

And, of course, "Just keep juggling."

Class dismissed.



*Dr. Christopher Frey is an Associate Professor at the Alberta College of Art and Design University, the creator of [cCrw]etic Discourse and sPLAYce Fiction, writer and illustrator of children's narratives, and recipient of this year's ACIFA Innovative Teaching Award.

Article from ACIFA 2017-2018 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award Winner Steve Janz

Lightboard Technology

by Steve Janz

5 years ago I created my first set of course videos for my students. What did I discover? Students love them. My views quickly exceeded 20,000 for my 30+ whiteboard videos. My number one comment on my instructor evaluations was “thank you for your amazing videos!” My instructor evaluation scores increased from 4 out of 5 to 4.5 out of 5. Student performance on assessments was exceptional.

Sounds too good to be true? Yes and no....

My peers started to hear about my videos from their students, the chair, the dean and me. I strongly encouraged them to create their own videos. As I naively explained, here’s what you need: “a budget to pay for the director, a dedicated quiet room, technology skills to handle the camera, internet skills to load your videos onto Youtube for the world to see, time to create your script, questions, solutions and throughout the process, patience to handle any challenging issue(s) which inevitably will occur. The quality of your videos will be ok, not great. Posture is overrated anyways. Students don’t care, they love them for the content. Go for it! I’ll help if I can.”

And you know how many of my peers created videos with or without my help? Zero
Why you ask? See above. Solution – Lightboard Technology.

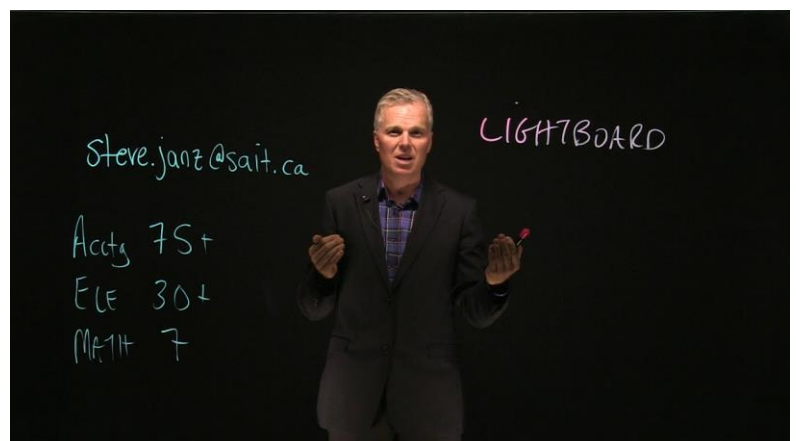
At this point in time, please take a few minutes and search Steve Janz on www.youtube.com. Please watch a couple minutes of a Lightboard video (black background) and a couple minutes of a whiteboard video (white background). As you can see, what a difference in quality.

Today at SAIT, we have two dedicated Lightboard rooms due to demand. Our Lightboard videos number in the hundreds across multiple disciplines. Instructors are creating videos within minutes and having a lot of fun in the process. How did we achieve this success? Our process is really simple, you have support and the video quality is very good. There are no more excuses.

What is Lightboard technology? As per the website, <http://lightboard.info/>, the Lightboard is a glass chalkboard pumped full of light. It's for recording video lecture topics. You face toward your viewers, and your writing glows in front of you. If you are looking for instructions on how to build your own Lightboard, the website provides detailed instructions on how to accomplish your build. You can even buy a Lightboard from a vendor.

As you begin your video journey, I’ll leave you with my most important words of wisdom. Keep it simple teacher! Over 50% of the instructors I have helped train have tried to do too much for their first video. Keep it simple teacher!

If you are ever at SAIT, send me an email for a tour (coffee, smiles and a fun video included).



Article from ACIFA 2017-2018 Distinguished Instructor Award Winner Colleen Whidden

“Do we get to do a musical in our fourth year like they did last year?” I love this question! In my music and drama education class last year at Medicine Hat College, we performed the musical “Pirates: The Musical” by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson. The students were leery of this venture at the beginning as many of them had never been part of a musical theatre production where they had to sing, dance, and act. My vision was to have them both perform and produce this musical. I asked them to take on such roles as director, choreographer, sound designer, production manager, and set designer as well as performer. This amazing cohort of future teachers embraced this vision. The show in which they performed and produced was artistic, authentic, and passionate. We were sad when our time together was complete.



This musical theatre creation, where we all worked together pragmatically and aesthetically, grounded my commitment to researching more about the concept of experiential learning at the post-secondary level. Watching these students go from being nervous about displaying their artistic skills to singing and dancing with confidence and energy in front of an audience illustrated to me the power of authentic, engaged learners when combined with a real world experience.

My interest and intrigue about such teaching and learning is soon, for me, to become a long-term research project. Through the Medicine Hat College Centre for Innovation and Teaching Excellence Teaching Fellows program, I have the opportunity to journey deep into this concept of experiential learning at the post-secondary level over the next two years. I am excited to be starting the journey of challenging and reflecting upon my own views on what constitutes best practice at the post-secondary level and hope that my findings can be beneficial and relevant.

I am excited to be back with my MHC students and colleagues where my teaching focus continues to be in literacy and arts education. I look forward to the many wonders and challenges this year will hold and especially to the creation of another musical theatre experience with my next group of wonderful students!

Congratulations, all award winners!

Information on submitting a nomination for the 2018/19 awards will be sent out in October.

Bargaining in 2018



This past year was one of my most interesting collective bargaining. Starting with bargaining tables that had stalled or were taking indeterminate hiatus through bargaining in a climate of government austerity mandates, there were still some great gains for some of our member associations. With apparent government mandates to the colleges that specified that there should be no monetary gains for academic staff, the associations were able to achieve significant gains in areas such as workload, scholarly activity and very importantly, recognition of contract teachers as academic staff.

As we came through the summer and with the recent AUPE settlement, we are starting to see a slight softening in the austerity proposals. The theme of no salary increases for 2018 to 2019 with salary reopeners with binding arbitration for 2019 to 2020 continues. The side effect of this mandate in that our associations are being forced on to matching bargaining cycles.

This has elicited the frequent question of whether we are being directed toward sectoral bargaining. My feeling is still that this result is due to economics rather than a push for this type of bargaining. Whether or not this is the case, I think this year will be a good one to focus on membership engagement and solidarity in our new world. We will be looking at resources for the associations on this front, starting with a session on this topic at our upcoming Presidents forum. I look forward to this session and seeing you all again this year!

In solidarity,
Brian McCulloch
Labour Relations Officer, ACIFA

CALENDAR

2018

October

19 (Friday) - Executive Council - Calgary

20 (Saturday) - Presidents' Council - Calgary

2019

January

25 (Friday) - Executive Council - Edmonton

26 (Saturday) - Negotiations Advisory Committee - Edmonton

26 (Saturday) - Professional Affairs Committee - Edmonton

March

15 (Friday) - Executive Council - Edmonton ACIFA Office

16 (Saturday) - Presidents' Council - Edmonton ACIFA Office

April

13 (Saturday) - Executive Council - Edmonton ACIFA Office/Conference Call

April

28 (Sunday) - Presidents' Council - Chateau Lake Louise

30 (Tuesday) - Annual General Meeting - Chateau Lake Louise

28 through 30 (Sun through Tue) - Spring Conference - Chateau Lake Louise

During Conference - Negotiations Advisory Committee - Chateau Lake Louise

During Conference - Professional Affairs Committee - Chateau Lake Louise

Additional Upcoming Important Dates:

October 1, 2018: Opening date for Annual Conference presentation submissions

December 1, 2018: Closing date for Annual Conference presentation submissions

February 15, 2019: Deadline to submit nominations for Distinguished Instructor Award, Innovation in Teaching Award, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

March 21, 2019: Final date to receive a refund on conference registration cancellation

March 28, 2019: Final date to book rooms for the Annual Conference under the ACIFA rates

Annual ACIFA Climate Survey



The annual ACIFA Climate survey, distributed electronically through your faculty association office by November, is a valuable tool for the tabulation and analysis of the views of academic staff members across the province, concerning working conditions and attitudes within their respective institutions.

The Climate Survey asks individual academic staff members to indicate level of agreement on a scale of 1 to 5, with thirteen statements such as:

Senior administration communicates openly with faculty.

I have the resources I need to do my job effectively.

The president of this institution provides effective leadership.

In addition, local academic staff associations may take the opportunity to include further questions specific to their own institutions.

The relatively high response rate from ACIFA members, along with the continuity from year to year of the thirteen core survey questions, provides a strong foundation to assist academic staff associations in discussions with their administration regarding key areas of concern within their institutions.

A comparative, cross-institutional score chart for each of the thirteen system wide questions will be published in the ACIFA Faculty Circuit next spring.

LAPP

-Submitted by Doug Short

LAPP contribution rates for employees will come down by another 1% beginning in 2019. The unfunded liability [resulting to a large extent by the financial downturn of 2007 – 2008] has been eliminated.

LAPP continues to work towards joint governance between employees and employers.



DID YOU KNOW?

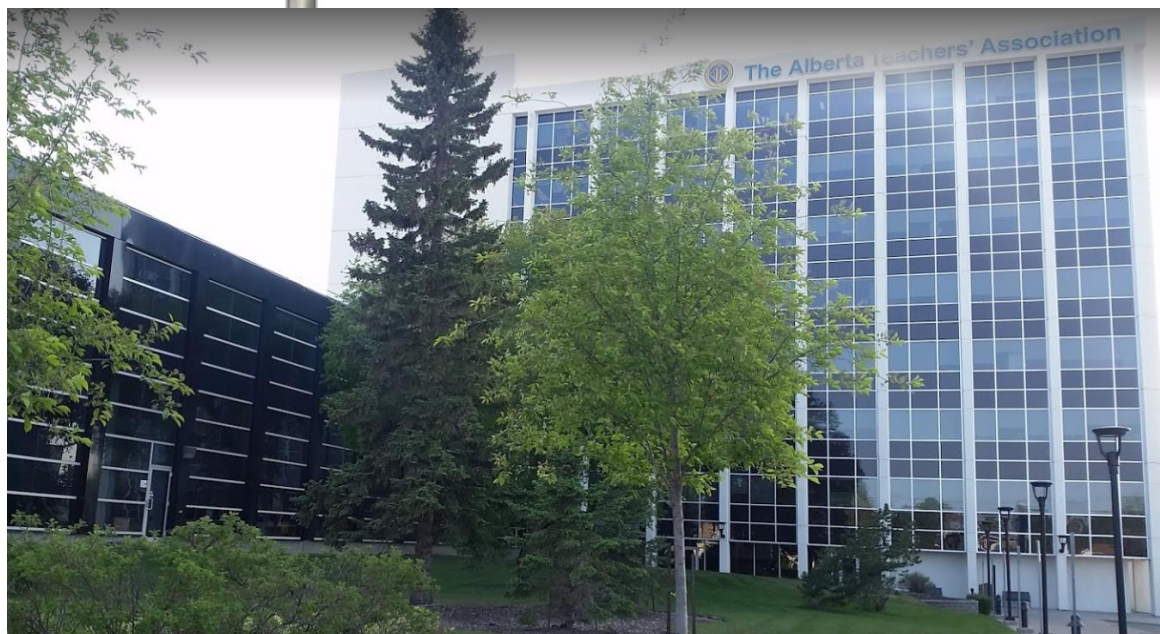
You can find the following on the ACIFA website:

- *Association newsletters*
- *Collective agreements*
- *Information about ACIFA awards*
- *Copies of submissions to the government from ACIFA*
- *and much more!*

www.acifaweb.com



Our new mailing address is
218, 11010 142 St. NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1



We are now located in the ATA building in a temporary space until our newly leased space is available for us. By 2019, we will be in a space about 1200 ft² with large windows facing the trees you see in the picture. We are looking forward to having you visit!

ACIFA Members

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association
Keyano College Faculty Association
Lakeland College Faculty Association
Lethbridge College Faculty Association
Medicine Hat College Faculty Association
NAIT Academic Staff Association
NorQuest College Faculty Association
Northern Lakes College Faculty Association
Olds College Faculty Association
Portage College Faculty Association
Faculty Association of Red Deer College
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

Contact ACIFA at admin@acifa.ca or 780-423-4440
Website: acifaweb.com

For several years, Johnson Insurance has been a strong supporter of ACIFA, providing the financial award for both the **Innovation in Teaching Award** and **Distinguished Instructor Award**. When you obtain a **quote** or use Johnson Insurance for your insurance needs, a contribution is made to ACIFA to help support these winners and the ACIFA Annual Conference. This results in an average contribution of **over \$10,000 yearly** to ACIFA!

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