

Spotlight

academic awards triannual

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Festival of Teaching: **Get Engaged!**

On January 27, the University of Alberta community came together to celebrate the second annual Festival of Teaching. This year's Festival showcased inspiration, innovation and integration in teaching, focusing on the theme: Get Engaged!



Using posters, displays, stage and multi-media presentations, more than 80 educators shared what they are doing to engage their students.

“To get engaged implies something more than involvement or participation—it also implies partnership and commitment motivated by a passion for something or someone beyond ourselves,” commented President Indira Samarasekera. “A student and a teacher meshing together—learning and thinking together—have the power to create something that exceeds either one of them as individuals.”

Olive Yonge, event co-chair (together with Anne Naeth), describes the Festival as a learning laboratory—an apt description.

Teachers engage teachers to learn new techniques and improve methods. Students engage each other and Festival participants as costumed “Wandering Scholars” from history extolling the virtues of excellent teachers and as “Cultural Attachés” interacting with festival-goers, sharing information from a variety of countries as well as phrases from several languages.

In her keynote address called “Why did the doctor cross the road?” Dr Sarah Forgie, a professor in pediatric infectious diseases, delighted her audience with her inspiring depiction of a medical school where the students and teachers are passionate about learning.

Other Festival highlights included performances by the Augustana Choir and a walk-through of the Smart Condo, a functional training laboratory for health sciences students.

Summing up the event, President Samarasekera noted that “cultivating a vibrant and creative teaching culture requires the engagement of all of us.” ■

building a **community** | building a **reputation**



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Upcoming Deadlines for Academic Awards

CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards

The annual Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) Awards, the CAFA Distinguished Academic Award and the CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award, are specifically designed to honor excellence and raise awareness of the many ways in which the scholarly or creative work of university academic staff serves the wider community outside our universities.

Nominees must be current members of one of the academic staff associations within CAFA (e.g. AAS:AU). For a group nomination, a majority of group members, including the primary researcher or group leader, must be current members of one of the CAFA academic staff associations. Nominees for the CAFA Distinguished Academic Early Career Award must be no more than eight years beyond the completion of a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification. The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, April 24, 2009**.

Centennial Professor

The title of Centennial Professor was created to recruit outstanding external candidates to the University of Alberta. Centennial Professor is bestowed on new members of the academy who have achieved outstanding distinction in their area of research and scholarship, teaching, and who have earned favourable regard from the community.

Any individual new to the University who is eligible to be appointed as a full-time member ranked as Professor of the Faculty may be nominated for the title of Centennial Professor. The deadline to submit nominations is the first working day of May (**Friday, May 1, 2009**).

University Cup

The University Cup is the highest honor the University of Alberta can bestow on a member of its academic staff and is granted only to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching, and service to the University and the community at large.

Any full-time member of the academic teaching staff with 20 years of service as a

faculty member in a university community and at least 10 years of service as a faculty member at the University of Alberta may be nominated for the University Cup. The deadline to submit nominations is the first working day of May (**Friday, May 1, 2009**).

University Professor

The title of University Professor was created to recognize contributions to scholarly research, teaching, and service to the community and University. The scholarly work of the University Professor must have merited international attention; their teaching and student supervision ability must be highly esteemed by colleagues and students; they must be regarded as exceptional.

Any full-time member of the academic teaching staff at the University of Alberta may be appointed as a University Professor. The deadline to submit nominations is the first working day of May (**Friday, May 1, 2009**).

Order of Canada

The Order of Canada is the centrepiece of Canada's honours system and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country.

All Canadians are eligible for the Order of Canada, with the exception of federal and provincial politicians and judges while in office. Any person or group is welcome to nominate a deserving individual as candidate for appointment to the Order of Canada. There is no deadline for nominations as it is an on-going process.

For more information...

Visit our website, www.ualberta.ca/academicawards, use the search tool or navigate to the award you are interested in.

For **discipline specific awards**, select the appropriate field of study and determine which award(s) are applicable to you. ■

Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office

The University of Alberta is committed to sharing our accomplishments with the broader community. Success by our faculty and staff in receiving recognition in teaching, learning, scholarship, and community service, is critical to realizing the University's vision and to maintain and enhance the University's reputation.

We have added numerous new awards that University of Alberta faculty members have received to our website, www.ualberta.ca/academicawards. If you have received an award and your outstanding accomplishment is not celebrated on our website, please contact us so that we may recognize your achievement.

Need help with a teaching award nomination? For more information or assistance with a teaching award nomination, please contact Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, at 780.492.2644 or via e-mail at bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca.



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