

Feel *Look* Explore *Learn...*
Experience *Human Ecology*

Feel Look Explore

the Undergraduate Majors in Human Ecology

A Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Ecology

A Contemporary Program from Strong Roots

Drawing inspiration from words students used in their 4th year Human Ecology material culture course to direct viewers to their end-of-term 'Colour Catch' 2014 gallery exhibit, we are appropriating a similar phrase, 'Feel, Look, Explore'. We use it in the context of encouraging prospective and current students, alumni, others across campus and in the community to learn more about the Department of Human Ecology's activities in 2013-14.

Human Ecology Teaching and Learning

Learning is an integral part of the teaching process. L. D. Fink (2003) offers a contemporary taxonomy of six types of learning: *fundamental knowledge, application, integration, human dimension, caring, and learning how to learn*. This learning taxonomy is strongly embodied in our programs; particularly the focus on the human dimension. It is a perspective that is highly valued in today's modern society but interestingly, it is one that has evolved from our early Home Economics roots. The 'integration' and 'learning to learn' goals are further brought to life in the required 200- hour Practicum Program placement for all our graduating students. The Human Ecology undergraduate program includes two majors: *Family Ecology* and *Clothing, Textiles & Material Culture*.

Family Ecology students learn about diverse topics such as intimate relationships; aging; family economics; counseling; family law; parent-child relationships; community development; program planning and evaluation; family policy.

Clothing, Textiles & Material Culture majors select from a number of courses including textile science; human comfort; design principles; material culture; historic dress; fashion industries; supply chain management, global trade; apparel design; quality control and cultural aspects of textiles.

Our graduates are highly valued for the broad interdisciplinary scope of their education.

Fink, L.D. (2003). *Creating significant learning experiences*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Human Ecology Program Overview

The areas of study in the undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Human Ecology have evolved since the first Bachelor of Science in Household Economics degrees were awarded in 1918 at the University of Alberta. In addition to our two undergraduate majors in **Family Ecology** and **Clothing, Textiles & Material Culture**, graduate students pursue course-based or thesis-based master's degrees, or doctoral programs in the following areas: **Aging; Children, Youth & Families; Material Culture**; and **Textile & Apparel Science**. Did you know our Department offers the only **PhD program in Human Ecology** in Canada?

What is it?

Human Ecology is an interdisciplinary applied field that uses a holistic systems approach to examine the many contexts of people's lives. In particular, we focus on the dynamic relationships people have with their near environments: clothing, family, home and community.

What do we do?

We prepare students with core skills in: science, social science, arts & humanities, critical analysis, global awareness...

What research areas?

- Family & child relationships
- Youth at risk
- Families in later life
- Caregiving
- Rural aging
- Material culture & disability studies
- Work-life balance
- Intimate relationships
- History & social meaning of objects
- Costume history
- Protective clothing
- Clothing comfort
- Social psychology of design
- Collections and exhibitions
- Apparel design
- Innovative materials
- Global textile trade

Enhanced through experiential learning, practicums, international study opportunities

Engaging Beyond the Classroom:

Research Projects, International Study, Innovative Special Topics Courses, Practicum Placements

Timely Course Offering: *Practices for Enhancing Cultural Safety with First Nations and Metis Families*

In light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Alberta National Event which took place in March 2014, the offering of a spring session special topics course entitled *Practices for Enhancing Cultural Safety with First Nations and Metis Families* was a timely opportunity for students to learn to work more effectively with Aboriginal people. In developing the course, **Dr. Fay Fletcher**, associate professor in the Faculty of Extension, commented that, "having learned a lot about working in relationship with colleagues and mentors who are First Nations and Metis, I saw this as an opportunity to share what I have learned and leave these students better prepared than I was when I started 20 years ago. Using teaching approaches I have learned from First Nations mentors and co-teaching with Indigenous people, we create a safe place to learn about residential schools as well as legislation and policies that have had and continue to have extremely negative impacts on Indigenous people as well as the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people." The TRC event figured prominently too, for student **Kelly Saper**, completing her Practicum Placement at Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch



with the Regional Nutrition Team. She volunteered at the National Event and writes, "My experience working at Health Canada emphasized how crucial it is that professionals working with First Nation communities learn Aboriginal culture, customs, and history; especially about the legacy of residential schools. Thus, when the opportunity to volunteer at the National Event in Edmonton came available, I jumped at the chance. I really have a hard time putting into words how much the entire experience meant to me. Through my experience at the TRC event, I have become a more compassionate and understanding person, which is invaluable both professionally and personally. There is no doubt that my experience at the TRC enhanced my work at Health Canada and it will influence my work in the future. A moment that had a great impact on me came after a residential school survivor shared his truth during a sharing circle. He asked that we become First Nations advocates by sharing with others what we know about the residential school experience and the devastating impact it has had on generations of people."

Empathic Design - An Amazing Journey for Both Students and Instructors

Visiting University of Illinois design scholars, **Joyce Thomas** and **Dr. Deana McDonagh**, offered a 3-week spring session course focusing on empathic design research methods. Their goal was to help students articulate their awareness of their own possible changes in how they perceive others who are different, especially in regard to disability issues. In reflecting on the course experience students were emotional and grateful in their expressions of increased self-awareness resulting from a clearer understanding of what it means to be empathic and how this could be applied not only to design thinking, but to other work and personal spheres as well. Professor Thomas concluded at the end of the



course, "This has been an amazing journey for us."

Ageing

RESEARCHERS CONDUCT THEORETICAL , EMPIRICAL AND POLICY RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF AGING. FAMILY CAREGIVING IS A MAJOR FOCAL AREA OF STUDY.

Empowering Employed Caregivers

Dr. Janet Fast was invited to present her research on juggling family/friend caregiving and paid employment in Canada at a Westminster Seminar in London UK in May 2014 along with other leading experts from the UK and Australia. Discussions were held with members of the House of Lords and House of Commons on the pressing challenges and opportunities to support employed caregivers, particularly those most vulnerable to giving up paid work to provide care to a family member or friend with a long-term health problem or disability. Participants debated the question: *How can we build policy, practice, active labour markets, and positive workplaces that support family challenges and an aging society, and have care markets that vibrantly support and strengthen families?* More sustainable policy options are needed so that everyone can be empowered to play a part in delivering care. These would include measures to prevent financial hardship for caregivers; workplace and life course flexibility for employees, employers; reliable, flexible, affordable, accessible and technology-enabled services for care recipients and caregivers; and caregiver recognition and rights. As Dr. Fast commented, “In Canada, we have much to learn from the UK in working together with government, employers, caregiver advocacy organizations and other NGOs to develop policies to better support caregivers.”



Professor Bettina Cass, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, Australia; Baroness Jill Pitkeathley, House of Lords; Professor Sue Yeandle, Director, Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equality, University of Leeds; Dr. Janet Fast; Dr. Norah Keating, U of A; Dr. Melissa Wong, Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, Australia

Global Aging Initiatives

As **Dr. Norah Keating** “eases into retirement”, she is as busy as ever building capacity around the globe. According to Dr. Keating, “the creation and application of social scientific knowledge, derived from scholarship around the world, is crucial to addressing global issues in population aging.” Over the past year and in collaboration with international colleagues, Dr. Keating has organized an invited Presidential symposium on international perspectives on family roles and obligations at the IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics; developed a research agenda on families and aging in Africa; chaired the inaugural Worldwide Universities Network Global China Conference on family transition, aging, and social security; and chaired a Presidential symposium on Age-Friendly communities for the Gerontological Society of America conference. Dr. Keating also joined several international experts who advanced the debate on a global culture of care at international forums in Brazil.

The outcome is the Rio Declaration *Beyond Prevention and Treatment: Developing a Culture of Care in Response to the Longevity Revolution*. It highlights the need for inclusive, person-focused care firmly grounded in human rights and a fresh perspective on gendered dimensions of care.

On a local note, Dr. Keating was the 2014 recipient of the Alberta Association on Gerontology Mary Morrison Davis Award which recognizes scholarship, research, and advocacy in the field of gerontology.

Children, Youth & Families

RESEARCHERS FOCUS ON HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY FUNCTIONING ACROSS THE LIFECOURSE IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS SUCH AS PARENTING, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS, WORK-FAMILY INTEGRATION, AND YOUTH AT RISK.

Capturing Family Life

The Families in Everyday Life multi-year study with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSRHC), led by **Dr. Deanna Williamson** with colleagues Drs. Berna Skrypnik, Kaysi Kushner and Nicole Pitre, is



Student researchers C. Mungham, I. Hurava, A. Vincent, G. Xia

examining family functioning processes used by families of diverse compositions and ethno-cultural origins with young children. Researchers have recruited 34 families including single parent and same gender parent families, and families of Aboriginal, Chinese and South Asian ethnic origin. As part of their qualitative research experience, graduate students Carina Goehing, Caitlin Mungham, and Iryna Hurava working with research coordinator, Margo Charchuk, have learned how to conduct interviews in some special circumstances – by using Skype, in busy and noisy coffee shops, in libraries

and with a household full of young children and pets! In addition, families as a group share scrapbooks and photos they have taken of their daily life, providing invaluable insight into the everyday processes of the family. This summer, the research team welcomes two undergraduate interns, Alex Vincent from Ontario, and Ganling Xia from China.



Homelessness in Fort McMurray- Unique Circumstances

Dr. Pushpanjali Dashora's research team conducted a participatory action research project with homeless individuals and service sector stakeholders in Fort McMurray.

Homeless individuals were interviewed about their daily experiences, challenges, and needs within the broad social, cultural, and institutional system of Fort McMurray. Findings suggest that the city's homeless are in great need of resources and supports. Limited shelter beds, restrictive shelter rules, and high rental costs present multiple barriers to their survival. Participating stakeholders also identified system management issues such as a shortage of treatment facilities, fragmentation of services, and lack of collaboration among community partners. The provincial homelessness funding structure is viewed as lacking as it does not address local needs and the unique circumstances

of training and retention of case workers in Fort McMurray. A strong consensus emerged to connect with the public to create awareness about what it means to be homeless. Funding was provided by the Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness.

Early Life Experiences Impact Future Intimate Relationships

In pursuit of uncovering the ways in which early life experiences represent a vulnerability or resource for future intimate relationships, **Dr. Matt Johnson**, with colleagues in psychology and sociology, obtained compelling findings which were recently published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* and the *Journal of Family Psychology*. In a study examining how parent-adolescent relations shape young



adult intimate relationships, it was found that the quality of parent-adolescent relations (perceptions of warmth, closeness, trust, and openness) foreshadowed satisfaction in offspring couple relations over 15 years later. This research generated a great deal of media interest. Working as a co-investigator with Dr. Harvey

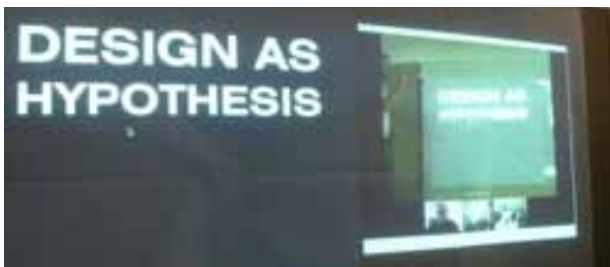
Krahn and Dr. Nancy Galambos, further research in the area of intimate relationships is assured through the recent awarding of a SSHRC Insight Grant to the research team.

Material Culture & Design Studies

MATERIAL CULTURE SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERS THE SOCIAL MEANING OF OBJECTS IN TERMS OF THEIR CREATION, USE AND CIRCULATION WITH AN EMPHASIS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ECOLOGY, ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

Thinking While Doing

Dr. Arlene Oak's current work is focused on how homes and products are planned and constructed by people who work together employing different forms of knowledge, expertise, and craft skill. She is interested in how creating and using objects relates to aspects of our personal and social identities. In the last year she has been active in several collaborative research projects. The Thinking While Doing project (TWD: a SSHRC Partnership Grant based at Dalhousie University), has Dr Oak heading the 'Insight' group who study University-level architecture students as they design and construct buildings across Canada and the US. Another collaborative research project is the Design Thinking Research Symposium which will be held at Purdue University, Indiana in October 2014. For this, Dr. Oak is working with Professor Peter Lloyd of the University of Brighton, UK, to explore how graduate level design education teaches students to become critics and judges of designed products, as well as creators of them. In 2014 Dr. Oak was pleased to be awarded a Killam Cornerstones Grant to further her research into how innovation is taught in university-level design education.



Design Environments and Quality of Life

Dr. Megan Strickfaden's research involves several international collaborations investigating sociocultural complexities within professional design environments. Her work is both applied and scholarly, where she is involved in product development and in expanding knowledge, particularly in the area of supporting health, safety, wellbeing and quality of life. In the past year Dr. Strickfaden has focused on

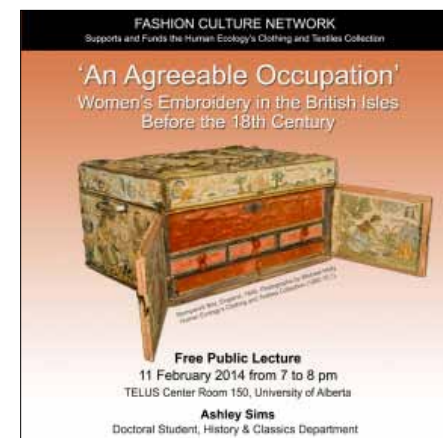


disseminating work around two funded projects Architectural Design in Dialogue with Disability (ERC funded 2008-2013) and Explorations into How Disability is Situated in the Design Process (Killam Cornerstone 2012-13). A current international project involves teaching at the third annual European doctoral school Disability Mundus in Portugal. Dr. Strickfaden's most recent publication is "On the Quest for Better Communication through Tactile Images" with Aymeric Vildieu in the *Journal of Aesthetic Education*. She is currently working on two books with Dr. Patrick Devlieger (University of Leuven, Belgium) titled *disAbility as Material Culture* and *Rethinking Disability: Definitions, Concepts and Communities, Second Edition*.

Doing History with Objects

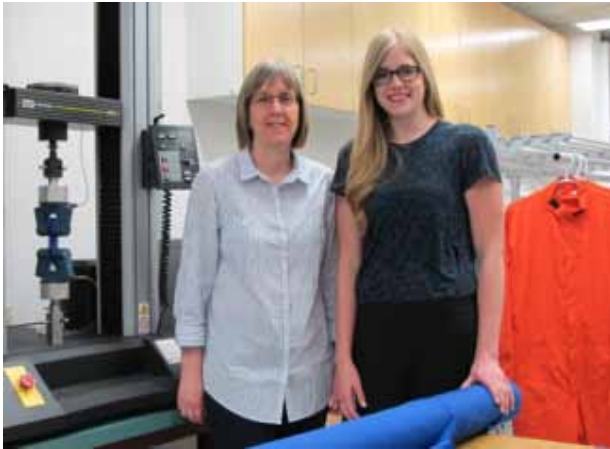
As Curator of the Clothing & Textile Collection, **Dr. Anne Bissonnette's** research activities involve both scholarly publications and exhibition design. Two recent publications include "Doing History with Objects: Betty Kirke and Madeleine Vionnet", published in *Fashion Theory* and "Dessiné d'après nature: Renditions from Life in the Journal des Dames et des Modes 1798-1799" for the *Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies*. An eighteenth-century theme was also evident in the creation of "The Re-Birth of Venus: Fashion and the Venus Kallipygos" exhibit. This work was done in collaboration with PhD student Sarah Nash (Department of History and Classics). Dr. Bissonnette has also been instrumental in the creation of the University of Alberta's Fashion Culture Network. Twice yearly presentations are featured for U of A staff, students and anyone in the community who wants a fresh take on clothing, the idea of style and the value and history of textiles.

To join the Fashion Culture Network, e-mail rblakey@ualberta.ca



Textile & Apparel Science

RESEARCH IS CARRIED OUT WITH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY FOCUS THAT AIMS TO ENHANCE HUMAN PERFORMANCE, PROTECTION AND COMFORT THROUGH TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SOLUTIONS.



Dr. Jane Batcheller with student Carly Vanderschaaf

ShuQin Wen conducting wear trials



Textile Science Faculty Provide Strong Student Mentorship Leading to Research Success

Supervised by **Dr. Jane Batcheller** and adjunct professor, **Dr. David Torvi**, University of Saskatchewan, **Carly Vanderschaaf** was awarded an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award. Her proposal evolved from a research project as part of her course work in *Clothing and Materials for Sport and Safety* taught by **Dr. Rachel McQueen**. Carly's research will investigate the effects of abrasion, laundering and ultraviolet radiation on the continuing performance of three flame-resistant fabrics used for protective clothing and coveralls worn by oil and gas industry workers. She will measure changes to colour, mass, thickness, thermal protection, flame resistance and mechanical strength. The longer term goal of the research is to develop non-destructive methods to evaluate the performance of protective clothing in the field and to know when these garments should be replaced. Funding and materials were also provided by the Protective Clothing and Equipment Research Facility (PCERF), TenCate Protective Fabrics Canada, Inc., and Westex Inc.

Comfort without Compromising Protection

Providing adequate protection without compromising comfort has always been a challenge in the development of fabrics for protective clothing. Wearers of these garments are at risk of physiological strain and fatigue because the body's natural mechanisms of heat dissipation are hindered by the chemical resistant properties of the garment fabrics. Doctoral student ShuQin Wen, supervised by **Dr. Jane Batcheller** and

Dr. Stewart Peterson, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, tested chemical resistant garments in bench scale tests and in human wear trials to develop a predictive model of the fabric properties with the greatest influence on physiological strain. For testing, participants wearing chemical protective coveralls walked rapidly on a treadmill while their heart rate, breathing, core and skin temperatures were monitored. Research results will help fabric and garment manufacturers predict the physiological effects of chemical protective clothing on workers prior to garment construction, thus allowing for development of more comfortable garments without compromising protection. Funding and materials were provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), and Mark's Work Warehouse.

Media Interest in Jeans Study

In on-going research funded by Cotton Incorporated USA, **Dr. Rachel McQueen** reports that by washing your jeans less frequently you'll be able to extend their life. Her study followed about 70 participants who wore test jeans for about 60 days of use. These findings, although not surprising to a textile specialist, have the potential to encourage consumers to wash clothing less frequently than they may currently do, with overall positive implications for the environment. This study relates well to the recent media interest in the laundry habits of Levi's CEO, after he reported he hasn't washed his jeans in a year. Dr. McQueen was interviewed about this by reporters from the NYC-based news website Business Insider (article reposted on Slate) and the *Toronto Star* in May 2014.

International Graduate Student Profile

I am Linh Nguyen, a Vietnamese student working towards an M.Sc. in Family Ecology and Practice. I came into the program with the goal of becoming a family support worker



focusing on parenting-related issues. During my master's degree study, my research and practice interests have extended to include not only parent-child relations but also intimate partner relationships, the interdependence of familial relations, and the interactions between individual members, the family, and their environment. Regarding my

research interests in parenting, I am currently working on my thesis which explores the contributions of overprotective or harsh, intrusive parenting behaviors to the associations between shyness and social functioning in early adolescence. In the past two years, I have received great mentorship from my supervisors, Dr. Berna Skrypnek and Dr. Matt Johnson. Moreover, by getting involved in Dr. Johnson's research projects, I have gained important skills including data analysis, manuscript development for publication, as well as grant application development. Furthermore, I received extensive support from my supervisors and the Department for my presentation at the annual conference of the National Council on Family Relations in the U.S., last fall. All in all, the Department of Human Ecology offers graduate students a highly supportive environment for personal, academic, and professional development.

2013-2014 Awards and Scholarships

President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction,

Sharon Anderson

Edmonton & District Quilters' Guild Founders Graduate Scholarship

Nicole Furtak

Betty Crown Graduate Scholarship in Textile and Apparel Science

Lelia Lawson

GSA Martha Piper Award; UAI Edmonton Consular Ball Scholarship; UAI Education Abroad Individual Award; Isaac Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship

Sumit Mandal

Dianne Kieren Graduate Award in Human Ecology; Engberg Graduate Scholarship in International Home Economics

Hui Ren

University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship; Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral level

Adolfo Ruiz

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship; President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction

William Semple

Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral level; Dr. William A Fuller Memorial Graduate Scholarship; David and Marian Duggan Memorial Scholarship; Doris Badir Graduate Research Fellowship in Human Ecology

Sandra Tullio-Pow

Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship - Master's level; Joseph - Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's (SSHRC); Helen DeSilva Buchanan Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Clothing and Textiles

Linda Marie Johnson

Myer Horowitz Graduate Students' Association Graduate Scholarship

Paz Orellana-Fitzgerald

Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's (SSHRC)

Vanessa Green

Profiling Alberta's Graduate Students Award

Iryna Hurava

Louise Davies Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Linh Nyguen

Profiling Alberta's Graduate Students Award

Tristan Robinson

Profiling Alberta's Graduate Students Award

Myles Van Keulen

Graduates

Fall Convocation 2013

Afrin Biswas, MA

Therese Castillo Martinez-Yu, MA

Lesley Stafiniak, MA

Stephanie Fletcher, MSc.

Zhaowen Mei, MSc.

Dana Marie Robinson, MSc.

Traci Lee Toszczak, MS.

Nicolette Sopcak, Ph.D.

Spring Convocation 2014

Roxana Marin, MSc.

Deanna Simmons, MSc.

Han Zhang, MSc.

ShuQin Wen, Ph.D.Pg.

Undergraduate Research Awards

With the goal of cultivating research partnerships between undergraduate students and faculty members, students **Rebecca Horne** and **Cassandra Cunningham** each received Roger S. Smith Undergraduate Research Awards that will provide support for them as they participate in research projects over the summer (2014) with professors **Rhonda Breikreuz** and **Rachel McQueen**.

SSHRC Graduate Student Awards Success

The Department is pleased to acknowledge five graduate student recipients of Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) scholarships. This represents an excellent success rate in a highly competitive process relative to our total number of graduate students.

SSHRC Master's Scholarships & Research Topics:

Vanessa Green, *Child Care Subsidy Use: The Experiences of Low-income Families*.

Linda Marie Johnson, *Aging-In-The-Right-Place: An In-Depth Study Into Renovating An Older Couple's Home*.

SSHRC Doctoral Scholarships & Research Topics:

Sharon Anderson, *Redefining the Couple's Relationship after Sudden-Onset Disability*.

Adolfo Ruiz, *Communicating Intangible Knowledge: A Reinterpretation Of Canadian Ethnographic Collections Through Art, Design, And Collaboration In The Dene Region Of The Northwest Territories*.

Bill Semple, *An Exploration of Culturally Appropriate Housing and the Development of a Northern Design Process*.

Undergraduate Nominated for Governor General's Silver Medal.

Karen Fraser, who graduated with a BSc. in Human Ecology (Clothing, Textiles & Material Culture), was nominated for the Governor General's Silver Medal, meaning she graduated with the highest average overall in the Faculty of ALES. Karen is also the recipient of Warren and Ida Prevey Memorial Medal for graduating with the highest grades in the final two years in the Human Ecology or Nutrition and Food Science program.

University of Alberta Museums Volunteer of the Year Awards

Equally dedicated and valued volunteers in the Department's Clothing and Textile Collection, **Colleen Nissen** and **Kathy Frazer**, were difficult to single out for this year's nomination. So, both were nominated by Collections Manager, **Vlada Blinova**. Happily, both were awarded Volunteer of the Year Awards at a well-attended Museums reception in April 2014.



Vlada Blinova; Volunteers Colleen Nissen and Kathy Frazer; Janine Andrews, Exec. Dir. U of A Museums; Chancellor Ralph Young and Provost Carl Amrhein.

ALES Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Rhonda Breikreuz was the 2013 recipient, awarded to one faculty member per year in the Faculty for excellence in teaching.

Staff Changes and Retirements

The Department was saddened to lose three valued and long-serving support staff, **Errol Billing**, **Colleen Borden** and **Linda Mirans**. The job losses, among others in the Faculty, were imposed as a result of extreme budget cutbacks. We offer our sincere appreciation for their many contributions. They are deeply missed.

Dr. Berna Skyrpnek, Associate Professor, retired as of December 31, 2013.

Dr. Norah Keating, Professor, retired as of December 31, 2013, but will continue in a 2 year post-retirement appointment.

Human Ecology Alumna 2014 Woman of the Year

Human Ecology alumna, (2010) **Catherine Broomfield**, won a 2014 YWCA of Edmonton Woman of Distinction Award for advocacy. Currently Executive Director of iHuman Youth Society, Catherine champions the needs of vulnerable youth.





Deanna Williamson, Chair

Dr. Deanna Williamson Reappointed for Second Term as Chair

The 2013/14 academic year brings to completion my first term as Chair of the Department of Human Ecology. I'm pleased to report that after taking an administrative leave in the upcoming year, I will begin a second five-year term as Chair in July 2015. The completion of my first term has provided me with an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and successes of the past five years. Without a doubt, there have been some difficult times, the most notable of which followed from the Alberta provincial budget cut to post-secondary institutions in March 2013. Regrettably, we lost three of our support staff colleagues due to the elimination of their positions. Although the budget cut and the subsequent losses of staff were upsetting and destabilizing, we are weathering the storm. I have been consistently impressed by the commitment of faculty members, sessional instructors, and remaining support staff to a high quality work environment, rigorous research, and enriching learning opportunities. The dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by my colleagues has resulted in several initiatives and successes during the past five years that position the Department well as we move forward: increasing quantity and quality of peer-reviewed publications; juried designs and award winning exhibitions; increasing research grant activity; high quality research lectures, symposia, and conferences; solid undergraduate and graduate programs; the 40th anniversary of the undergraduate practicum program; the establishment of two funds to support undergraduate students pursuing research and international opportunities; and the establishment of a partnership with the School of Business to develop an undergraduate fashion business management program. I am looking forward to continue working with staff and students in the Department of Human Ecology to develop key strategic initiatives that advance our efforts to be an energized unit. We will continue to build on our high quality, rigorous scholarship - scholarship that ultimately enhances the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its application in practice and policy.

Faculty Welcomes New Dean

Dr. Stan Blade, CEO of Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions, has been named as the new dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, effective Aug. 1, 2014. Dr. Blade succeeds Dr. John Kennelly, who has been Dean since 2004.

Upcoming Events, Mark your Calendar!



SEPTEMBER 2014 - MARCH 2015

Lois Hole Exhibit - "The Queen of Hugs"

Main Floor Gallery, Human Ecology Building

OCTOBER 18, 2014

University Open House, Butterdome

The University's annual Open House is a great way for prospective students and their families to discover all that the Department of Human Ecology, the ALES

Faculty, and the U of A have to offer.

OCTOBER 2014

Opening Celebration "ALES – 100 Years". The Faculty marks its Centennial in 2015 with several events and activities: visit ales100.ualberta.ca

MARCH 11, 2015

Empy Lecture & Reception

Topic: "The most intellectual and moral quilt that was ever made": An Exploration of Quilt Scholarship.

Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Ducey, Curator of Collections, International Quilt Study Center & Museum, University of Nebraska.



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