



# DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER



## Report of the President

As we enter the festive season, the Executive has been working hard on several issues, but we are particularly happy with the results of our ratification votes. Our Sessional Instructors overwhelmingly approved the negotiated changes to their Handbook and economic benefits. At the Fall General Meeting our membership unanimously approved the negotiated changes to the Faculty Handbook and overwhelmingly supported the changes in economic benefits. In difficult economic times in the province, I think most Members were pleased with a settlement that includes improvements to our increment structure and several years of across-the-board adjustments related to the Consumer Price Index. I know that other faculty associations are starting very difficult rounds of bargaining and are looking carefully at the details of the package that our team negotiated. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Marc Roussel and his economic benefits negotiation team. They volunteered their time, energy, and creativity to come up with an agreement that has the enthusiastic support of nearly all of our Members. The negotiations were long and difficult. Our Handbook negotiation team, headed by Trevor Harrison (and at the very end, Deb Saucier) also faced some challenging sessions and they are to be commended for their successful efforts. ULFA is very fortunate to be able to enlist the services of such dedicated and talented individuals.

Ahead of us lies the work of a joint committee on Term Appointments. During negotiations we agreed to work with the Board's representatives to address matters related to Term Appointments and to explore possible, related Handbook language. Several other issues were brought forward by Members during the General Meeting and the Academic Welfare Committee has committed to continue working on these items.

I have continued to have the opportunity to meet with representatives from AUPE, the APOs, the Students' Union, and our Graduate Student Association. These continue to be healthy and open conversations that have identified a small number of ideas for cooperative interactions that may be of assistance to our members in the future.

Geoffrey Hale made an excellent presentation at the Fall General Meeting related to the current status of our pension plan. The provincial pension plan continues to face some difficult problems. The Sponsors Group, composed of representatives of the Alberta Universities and Faculty Associations has agreed to establish a working group that will bring forward recommendations to address the immediate problems faced by the plan.

/continued overleaf....



### ULFA EXECUTIVE

*Past President*  
**Bryson Brown**  
*Philosophy ext 2506*

*President*  
**Rob Sutherland**  
*CCBN- Neuroscience*  
*ext 3987*

*VP/Pres Nominate*  
**John Usher**  
*Management ext 2759*

*Sec/Treasurer*  
**Ed Jurkowski ext 2342**

*Chair A.W.C (Fall 2010)*  
**Deborah Saucier ext 5270**

*Chair E.B.C.*  
**David Kaminski ext 5114**

*Chair Grievance*  
**Kate Chiste ext 2139**

*Board Representative*  
**Vacant**

*ULFA OFFICE/2578*  
**Brenda Rennie**  
*Executive Director*

*Sue Edwards*  
*Admin Assistant*

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Geoffrey has volunteered to be one of four people in the working group to develop such recommendation. I am grateful that we have him on board.

There is excellent progress toward By-Laws revision for ULFA and we should have a package of changes to be considered at our next General Meeting.

I attended meetings of CAFA, the Western Regional Conference of Faculty Associations, and CAUT Council. Of some importance, we learned from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Technology that the Provincial Government plans to provide the Universities with no change in the level of funding over the next few years. We also learned that the changes in the organization of research funding provincially prominently includes withdrawing support for investigator- or field-driven research that is demonstrably excellent based upon international peer-review and shifting support to more narrowly applied research that will lead to short-term economic benefit, improvement in health delivery/services, and serving the interests of public and private "stakeholders". This is not inconsistent with trends at the federal Tricouncil level.

In respect to the general issue of University governance involving conflicts between policies passed by GFCs or Senates vs. Faculty Handbook agreements with Boards, there was disappointing news. UBC Faculty Association and CAUT petitioned the Supreme Court of Canada to listen to this matter, since it has profound implications for faculty agreements and bargaining across Canada. The Supreme Court decided not to hear this case. Thus, we continue to enter into agreements with Universities in the context of ambiguity about the governing policies or documents.

Lastly, I hope that you and your families enjoy a happy and healthy holiday period!

Rob Sutherland

President, ULFA



## LET'S GET TOGETHER - THURSDAYS

Starting in January, there will be the opportunity for all Faculty Members to get together socially every Thursday afternoon between **3pm and 5pm**. The venue will be room **B660**, University Hall. The first get-together will be on *Thursday 13th January* and will continue *through to Thursday 7th April 2011*.

It is hoped that these get-togethers will become a good networking base from which faculty members (both new and established) can glean useful information, meet members they would not normally meet and just generally socialize.

A host bar and snacks will be available, so make sure you make a note in your diary!!





## ULFA General Meetings 2011 ~ Mark your calendars

AGM ~ Monday April 18th 2011

FGM ~ Monday December 12th 2011

Venue and times to be advised nearer the dates



### University of Lethbridge Faculty Association 2010-2011 Nominating Committee

The following were elected at the recent Fall General Meeting:

1. Shari Platt, Nominating Committee Past Chair, Prof. Faculties (Education)
2. Rob Sutherland, ULFA President (A&S)
3. John Usher, Executive Appointee, Prof. Faculties (Management)

#### Statutory Members

1. Judy Whitehead, A&S
2. Maureen Hawkins A&S
3. Kent Peacock, A&S
4. Jason Laurendeau, A&S
5. Deric Olsen, Fine Arts



### ULFA REPRESENTATIVES

The following Members have been elected to serve as ULFA representatives:

#### APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE FOR

Registrar: Dan O'Donnell (English)

Associate Vice President (Research): Hans-Joachim Wieden (Chemistry/Biochemistry)





## 2010 ULFA Scholarship Recipients

### University of Lethbridge:

Kaitlin Clark	B.A.F.A
Jesse Dyck	Pre B.A./B.Ed
Emma Hosgood	B.H.Sc
Scott Mezei	B.MSc
Erin Smith	B.Sc
Benjamin Young	Pre B.A./B.Mgt
Saif Zahir	B.Sc



### Other Institutions

Adil Adatia	B.A & Sc	University of Saskatchewan
Alistair Boere	B.Sc	University of Alberta
Rachael Siminovitch	Visual Arts	Emily Carr University of Arts & Design
Pascal Visentin	B.Sc	University of Alberta
Mary Williams	B.Sc	University of Saskatchewan

Total Funds Available	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
Number of Units	<b>12</b>
Amounts per Unit	<b>\$625.00</b>

*We wish to congratulate the above-noted recipients*



### Universities Academic Pension Plan (UAPP) Fall 2010 Communiqué

The Universities Academic Pension Plan (UAPP) Fall 2010 Communiqué is available for members to view on the UAPP website at <http://www.uapp.ca> ( Under Publications tab click on Communiqué and then Fall 2010).

The Communiqué is also available on our Benefits website <http://www.uleth.ca/hum/ben> ( Under Quicklinks click on Pension Information, and under What's New headline)





The first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.

Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.

Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.

The first Christmas cards were vintage and invented in 1843, the Victorian Era.



"It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.

Rudolph was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930's for a holiday promotion. The rest is history.

The Nutcracker is the most famous Christmas ballet.

Jingle Bells was first written for Thanksgiving and then became one of the most popular Christmas songs.

If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts.



## Christmas Quote:

Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store.  
Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more."  
*Dr. Seuss (1904-1991), American author of children's books.  
From 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas.'*



## Merry Christmas from The Executive Committee

From Left to Right

- Kate Chiste (Chair Grievance); Ed Jurkowski (Sec./Treasurer)
- David Kiminski (Chair EBC); Brenda Rennie (Executive Director)
- John Usher (VP/ Pres.Nominate); Deborah Saucier (Chair AWC-Fall 2010)
- Bryson Brown (Past President) Robert Sutherland (President)



Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Association or of its Executive unless so specified.  
Current and past issues of the ULFA newsletter can be found on the ULFA website. <http://www.ulfa.ca/>