

Creative Writing's profile gets boost from nomination

GG AWARD • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"One of the big honours, for me, is to be in the company of former Governor General nominees and winners from the English department, including Rudy Wiebe, Greg Hollingshead and, just last year, Ted Bishop," Wiesenthal said.

"What all the finalists have in common is really good writing, interesting subject matter and telling a story in a way that's compelling to readers."

**DONNA BALKAN,
CANADA COUNCIL SENIOR
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

Ted Bishop, a University of Alberta professor who was nominated last year for his non-fiction book *Riding With Rilke: Reflections on Motorcycles and Books*, also holds the U of A English department in high esteem, and only sees the creative writing program getting stronger in the future.

"[Wiesenthal's nomination] said we're fabulous," Bishop laughs. "We've had a really strong creative writing program for years and years and years, and as an aspiring non-fiction writer, I've noticed that non-fiction is like the poor cousin of the creative writing division."

"What I was hoping would happen is that our creative writing depart-

ment would evolve, not just replicate by getting a new little Rudy [Wiebe] and a new little Greg [Hollingshead]. So, it's great having two non-fiction books that have been nominated; it establishes Edmonton and the U of A as a place where these kinds of things can happen," Bishop said.

The Governor General's awards themselves are administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, which funds the winners' cash prizes of \$15 000 and select the panel of three jurors for each category. With promotion assistance from BMO Financial Group, The Governor General's Awards encompass the whole spectrum of Canadian literature genres, and in both languages.

"The first thing [jurors are] looking for is really good writing," explained Donna Balkan, Canada Council senior communications manager. "What all the finalists have in common is really good writing, interesting subject matter and telling a story in a way that's compelling to readers. People think of fiction writers as storytellers, but non-fiction writers are also storytellers too," she said.

Wiesenthal will find out if she's won the Governor General's award on 21 November, but until then, Canadians will get a chance to discover the writings that often pass by unannounced.

"[The award] is really to promote Canadian literature and to celebrate excellence, and to get the public out there reading," Balkan added. "We want people to get to know these fabulous authors we have here in Canada."

NEWS BRIEF

STUDENTS' UNION GOES TO THE WALL TO PUT FOCUS ONTO STUDENT DEBT

A new wall being constructed in the Students' Union Building will be built not out of mortar and stone, but out of the debt of students. The project is aimed at raising awareness about the rising cost of education in Alberta.

"I think it sends out a strong message. It's very in your face," said Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External). "It's right there, and you can't dispute it. There is a lot of debt ... it is unacceptable in such a wealthy province, and in such a wealthy country."

Cournoyer explained that the SU is handing out paper bricks to interested students, asking them to write the estimated debt that they will amass by graduation. The bricks are then added to the Wall of Debt, which is put up for public viewing in SUB. He hopes that the display will bring attention to the burden that some students gather while getting an education. So far, he says he's pleased by the response of students.

Some students, like human ecology undergrad Catherine Newman, were



JOSH NAULT

POWERFUL PRICE TO PAY SU President Sam Power adds to the Wall of Debt.

positive about the project.

"I think it's fantastic. I was just yesterday freaking out about how much I have to work and how much school I have. I can't even handle it," Newman said. "[The wall is] very eye-catching. I think it's very effective."

Others disagreed with the need for a spotlight on student debt, saying that it was up to students to better manage their resources.

"I don't have any debt. I mean, if you work during the summer, and you don't

buy \$300 jeans, you shouldn't have any. It's not necessary," physical education student Justin Kon said.

Cournoyer said that the SU would continue collecting bricks until the end of the month, after which the debt total will be tallied and announced. Interested students can approach one of the SU's tables set up in various buildings around campus, or by visiting the SU office located on the second floor of SUB.

Scott Lilwall, Deputy News Editor

Early admissions not just for elite: Byrne

ADMISSIONS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But Byrne said the use of early conditional admissions isn't only targeted at the top two per cent of students.

"It's not the elite, it's by far the vast majority of students that are eligible and actually do receive early admission, the only ones that don't receive early admission tend to be the ones that have made their applications late," Byrne said.

The *Journal* editorial called for the

U of A to look to American universities such as Harvard and Princeton, "which are now scrapping early admission programs in order to reduce the admission frenzy that overtakes high schools by Grade 11." However, Byrne stressed that while universities in the US will tell students given early admission that they can't apply anywhere else, the situation in Canada is different.

"Canadian schools have never done that," Byrne said. "And to some extent

that is what a lot of the Ivy League schools are retreating from in the States so they will still offer students early admission but they won't tie them into it."

According to Byrne, any admission policy changes recommended by the task force will be focused on facilitating enrolment to the U of A across the board—and won't be aimed at drastically increasing competition among high schoolers.

Gain ideas for your career!



Career and Placement Services (CaPS)
2-100 SUB www.ualberta.ca/caps 492-4291

Attend the career forum for students interested in getting a BSc in Food, Agriculture or Forestry Business Management!

Wednesday, November 8
5 - 7 p.m.
NREF 1-003 (Hole Lecture Theater)

Learn about career opportunities in the field, gain ideas for what you can do with your degree and network with industry professionals. In addition, you will learn about the faculty, scholarships and travel opportunities.

Speakers include representatives from NewlywedsFoods, Alberta Agriculture Food & Rural Development, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Agriculture & Food Council of Alberta.

Admission is FREE but please pre-register by emailing bsteiner@ualberta.ca. Pizza and pop will be served as refreshments.



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA

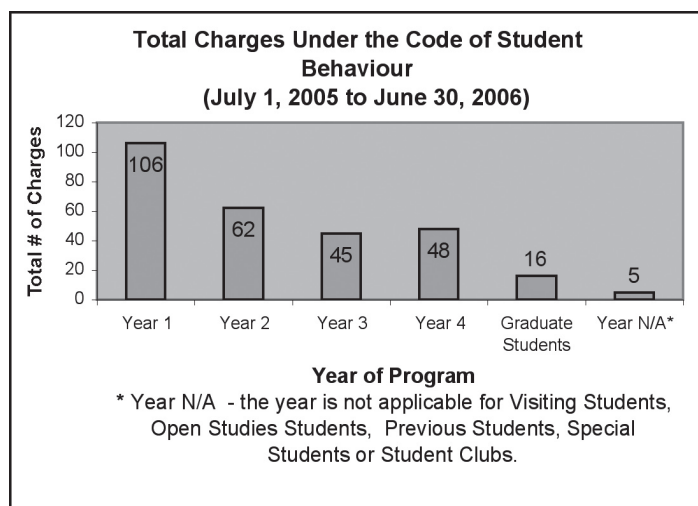
DEPARTMENT OF

RURAL ECONOMY

Code of Student Behaviour: READ IT BEFORE YOU NEED IT!



**Don't make bad decisions
because you're rushed for time.
Don't make it happen to you!**



To learn more about the Code of Student Behaviour go to
www.ualberta.ca/CodeofStudentBehaviour

Truth In Education: TIE Integrity into Learning
www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE

For further information, assistance, or other student services go to
www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/OmbudService

Provided on behalf of the GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC)