

# THE GATEWAY

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MATTHEW BARRETT

**BOY AND GIRL SOLDIERS** Though WWI ended almost 90 years ago, many of Canada's young men and women are still on the front lines today. Turn to page 8 to read one student's story of the cost of war.

## High ranking for U of A life sciences

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta is one of the world's top ten places for life scientists to work in academia, according to *The Scientist* magazine. In the "Top 10 International Academic Institutions" ranking, the U of A placed fifth, while Dalhousie University in Halifax—the only other Canadian institution to make it to the cut—came in first.

Results were based on a web-based survey the American publication posted online from 10 July to 4 September 2007. However, due to the opt-in methodology of the survey, U of A officials are cautious to boast about the University's placement.

"We are delighted that people consider us one of the best places to work in academia, as we agree with their assessment, although we must be mindful that these rankings are not scientifically rigorous and should be considered in the context in which they are taken," Dr William McBlain, Senior Associate Vice-President (Research), said in a statement.

Respondents assessed their working environments based on 39

criteria in eight categories: job satisfaction, peers, infrastructure and environment, research resources, pay, management and policies, teaching and mentoring, and tenure. Based on their responses, rankings on the best places to work were compiled. American institutions were ranked separately.

U of A Vice-President (Research) Lorne Babiuk echoed McBlain's statement, saying that despite always being "happy to be recognized as being at the top," the University shouldn't see this as an indication that there isn't room for improvement.

"*The Scientist* magazine's listing is another edition of the U of A's standing internationally, but I think we also have to consider that these surveys [...] do have some flaws in how they are done," Babiuk said. "It's nice that we're not on the bottom, but we shouldn't sort of say this is the pinnacle of success."

Babiuk noted that facilities are critical components of what makes a good work environment for life scientists, noting that researchers need to have the resources to address challenging questions.

PLEASE SEE RANKING • PAGE 3

## Shortage of information technology graduates has companies scrambling

CATHERINE SCOTT  
News Staff

In a world that's becoming more dependent on computer technology every day, a shortage of information technology (IT) professionals is a serious issue, according to Dr Jonathan Schaeffer, professor and chair of the Computer Science Department at the University of Alberta.

Schaeffer placed the demand across the country at approximately 89 000 positions over the next five years, but Schaeffer says that there are only about 3000 IT students in the Edmonton area who graduate each year.

"I challenge you to find any job, profession, [or] company out there that doesn't have computing somewhere in their company," Schaeffer said.

Yves Millette, president of tax-filing-software manufacturer Intuit Canada, spoke with computer science students at the University of Alberta recently to put the job shortage in perspective. Millette used Intuit's Edmonton office as an example to illustrate the severity of the shortage.

PLEASE SEE IT • PAGE 3



MIKE OTTO

**WORRISOME ONES AND ZEROS** Schaeffer is troubled by the lack of IT grads.

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## In Flanders' Fields

Will your poppy be red or white?  
Graham Lettner and Devin Lacombe  
each have something to say about it.

OPINION, PAGE 7



## In track and field

If you added up the kilometres the cross-country team runs each year, you'd probably burn a few calories.

SPORTS FEATURE, PAGE 13

## Lest you forget ...

No classes Monday or Tuesday! The next issue of the *Gateway* will drop on Thursday, 15 November. So get some sleep, catch up on that school work, and try not to sleep past 11 on Sunday morning.