

THE GATEWAY

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Capital Health takes a shot at mumps prevention



KIRSTEN GORUK
News Staff

The Mumps Immunization Campaign, which began yesterday and runs until 29 November, has health officials strongly encouraging students to roll up their sleeves.

The campus-wide campaign is in response to outbreaks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick earlier this year, as well as more recent cases in Lethbridge at the end of October, and is open to all students and staff—specifically those born after 1970.

“The group that Capital Health is most interested in is the university population right now because they fit the primary criteria for mumps,” Kevin Friese, assistant director of the University Health Centre, explained.

In order to be immune to mumps, two doses of the shot are required. Most students would have received their first vaccination in early childhood, which means that a second dose is still needed.

As Dr Mark Joffe, an infectious diseases consultant in Capital Health and associate professor of medicine at the U of A, stressed, the threat of mumps is something that should worry students.

“Any outbreak is a source of concern. It’s important to understand that this is in the context of a very large outbreak of mumps,” he said.

TARA STIEGLITZ

MEASLES AND MUMPS AND RUBELLA, OH MY! Free vaccinations against these three common diseases are being made available to all U of A students and staff.

PLEASE SEE **MUMPS** • PAGE 2

U of A students pulling in awards

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation gives out \$124 000 in 2007

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

Recognition can come in many shapes and forms, but for 37 University of Alberta students, commendation for their leadership and community involvement has come in the form of a cheque.

At the beginning of the academic year, the students were awarded with the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation’s national in-course excellence awards. The awards, which are dispersed annually, are available in three levels of funding, ranging from \$4000 to \$10 000.

According to Fiona Halbert, an undergraduate coordinator in the U of A Student Awards Office, the Millennium in-course scholarships are a prestigious nod to students balancing school with extra-curricular activities.

“It’s not an easy award [to get], and any time you get into a scholarship that has leadership and GPA [requirements] to it, for any student that’s a big workload,” Halbert explained.

The in-course scholarships are

designed to recognize full-time post-secondary students who exhibit qualities of leadership, innovation, and community-building, while maintaining at least a B+ average.

“We’re looking for students who are leaders; they’re involved in their communities; they’re involved in their schools,” said Melissa Moi, an awards officer with the Foundation.

Nina Brnada, a third-year education student with a major in English and a minor in ESL, is a first-level recipient who credits the award with promoting volunteerism.

“It enables me to further volunteer because it’s really hard to pay for school if you don’t have a job,” Brnada said. “By getting this award, I’ve been able to decrease my hours at work and, in turn, increase my volunteering time.”

Brnada, a Yugoslav refugee who moved to Edmonton when she was seven years old, gives back to her community by holding seniors-friendly ESL classes once a week for new immigrants, and was the co-founder of a library and social-space project in her church.

Moi explained that the in-course

awards are unique in that they honour students who haven’t previously been recognized for their involvement.

“One of the interesting things about the in-course awards is [that] they were created in 2003 when we realized that there wasn’t an award out there to recognize students who had really, really become involved and really sort of taken flight when they entered postsecondary,” she said.

The Foundation works in partnership with postsecondary institutions across the country to administer the scholarship competition each year. The U of A Student Awards Office acts as a middleman by nominating students for the scholarship.

“We work on a nominations basis, so we’re working in partnership with [the U of A’s] awards office, and for each 800 eligible students at your institution, you’re given one nomination,” Moi said.

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation is an independent, private organization that was created by an act of Parliament in 1998. To date, it has awarded over \$2.4 billion in the form of over 800 000 bursaries and



MONICA LEON-QUINTERO

WHAT MAKES A WINNER Fiona Halbert explains how students get nominated.

scholarships.

Future funding for the organization is in question after its parliamentary mandate expires in 2009. Brnada is strongly against any funding cuts, and wants to see a continuation in the level of support to both individuals and communities.

“In having this Foundation, they’re not only helping single individuals to whom the money is awarded, but they’re helping the greater community,” she said. “There are a lot of people at the U of A who actually want to dedicate their time to making the community better.”

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Students' homes

It may be tough to find a place to live on campus now, but as this history of residences shows, that's nothing new.

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Brothers' bones

In Studio Theatre's *Antigone*, the titular character is on a quest to give her brother a proper burial.

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