**news briefs**

**TOWED BY** Katelynn Hoffart + Kandyn Grant

**GSA EDECS ELECTED**
A sweep of Graduate Students’ Association candidates has been chosen for the executive team, following an election that wrapped up last Friday.

Ashlyn Bernier was named next year’s GSA president, garnering 94.9 per cent of the votes in an uncontested race. “It feels great. I’m humbled by the opportunity to represent graduating students,” Bernier said.

Two other races also ran uncontested, with Brent Epperson elected as Vice-President (Labour) and Hui Lin elected as Treasurer (Student Life).

Nathan Andrews edged out his opponent Andy Rathbone to win the Vice-President (Academic) race with a nearly 62 per cent majority.

Saeed Adnan pulled off a 68 per cent win as Vice-President (Student Services), beating his opponent Zhoudong Li. Inner Circle and Hillary Sparks were also elected as two of the councillors at large.

“I can already tell there’s just an amazing team and great personalities, really intelligent and innovative people that I think are going to work together really well and get a lot done this year,” Bernier said.

Bernier said one of her main goals next year is to begin dialogue with graduate students on some of their concerns, “to make sure that any initiatives we take are in line with what the graduate students want the GSA to do for them.”

“Now I’m going to be a lot of work, but I’m a firm believer that anything worth doing is a challenge, so I’m looking forward to taking my shot.”

**SU VOTING RECAP**
Voter turnout didn’t stay far from the norm for this year’s Students’ Union executive elections, despite heavily contested races and campaigning on voting day.

A total of 6,353 votes were cast, representing a turnout of nearly 32 per cent, which Chief Returning Officer Zach Fentiman described as “not terribly unusual” due to similar numbers seen in 2009 and 2010.

While three manned polling stations on campus where taken away, some were allocated to other areas to draw in more students, including a station added to HUB mall.

“The physical amount of people that turned up to vote at the polling stations as opposed to own their personal computer hasn’t changed,” Fentiman said, selecting to the 30 per cent of voters that showed up to on-campus polling stations this year.

Voting reached its peak at around 31 a.m. on the first day with 637 votes cast.

“I think most people got their voting out of the way the first day,” Fentiman said. “Campaigned on the last day may not have mattered because the majority of you people may end up talking to it and have already voted as well.”

Women’s Health had the highest faculty turnout at 13.7 per cent, followed by the Faculty of Science, likely due to both faculties running endorsements or elections alongside the SU, Fentiman said.

**social media in education**

The “Blogfather” of Scientific American magazine’s blog network, Bora Zivkovic, discussed the use of social media in education and research at the University of Alberta talk last week.

Zivkovic ended a week-long speaking series with a drop-in discussion on communicating research through social media. Students and staff discussed with Zivkovic the ins and outs of using blogs as personal and professional tools for research.

Blogs have brought together people from different professions and interests, including Marie-Claire Shenanah, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education who shared her experience of blog-initiated partnerships in the discussion.

“The great way to make connections to people who are actually interested in the same thing you are, but in different fields and might call something different, talk about it differently,” Shenanah said, adding that it opens the door for opportunities for collaboration.

The discussion also addressed the technicalities of blog writing. The most popular blogs, according to Zivkovic, are writing about controversial topics and are written with personality.

“The viability of blogs prevents ideas and research from being scooped, but this viability also causes problems when a writer gets too comfortable,” Zivkovic said.

Zivkovic’s woodworking speaking series was part of the U of A’s Distinguished Speakers Program.

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**streeters**

**COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY:** Katelynn Hoffart + April Hudson

**Kayla Bowser, PREP1**

“Dressing up in green and getting wasted off green.”

**Mary Joyce Lamangile, SCOPE**

“Going to Carouso. Hopefully there might be something to do.”

**Jason Rye, LUCATE 1**

“Hanging out with my wife and probably doing nothing.”

**Aaron Singleton and G**

“Going down to O’Byrnes and having a bit of fun.”

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