



The Grace Anne Stewart Speaker Series



Welcome!

To keep EAS informed of Grace Anne Stewart Speaker Series (GASSS) activities, we will be circulating monthly newsletters! In addition, here you will find useful resources related to EDI and mental health. This month the resources focus on BIPOC and international student supports and services.

About the Grace Anne Stewart Speaker Series

The Grace Anne Stewart Speaker Series (GASSS) is a student-led equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiative which aims to address issues related to EDI in the Earth and Atmospheric sciences department at the UofA and broader geoscience community. The issues we wish to address include underrepresentation, inequality, discrimination, and bias related to gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, and neurodiversity in geoscience.

GASSS update and events

The Speaker Series

Because GASSS covers numerous topics, we are categorizing our talks. We are embracing a new look with a subheader and colour coded, symbolised poster to make it clear what issue each talk is addressing. The colours and symbols were picked with colour blind and neurodivergent individuals in mind. The talks will be divided into the following subcategories:

- Women in geoscience
- Black, Indigenous, people of colour (BIPOC)
- LGBTQIA2S+
- Ability and Neurodiveristy
- Mental health awareness



Mental Health Awareness



LGBTQIA2S+



Women in Geoscience

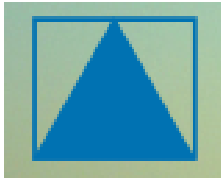


Ability & Neurodiversity



BIPOC

Upcoming Talks



Thursday April 1st, 2021, 11 MDT: Dr. Dawn Sumner (Women in Geoscience)

Title: Asking Different Questions About the Great Oxidation Event

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87411347442?pwd=RnFYRisvOVhIMW1Dd2lIZ2RaN0NOdz09>

Find more information here: <https://cms.eas.ualberta.ca/gass/category/speaker-series/>

Unlearning Racism in Geoscience (URGE)

As many know, we are currently running the URGE program for our department. This program is a 16-week structured reading and seminar course to learn about racism in geoscience, what we can do to be more inclusive, and develop policy and guidelines that are actively anti racist. We believe working as a department to achieve these goals will make our department more inclusive and have a long lasting positive impact on individuals. **Registration is closed. However, depending on further demand, we can allow people to sign up to participate. If you are please interested email us: stewartspeakerseries@gmail.com.**

For more info:

[Unlearning Racism in Geoscience | Earth and Atmospheric Sciences \(ualberta.ca\)](#)

[URGEOSCIENCE – Unlearning Racism in Geoscience](#)

Other Speaker Series and EDI initiatives

ATLAS symposium: Two panel discussions will be held at the symposium this year.

[Indigenous Planning Workshop Tickets, Tue, 13 Apr 2021 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The Indigenous Planning Workshop features a facilitated discussion led by five panelists with professional expertise and personal experiences in Indigenous issues. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion while asking questions, as time permits. The aim of the workshop is to increase our department's understanding of the following:

- Indigenous worldview/perspective in community planning;

- The impacts of colonial planning and governance on Indigenous way of life, culture, languages, and spirituality;
- Systemic inequities that continue to exist in the Canadian governance system; and
- Where we fit into the path to Truth and Reconciliation as individuals and within our community, department, faculty, and university.

While this workshop is planning-focused, it is applicable to all students and staff in the EAS Department and beyond and may cover a wide range of issues from resource extraction to community planning to Indigenous knowledge regarding the natural world. This is an important issue that all Canadians should be aware of and we therefore encourage participation from all students and staff. The workshop has been approved for ethics credits for EAS graduate students.

[LGBTQ2S+: Challenges in the Geosciences Tickets, Wed, 14 Apr 2021 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

The LGBTQ2S+ Workshop features a panel discussion led by three panelists who will provide insight regarding the challenges faced by LGBTQ2S+ individuals in STEM fields, with a specific focus in the geosciences. Our panelists are brilliant scientists in their respective fields and will speak on their experiences as LGBTQ2S+ individuals in academia. The objective of this workshop is to increase our department's understanding of the following:

- Barriers faced by LGBTQ2S+ individuals entering STEM fields;
- The impacts of systemic, covert, and institutional biases and inequities on LGBTQ2S+ students, researchers, and professionals that continue to exist in the academic and professional realm; and
- What we can do as a community, department, faculty, and university to create a more inclusive and diverse space that empowers historically marginalized populations such as the LGBTQ2S+ community.

This workshop pertains to an integral Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) subject that all university students and staff must be aware of to catalyze positive change in mindset and behaviour. As a result, we encourage participation from all students and staff. The workshop has been approved for ethics credits for EAS graduate students.

GeoWomen: [Advancing women working in the geoscience professions \(geowomen.org\)](#)

Tuesday April 20th 2021, 12:00-1:00 pm MDT: Shelley Leggitt

Title: Learning in and pursuing new opportunities

Register by April 20th at 9:00 am [here](#).

Scientific QUEERies: [Promoting the LGBTQIA2S+ community in STEM](#)

Thursday April 29th 2021: Dr. Christian Baron

Please use the following google form to sign up to the mailing list if you wish to receive details for these and future talks: <https://forms.gle/bgLWhHMwosBTzNrb6>

Other Resources

University of Alberta

- Connecting with people with a similar background can make the student experience slightly less daunting! There are a wide variety of clubs on campus that work on creating a cultural community.
- Some examples: [Aboriginal student council](#), [Arab student association](#), [Chinese students and scholar association](#), [Indian association](#), [Latin American student association](#).
- <https://alberta.campuslabs.ca/engage/organizations?categories=27>
- International student services: immigration, cultural, and academic information for you to have the most comfortable experience while in Edmonton. Has advisors for one on one or group questions about immigration (i.e visa, permit, future steps). Creates an international community by hosting social and education events that allow students to create connections and fight the international student blues. Check out their [peer program](#), [immigration services](#) and their [support page](#).

First peoples' house

- Provides an environment of empowerment for First nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) learners to achieve personal and academic growth.
- Offers physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, academic and financial support for the students while honouring the indigenous worldview of education.
- Some of their events and supports: TAWOW welcoming event, a transition year program, housing, community meals.
- <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/first-peoples-house/index.html>

Edmonton Vocal minority

- A mixed-voice choir that offers an opportunity for personal and musical growth in a safe, supportive and creative environment.
- <http://www.evmchoir.com/index.htm>

