



The Grace Anne Stewart Speaker Series



Welcome!

To keep EAS informed of Grace Anne Stewart Speaker Series (GASSS) activities, we are starting a new monthly newsletter! In addition, here you will find useful resources related to EDI and mental health.

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

"Picture a Scientist" Viewing and Discussion

The Faculty of Science is presenting a documentary screening of "Picture a Scientist" and follows women scientists with their experiences in the sciences, overcoming harassment, institutional discrimination, and years of subtle slights. The documentary screening room will be open from noon on February 17, 2021 to noon on February 20, 2021. A unique web link and password will be shared with registered guests once the screening is open. You can find the form to register [here](#).

Additionally, we would like to organize a **discussion group** within our department after the documentary screening to offer a safe space to have a conversation of these issues in geosciences. Keep an eye out for more information for this event soon.

Upcoming Talks

Thursday March 4th 2021; Dr. Lisa White (Women in geoscience and BIPOC)

April 2021: TBA

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](#)

Black History Month

Black History Month is a celebration of the history and achievements of Black Canadians. Although we've made strides to improve equity, diversity, and inclusivity, people of African descent (not just in Canada) still face racism and discrimination. In order to address the systemic issues that Black communities face, we want to highlight educational resources and talks happening this month to provide a platform for discussion:

- You can find a collection of organizations and educational resources for Black History Month from the Government of Canada [here](#).
- MacEwan University is hosting a variety of free public seminars for Black History Month. The first upcoming event is on February 9, 2021 at 5 PM titled "Hate Over Health - Understanding Racial Discrimination in the Age of COVID-19" with speakers Cheryl Prescod, Dr. Notisha Massaquoi, and Katrina Ingram. You can view and sign up for these events [here](#).
- The University of Calgary is also offering free public talks (academic and not) during Black History Month. The next talk is **today**, Feb 5, 2021 from 2-3:30 PM by Dr. Charmaine Nelson, a professor of Art History at McGill. You can view and register to attend this and future talks [here](#).
- The St. Albert Public Library has a series of online Friday-night watch parties of Black Canadian films from the National Film Board on Feb. 5, 12 and 26, 2021. Their [calendar](#) contains more information for attending.

Other Speaker Series and EDI initiatives

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

"GeoWomen is a volunteer organization providing space for women in geoscience careers, whose level of experience varies from new graduate to retiring at the top of their careers, to meet and share experiences."

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

"Scientific QUEERies is a bi-weekly digital seminar series highlighting the research, work and experiences of LGBTQIA2S+ professionals in STEM. Started in Canada and growing with colleagues around the world. Scientific QUEERies was founded by two graduate students at the University of Alberta, Scott Cocker (PhD Student in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) and Kyle Shanebeck (PhD Candidate in Biological Sciences) in Fall 2020 due an overall lack of initiatives promoting the LGBTQIA2S+ community in STEM, both in and out of academia. This initiative aims to increase visibility of the LGBTQIA2S+ professionals in STEM, and inspire students and early-career researchers by showing them that they do belong in all disciplines."

Other Resources

The **Africa Centre** for Canadians of African descent: <https://www.africacentre.ca/>

- Has services ranging from gender equality to employment and skill development.
- Partnered with Alberta Black Therapist Network to offer free counseling with culturally-trained counsellors to address accessibility of mental health services for Black communities in Alberta (online and in person).

The University of Alberta:

- Mental Health Resources: Our University offers a variety of mental health support services (counselling, wellness clinics, etc.), you can find helpful links and resources [here](#).
- University workshops: Counselling and clinical services offer a number of workshops that are relevant to academia (managing perfectionism, imposter syndrome, managing stress) and can be found [here](#).
- Grief and Loss Resources: Building on mental health support there are services in place if you experience grief and loss, these can be found [here](#).
- Sexual Assault Centre: The University has a specific centre dedicated to helping survivors of sexual assault and violence, they have an open-door policy and currently offer virtual drop-in sessions; they offer a number of informative resources and well-researched workshops throughout the year. You can find more information [here](#).

The Canadian Mental Health Association: <https://alberta.cmha.ca/getting-help/help-right-now/>

- Provides a great collection of advice and resources that address mental health, please explore their website!
- There is also a collection of virtual seminars addressing stress, fatigue, caregiving, substance abuse and so much more: <https://alberta.cmha.ca/alberta-recovery-colleges/>

Mind your mind: <https://mindyourmind.ca>

- Another fantastic resource offering a variety of wellness articles on topical subjects (e.g. coping with transitions in a pandemic, allyship, coping with seasonal affective disorder).
- Their help section offers advice on where to find help, how to help friends and help defining your emotions.

Sexual Assault Centre Edmonton: <https://www.sace.ca>

- Offer free services to all genders and all ages (3+) including individual and group counselling.

Pride Centre of Edmonton: <https://pridecentreofedmonton.ca/resources/>

- Provide supports that respond to the needs of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and of the people in their lives. There is a collection of counselling, legal, health care and gender transition resources available, specifically tailored to the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

