



Tri-University
Graduate Student
Association

TUGSA Annual Report
“What You Got for Your \$10”
2010-2011

Each year, TUGSA sends out a report on the year’s activities. It can be difficult to communicate between the three universities and busy students are not always aware of what our association is up to. Also, some of TUGSA’s work is done “behind the scenes” in response to issues that students brought to us at our meetings, and we would like to communicate our non-event activities as well.

Please consider getting involved with TUGSA. It is a great way to help coordinate the three campuses and to improve student life within the Tri-University Program. We'll have our Annual General Meeting early in the fall term, and it would be great if you could attend.

Non-Event Activities

Although TUGSA aims to bring together students for events to improve inter-university cohesion, TUGSA has also adopted an advocacy role. This has arisen due to complaints that come up during our meeting in informal discussions, and TUGSA allows a forum for students to address to problems in conjunction with the Tri-U Director. This is one reason we greatly encourage students to get involved in TUGSA. Often, the best ideas to improve Tri-U life come from informal chats over coffee at our meetings.

- **Program Cohesion:** TUGSA meeting attendees all discussed ways (other than events) to increase cohesion between the three universities, particularly among faculty. Some of the better ideas, including a coordinated weekly digest of announcement emails and a rotating faculty research seminar, have been passed along to the Tri-University Program Administration.
- **Newsletter:** Another suggestion to improve cohesion was the creation of a semi-annual Tri-University newsletter. The TUGSA Executive solicited applicants for a newsletter editor position, and hired the successful candidate. The first issue should appear early this fall.
- **Website:** In response to student suggestions at a TUGSA meeting, faculty contact information as well as links to campus maps have been added to the Tri-University website.
- **Tri-University Conference:** This year's Tri-U Conference generated a great deal of discussion. TUGSA invited the organizer's of the “Guerrilla Grads” student conference to attend a meeting and describe their experience. TUGSA decided against organizing its own student conference, but the possibility remains open for the future.
- **PhD Handbook:** Confusion surrounding the PhD Handbook (particularly the colloquium process) also led to some discussion at TUGSA meetings. In response, Tri-U Program Administration will be hosting a session this fall to revise the handbook.

Events

In the past year, TUGSA held both social and professional development events, including:

- **Christmas Party:** We held our successful second annual Christmas Party at the home of Guelph student Heather Parker. We hired the same caterer as last year with same very delicious results.
- **PhD Information Sessions :** We held two sessions, one at Guelph with Professor Renée Worringer and student Mark Sholdice, and one at Waterloo with Professor Geoff Hayes and student Norman Erwin. These sessions were designed for our M.A. students who are considering applying for a PhD to understand the realities, opportunities and expectations involved in the decision to apply.
- **Non-Academic Careers in History:** Kris Gies, a former Tri-U Doctoral Student and current employee of the University of Toronto Press, discussed the prospects for employment outside academia.
- **History on Film Series:** This year, TUGSA organized a three-part “American History on Film” Series, featuring both student and faculty speakers over three nights about different films related to American history.
- **Canoe Trip:** Although we didn't manage to get the annual Grand River Canoe Trip organized for September 2010, one is being organized for September 2011.

We had a very busy year and hope to continue similar events in the future. We feel students did get their \$10 worth if they were active in our events. If you have any questions, please contact us: tugsamail@gmail.com

Thank you,

Gwenith Cross and Jonathan Crossen, co-Presidents, 2010-2011