

Tri-University Graduate Student's Association Annual Report
"What you got for your \$10"
2009-2010

This year, TUGSA has decided to send 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 was 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. The future of TUGSA is in some doubt as our volunteer resources were depleted throughout the year. If you are interested in getting involved in TUGSA, please email jmscampb@uwaterloo.ca. It is a great way to support your CV, it improves student life, and helps us to get to know each other better.

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 problems in conjunction with the Tri-U Chair. We have had great support from the Tri-U Chair for our activities and a close working relationship with the Chair. 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.

- **Website Repair:** In response to student complaints about the functionality of our web site, student Jonathan Crossen, with permission from Dr. Monod, the Tri-U Chair, went about learning how to manage the website. He repaired broken links and streamlined the information available on the website. He also made URL addresses more accessible (for example, instead of a web address reading www.triuhistory.ca/?p1234, addresses now read www.triuhistory.ca/first.lastname so that students may confidently give their web addresses to colleagues. He has also been updating the web site and this summer will put out a general call to PhD students for updated or new information. In recognition of Jonathan's work, Dr. Monod officially hired Jonathan as the Tri-U's temporary website manager for this year.
- **Conference Funding Form:** In response to a request from a student, we will be putting up an official conference funding application on the Tri-U website that students can submit to the Tri-U Chair. Although the form does not guarantee funding for a conference (that is dependent on Tri-U resources), it will eliminate the informal aspect of conference funding requests, which caused confusion among students.

Events

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

- **The First Annual TUGSA Orientation Canoe Trip.** We had 18 attendees who canoed the Grand River, including staff, professors and students and significant others. We will continue this new tradition this September, with formal support from the Tri-U. We subsidized the canoe fees and rented a bus to transport everyone.
- **Opening Pub Night:** We held this event at the Woolwich Arms in Guelph, following the first Tri-U social of the year. At least 40 students from all three universities attended this event. We had various pub nights throughout the year following TUGSA events.

- We held our successful second annual Christmas Party at the home of WLU student Jane Whalen. This year we hired a caterer with very delicious results.
- PhD Information Sessions: We held two sessions, one at Guelph with Professor Susan Nance and student Heather Parker, and one at Waterloo with Professor Geoff Hayes and student Serge Dupuis. 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. We had approximately 7 students at Guelph and 20 students at Waterloo.
- Skating: Some students came together in downtown Kitchener for outdoor skating.
- Non-Academic Careers in History: This event was held at the University of Waterloo with a large attendance of approximately 30 students, including some undergraduate students. Elisabeth Adrian from Career Services, Dr. Roger Sarty from WLU, Dr. Ryan Touhey from St. Jerome's University, and Dr. Tim Cook from the Canadian War Museum all discussed careers outside of academia and how students should consider marketing themselves for possible future jobs. We purchased thank-you gifts for our four guests and served coffee, tea and snacks.
- "Three Films that Shook the World" was our second film and history night held at the University of Waterloo. Drs. Dan Gorman (UW) and Dana Weiner (WLU) with student Jonathan Crossen spoke about three historical films and their impact on history itself. We purchased thank-you gifts for Dr. Gorman and Dr. Weiner.

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 either:

jmscampb@uwaterloo.ca or
jcrossen@uwaterloo.ca

Thank you,

Jonathan Crossen and Jill Campbell-Miller, co-Presidents, 2009-2010