



Weekly Bulletin for Department & Program Heads

Number 1: Tuesday 30 October 2007

What's this?

Given the reduction in frequency of meetings of Dean's Executive and Faculty Council, we need a means to communicate with Heads regularly as a group, and to maintain an archive of those communications. Hence the new *Weekly Bulletin*, a (relatively) brief document which the Dean's Office will put together and distribute via email each Tuesday morning. We hope you find it useful; your comments are welcome.

Arts sweeps Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards

All four 2007 awards went to alumni of the Faculty of Arts. *Todd Bryanton* (BA 03) won the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, *Dale Eisler* (BA 70) won the Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement, *Greg Fieger* (BA 78, MA 90), won the Distinguished Alumni Award for Humanitarian and Community Service, and *Ken Howland* won the Lifetime Achievement Award (BA 66). It was a very fine night for our Faculty, and a particularly notable night for Todd, who used the occasion to propose marriage to his partner before a surprised audience.

Fall Convocation

At Fall Convocation on Saturday 20 October, more than 100 of our students graduated with the degrees of BA, BA Hons, BA in Police Studies, BHJ, BJ, and certificates in Chinese, Economics, and German. MAs included Canadian Plains Studies (1) English (6), French (2), Justice Studies (1), Political Science (2), Psychology (1) Religious Studies (1), and Interdisciplinary Studies (1). The University Prize in Arts was won by Deborah Lee Arkles, who graduated with great distinction in Psychology.

A number of Arts programs and departments had no faculty members present for the ceremony and reception, despite having students graduating. This is not something that speaks well of us to our students, their families, or our University colleagues. Please ensure that your department or program is represented at each Convocation ceremony at which your students are graduating.

Faculty recruitment update

Applications and supporting paperwork are now being received here in the Dean's Office. One month prior to our 30 November deadline, we have multiple applications for most of the positions we have advertised. A number of the candidates look very promising. Factoid: we have thus far spent approximately \$14,500 on advertising in *CHE*, *University Affairs*, and the *CAUT Bulletin*.

Kara Vincent

Kara is filling the role of Project Coordinator/Research Officer on a part-time basis (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays) until *Milagros Charriez* returns from leave in February. She comes to us from McMaster University, where she has completed her coursework and field research toward a PhD in Religious Studies and Anthropology. Kara has considerable experience as an editor, and continues to serve as Managing Editor of McMaster's *Global Social Policy* journal. She also has experience with event coordination and graduate programs. Her expertise is proving invaluable in her support of work in the Dean's Office around *Arts & Minds*, RAGS, the Community Research Unit, the Woodrow Lloyd and Stapleford Lectures, etc. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves to Kara if you haven't done so already.

Kevin O'Brien

The new Academic Program Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts, Kevin O'Brien, worked for many years in the Student Services Division at Queen's University, both as an advisor and as a coordinator for new student programs. He has an undergraduate degree in philosophy and is well on his way to completing an MEd in the field of higher education. He brings to our Student Services Office a good vision for possible new student recruitment and retention initiatives. He also exhibits the fine attention to administrative detail that is so necessary a trait for someone in his position. He actually enjoys reading calendars, minutes, and other official university documents! We hope you will make Kevin feel welcome in his new position and expect that you will soon have occasion to benefit from the great skill set he brings to the Office.

Social Work to require English 110

The Faculty of Social Work has indicated they are revising their BSW program, and plan to require English 110 in addition to English 100.

Philosophy Café

It was very good indeed to see Café Orange on Robinson Street packed to the rafters on Thursday 18 October for *Shadia Drury's* presentation on *Pagan and Christian Virtues*. The audience ranged from high schoolers through senior citizens, and Shadia engaged them vigorously for the better part of two hours in argument and debate. This is the kind of thing that makes the Faculty of Arts visible in the wider community. Congratulations to Shadia and the Department of Philosophy and Classics on this venture.

Disability Resource Office

Lisa Righetti, the new Coordinator of the Disability Resource Office, has developed two different workshops for faculty members. One focuses on the general rights and obligations of faculty members and students alike in accommodating student disabilities. The other uses a simulated classroom experience to examine concrete strategies for lowering the time-cost and improving the effectiveness of the accommodations granted to students with disabilities. Lisa's approach is not arbitrary or unilateral and she is very open to a frank discussion of the issues and difficulties involved in accommodating student disabilities. Please contact Rick Kleer if you are interested in having either of these workshops mounted for your department members.
