

February 2012

From the Dean's desk

Research Café draws large audience from the community

I wish to express my thanks to our faculty and graduate student presenters from the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences who made our recent Research Café "Living healthier, living better, living longer," a huge success. The event attracted more than 100 people to Pond Inlet on Feb. 8. The panel participants spoke about healthy living as we age and offered valuable take-away messages regarding mobility and falls prevention, nutrition and exercise.

Congratulations to our panel: faculty researchers Allan Adkin, Wendy Ward, Panagiota (Nota) Klentrou, Kimberley Gammage; and graduate students Larkin Lamarche, Izabella Ludwa, Yasmeen Mezil, Jacob Pfeiffer, Deborah Jehu, and Lindsay Cline. The evening also featured poster presentations by Scott Crozier, Glenn Jenkins, Sabrina Imam, Rebecca MacPherson and Greig Inglis.

Special thanks to our moderator for the evening Neil McCartney, Dean, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences. The Faculty welcomes ideas for future café topics and suggestions of faculty and graduate student presenters. Please contact me or Heather Junke (hjunke@brocku.ca).

Mapping the New Knowledges conference is closer than you think

It's about seven weeks until the Mapping the New Knowledges Graduate Student Research Conference. The conference steering committee is busy at work making conference arrangements for our seventh annual showcase of graduate student and faculty research and scholarship to be held on Wednesday, April 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Plaza Building Levels 3 and 4.

The Mapping the New Knowledges conference has grown to represent the vibrant graduate culture that exists at Brock today. We have much to be proud of as a graduate community and the conference is our opportunity to celebrate our contributions and accomplishments.

As graduate studies grows, it is important that we develop a graduate research culture. To this end, we ask all faculty to attend part, or better all, of the day in the conference sessions, to support of our graduate students. As well, the GSA invites faculty to join presenters at the social event following the afternoon sessions.

Conference information is posted at brocku.ca/graduate-studies/conferences-events/2011-12-MNK

Details about the conference program for April 11 will be available in late March.

But for now here is a rundown of important timelines leading up to our big day:

- Conference oral and poster presentations Call for Proposals: Graduate students are required to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations by the deadline date of Monday, March 5, 2012. Last year, we had 83 oral and poster presentations. This year we hope to increase presentations to 100 or more.
- Graduate Mentorship Awards Call for Nominations: Graduate Students have until March 14 to submit a nomination for this year's awards. Last year, one overall award was presented in the inaugural competition. The Mapping the New Knowledges steering committee has decided, in moving forward, to create two award categories — one for a supervisor of master's students only and the other for a supervisor of master's and PhD students. The committee feels that these two award categories will allow us to distinguish outstanding faculty throughout the stages of their graduate supervisory careers.



We were so pleased to receive 14 nominations last year for Brock's first award established to recognize excellence in graduate student supervision and mentorship. We look forward to another strong response from our students in paying tribute to their supervisors. The awards will be announced and presented during the conference on April 11. We hope faculty will join us at the presentation to congratulate our two recipients and to celebrate excellence in graduate students mentorship.

Under the category "it's never too early to ..."

• Give some thought to students who will be graduating from our master's and doctoral programs at Brock's 2012 Spring Convocation (June 5 to 9) whom you consider excellent candidates for the Board of Trustees Spirit of Brock medals. The awards recognize students who have demonstrated characteristics of leadership, courage, innovation, inspiration and community involvement. There will be one medal presented to a graduate student in each of the six academic Faculties.

To be nominated for this honour, graduating master's and doctoral students must fill out a paper application found at <http://www.brocku.ca/safa/awards/prestigious-awards>

The applications must be received in the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office, ST 402, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, 2012.

• Also, reserve time now in your schedule to join us on Tuesday, May 15 for our annual Donor Recognition and Graduate Student Awards reception, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Pond Inlet

Professional development committee

In January a meeting was held involving the partners of Brock's graduate student professional skills development programming. This was the first of what will be regular monthly meetings to discuss the resources and activities now under way and to begin to look at ways to fully coordinate the PD offerings for our students.

The professional development of graduate students is a priority and faculty involvement and input is integral to the committee's discussions. The GSPD committee is looking to add one faculty member from each of the academic Faculties. If you have a particular interest in this area and would like to serve as a faculty voice on the committee, I ask that you contact your Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies.

Also, I extend my appreciation to Jill Grose, Associate Director, Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies, who has agreed to serve as Chair of the committee and help us to establish momentum on this front.

Upcoming events to share

• **The Graduate Student Professional Development workshop series** continues on Wednesday, March 7 with "The Entrepreneurial Mindset: Imagining and Creating Your Own Opportunities," 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., TH244.

The final workshop in the series will be held on April 4 with "Managing Time/Managing Projects: Sane Approaches to a Fast-Forward World," 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., Pond Inlet. Students are asked to register by contacting smcintosh@brocku.ca

• **Special screening of PhD Comics Movie - Piled Higher and Deeper** — The Brock Graduate Students' Association and the Faculty of Graduate Studies invite everyone to a FREE screening of the movie, created by the famous PHD COMICS: "Piled Higher and Deeper."

When: March 9, 2012 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: Academic South 203

For more information about the screening, contact the GSA Office.

From the Director's desk

Dean of Graduate Studies Spring Research Fellowship

The announcement and 2012 application will be forwarded by the end of February to all graduate students and GPDs (copied to Administrative Assistants). We are able to fund 60 DGS Spring Research Fellowships at \$3,000 each. Please note on the revised application that we have stressed to applicants that the research proposal is to be focused on the portion of the research they will complete during the Spring 2012 term rather than simply presenting an overview of the entire research project.

Electronic Application Project

Thank you to the program testers who recently assisted us with the testing of the first few electronic application screens. We are currently working to finalize the screens for release to all GPDs and Administrative Assistants. We will be in touch to let everyone know of the release and to arrange training sessions. We continue to work on developing the remaining screens with IT.

Applications and Admissions

From the FGS perspective the processing of applications and admission decisions appears to be going well thus far. Please be sure to contact Charlotte Sheridan if you have any questions/concerns.

E-Thesis Submission

The following programs are now participating in the E-Thesis project: Applied Health Sciences, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Education, Geography, Management and Physics. Please note that we can add your program to the list at any time. The link to the information on the website is:

<http://brocku.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/e-thesis-submission>

We expect that mandatory E-Thesis submission may occur as early as Fall 2012. A number of issues/questions arose from the recent training session and Sarah Muir of the FGS will be sending a communique with information re: these issues/questions and posting information to the Faculty and Staff section of the FGS website.

Registration – Course Authorization

We believe that it is time to review/assess the current processes used for the approval by programs of per term course registration. When the course authorization system was developed, it was designed to replicate the processes that were occurring via paper and was designed to assist programs to closely monitor course selection and student progress. We will be contacting GPDs/Administrative Assistants with a very short survey to gather information regarding the course authorization system.

Please complete the survey and provide us with as much comment/feedback as possible.

Faculty Handbook changes

The following new entry was approved by Senate:

14.6.7 Course Outlines

Course outlines are required for all graduate courses (excluding Major Research Papers and Theses). At a minimum, course outlines will include the proposed manner in which evaluation will be carried out, expectations for completing the course, and rules/regulations that apply to the course. Copies of course outlines will be filed with Graduate Program Directors.

2012/2013 Graduate Calendar

We expect to post the 2012/2013 Graduate Calendar the first week of March. Once posted, we will send GPDs/Administrative Assistants an email asking them to review their 2012/2013 entry as soon as possible to ensure that it is correct and to inform the FGS of any problems that require fixing.

Spring 2012 Registration

Spring registration will commence in early/mid March. The 2012/2013 Registration Information will be posted on the FGS website this week and email notification to programs and students will be sent.

FGS Integrated Marketing and Recruitment Plan

The FGS is commencing work with the University's Marketing and Communication staff to develop a FGS Integrated Marketing and Recruitment Plan. To assist us with our preparatory work, I will be asking GPDs to provide comment and information specific to your graduate program and your program-specific recruitment and marketing efforts. I will send the information request by email and will update you regularly on the development of the FGS Plan. Your involvement throughout the process is important to the overall development of the plan and I appreciate your assistance.

Mike Plyley,
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Gail Pepper,
Director, Faculty of Graduate Studies