

ADVANCED DEGREE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The past academic year was one of the most active and successful in recent memory for the Advanced Degree Students' Association (ADSA). The Board was made up of students from all colleges and departments and ADSA representatives attended department meetings, Advanced Degree Council meetings, and meetings of the the TST Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. The 2012-2013 ADSA Board enjoyed an outstanding sense of collegiality and teamwork.

The group worked together to offer an excellent roster of social events, professional development seminars, travel bursaries for AD students presenting at conferences, and our own one-day conference at TST. The informal social events, including a welcome back get-together and a few pub nights, were well attended. Our roster of Professional Development (PD) seminars and workshops included the now-traditional "Grant Writing Workshop: OGS/SSHRC Applications" in the early fall. The fall semester saw a PD workshop on applying and interviewing for academic jobs, and in the winter semester we offered a multi-disciplinary panel on publishing, and a workshop on time management and work-life balance. All of the PD workshops relied on the generosity of TST faculty and staff, who offered terrifically helpful contributions at each of our four PD events. ADSA is enormously grateful for these gifts of time and wisdom. Our budget is small and it would be impossible to otherwise offer such a high caliber of professional development to our constituents.

The highlight of our year together was a March 8, 2013 conference at TST. We started planning this day from our first meeting in September and the whole team worked diligently to ensure its success. The Board came to appreciate the experience of learning to plan every detail of a conference, from drafting the call for papers, to in-college promotion, to taking care of tech needs and catering. The college representatives on the Board were very effective in ensuring a range of proposals were submitted and ended up with the challenge of receiving more proposals than we could accommodate on our one-day schedule. The conference had nearly 50 student and faculty attendees who enjoyed 12 excellent presentations showcasing AD student research. Many attendees praised the high quality of both the papers being presented and the discussion that followed. A number of student presenters used the conference as rehearsal for the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities. Conference participants were also treated to a humorous and enlightening keynote from recent TST alumni, Jeremy Bergen, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at Conrad Grebel University College. Jeremy shared with us lessons learned in his first few years transitioning from life as a PhD candidate to one as a professor. The day wrapped up with informal time with representatives from Novalis and the Toronto Journal of Theology.

The Board also worked diligently to best represent AD student interests and perspectives as matters arose throughout the year at TST. We were appreciative of the opportunity to participate in conversations with faculty and staff about governance and communication at TST, and labour negotiations at the University of St. Michael's College (Faculty of Theology). We look forward to building on good relationships and our history of good work together in 2013-2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Green
ADSA President, 2012-2013